

PLAN YOUR VOTE FOR EQUALITY

Visit [MiVoterGuide.com](https://www.MiVoterGuide.com)

A project of BTL

MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



**Activists Believe Ginsburg Replacement
Barrett Could Hinder LGBTQ Rights**

**Michigan Secretary of State Announces
16- and 17-Year-Olds Can Be Poll Workers**

**Meet MOT's New
Artistic Director
Yuval Sharon**

**Pledges to Make it the 'Most
Progressive Opera Company' in US**

BTL Photo: Andrew Cohen



OCTOBER 15, 2020 | VOL. 2842 | FREE

FALL CLEAN UP!

Healthy Home!



Your home is your castle. And your office... and your restaurant... and your school! Spending more time at home means cleaning and sanitizing your home is more important today than ever before. **Get your home Hagopian Clean!**

AIR DUCT CLEANING

\$100 OFF

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

Must present coupon. Some restrictions apply.
Not to be combined with any other
coupons/offers. Expires 9/30/2020.

CARPET CLEANING

\$99

2 Rooms + Hall
In-Home
Carpet Cleaning

Must present coupon. Up to 250 sq. ft. each room.
Not to be combined with any other
coupons/offers. Expires 9/30/2020.

RUG CLEANING

\$25 OFF

Rug Cleaning
Pick-Up & Delivery
Service

Must present coupon at time of rug pick up.
Some restrictions apply. Not to be combined with
any other coupons/offers. Expires 9/30/2020.

HAGOPIAN CLEANING SERVICES

The Most Trusted Name in Cleaning Since 1939

1-800-HAGOPIAN (424-6742) HagopianClean.com



Try Our All-Natural Rug
& Carpet Disinfectant!



NEWS

6 First We Grieve, Then We Vote:

Jay Kaplan Reflects on the Legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

8 LGBTQ Activists Alarmed at Thomas-Alito Anti-Equal Marriage Statement

8 Activists Believe Ginsburg Replacement Barrett Could Hinder LGBTQ Rights

11 Fair Michigan Launches LGBTQ Voter Participation Initiative

11 Michigan Secretary of State Announces 16- and 17-Year-Olds Can Be Poll Workers

12 FBI Reports Michigan Militia had Plot to Kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, AG Nessel Hosts Press Conference on Charges

16 Michigan Physicians Support Governor's Response to COVID-19, Urge Legislature to Support Her Measures

16 ACLU Partners With 1xRun to Create Pro-Voting Murals

OPINION

14 Parting Glances

14 Viewpoint: Jay Kaplan

15 Creep of the Week

ENTERTAINMENT

18 Meet MOT's New Artistic Director Yuval Sharon

22 Fall Auto Issue

24 'Boys in the Band' For a New Generation

28 Deep Inside Hollywood

29 Q Puzzle



COVER

18 Meet MOT's New Artistic Director Yuval Sharon

Online @ Pridesource.com



Monica Roberts speaks at a rally against transphobic violence at the National LGBTQ Task Force's Creating Change conference in Dallas on Jan. 16, 2020. (Photo courtesy of the National LGBTQ Task Force)

Some of our latest online-only pieces:

Obituary: Phillip Marshall Griffin
Jason A. Michael

Thousands Denied Cure for Blindness Due to Ban on Tissue Donation From Gay Men
Lou Chibbaro Jr.

Monica Roberts, Trailblazing Black Transgender Activist, Dies at 58
Michael Lavers

It's Time for Congress to Protect all Americans
Special to BTL

Check our LGBTQ Voter Guide at mivoterguide.com and continuing COVID-19 coverage.

VOL. 2842/43 • OCTOBER 15, 2020

ISSUE 1159

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

News & Feature Editor

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200
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
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

MEMBER OF

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



"Between The Lines Newspaper"

Follow us @YourBTL

Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com

Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

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

Copyright 2020

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

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

(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

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

ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

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

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

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

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

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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

BIKTARVY, the BIKTARVY Logo, DAILY CHARGE, the DAILY CHARGE Logo, KEEP ASPIRING, LOVE WHAT'S INSIDE, GILEAD, and the GILEAD Logo are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies. Version date: February 2020
© 2020 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. BVYC0218 04/20



BIKTARVY[®]

bictegravir 50mg/emtricitabine 200mg/
tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets

**LOVE
WHAT'S
INSIDE**[®]

DIMITRI

LIVING WITH HIV SINCE 2018
REAL BIKTARVY PATIENT

**KEEP
ASPIRING.**

Because HIV doesn't change who you are.

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

Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.

See Dimitri's story at BIKTARVY.com.

Featured patient compensated by Gilead.

Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page and visit BIKTARVY.com.



First We Grieve, Then We Vote:

Jay Kaplan Reflects on the Legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Editor's note: This interview was conducted before the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett

As staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan's LGBT Project, Jay Kaplan often unpacks legal decisions in a way that helps readers — and writers — understand. With the recent passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, we also asked that Kaplan share his own reflections of her tenure on the Court and what it meant to him personally.

“Devastating”

On Sept. 18, Kaplan had just returned home from Rosh Hashanah dinner with his mother to celebrate the Jewish New Year. He was out for a walk when a friend texted him with the news that Justice Ginsburg had died.

“It was devastating,” Kaplan said. “Just an incredible loss to the Court, to our country and, of course, what immediately also came up was the fear — what’s going to happen next? Because I had read before that Senate Leader Mitch McConnell had told donors at several fundraisers that, ‘Should Justice Ginsburg drop dead before the election, even if it’s a week before the election, we’ll get somebody else on that court, I promise you.’”

Kaplan said that although her support of LGBTQ rights might have been less obvious because she did not author any of the movement’s seminal decisions, “she always was with the majority from the very beginning.” He briefly enumerated those contributions.

In 1996, Justice Ginsburg sided with the majority in *Romer v. Evans*, the first case in which the Court declared that discrimination based on sexual orientation violated constitutionally protected rights. Next, when the Court reversed a state’s sodomy law in 2003’s *Lawrence v. Texas* case, by extension, that invalidated all the remaining sodomy laws on the books in 13 other states. Ginsburg sided with the majority in that decision, too, which finally made same-sex sexual activity legal in every U.S. state and territory.

“And then, of course, the next decision was striking down part of the Defense of Marriage Act, that said that the federal government would not recognize legal marriages between same-sex couples that were granted in the various states that were permitting couples to get married,” Kaplan said. He recalled her famous criticism of the federal government for treating same-sex unions as “skim milk marriages” — somehow inferior or weakened because they weren’t granted the same recognition or protections



as heterosexual marriages.

Ginsburg sided with the majority in the marriage equality case and the Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission case as well. Kaplan pointed out that although most people focus on the issue with the baker — the civil rights judgments against the baker were reversed — what the majority also ruled was that a business open to the public must serve the entire public. Further, the government has a compelling interest in enforcing civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination.

Finally, most recently, was the *Bostock v. Clayton County* case. That decision ruled that discrimination against employees because of their sexual orientation or transgender status amounts to sex discrimination.

Remembering ‘Bostock’

And it was during oral arguments for the *Bostock* case that Kaplan witnessed Ginsburg in action, as he accompanied Aimee Stephens, the Michigan funeral director who was fired for being transgender.

“It’s very dramatic how the justices come out there,” Kaplan explained. “They each have like a little entrance area right where they go up to their bench and everybody rises and you see them sitting there — and there she was. She looked very frail; this was less than a year ago. But when she spoke — and she did speak a lot, she had a lot of questions to ask — her voice was very strong, and she was sharp as a tack. And she really made it clear that she knew all about Title VII law and how this works and what this means in regards to discrimination ‘because of sex.’”

He said that it was very “telling” that after the argument he got calls from friends about family asking how it went and, immediately after, people asked about Ginsburg.

“How was Justice Ginsburg? ‘How’d she look? ‘Is she doing OK?’ It was just wonderful



to see that not only do people certainly admire her but also they really cared about her well-being and her welfare and wanted her to be on this Court and really felt that she was such an incredible asset in her contributions to the Court,” he said.

Kaplan called Ginsburg “a living hero,” along with Congressman John Lewis, who the country lost this year.

ACLU Legend

Before she was appointed to the federal court, Ginsburg worked for the ACLU, and it was there that she established the Women’s Law Project. Kaplan described the Zoom videoconference call that occurred the Monday after her death, attended by the full staff of the civil rights organization: 1,000 employees strong from across the nation. He said there were many tributes.

“One of the things that I was struck by, [and] I believe they might have been quoting her, they were saying something to the effect that even when you know you might not be able to win, you have to still lead,” Kaplan said. “And you have to do this work to give hope to other people. So inspiring. Her life was so inspiring. And her commitment to justice and fairness.”

Among other things, Kaplan is concerned about a case that will be heard this fall, *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*. That case will decide whether faith-based foster agencies have the right to receive a government contract if they discriminate against LGBTQ people, citing their religious beliefs.

“There’s potential for a lot of cases and progress that we’ve made on many issues but also including many LGBT issues that look pretty precarious right now,” Kaplan said.

Vote, Vote, Vote

Kaplan doesn’t believe the Senate Democrats have the power to reject a Supreme Court nominee hostile to civil rights, as the current president and Senate Republicans seem bent on doing. But there is recourse.

“The only thing that we can do, if we want to change this whole trajectory, is to participate in this election at a rate and at a percentage like never before,” Kaplan stressed. “That’s what makes this election so important.”

Residents of Michigan may soon have to look more to the state courts for relief, according to Kaplan. With Republicans holding a 4-3 majority on the Michigan Supreme Court, Democrats have a real chance for the first time in two decades to secure a progressive majority by electing Elizabeth Welch and reelecting Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack, the two candidates nominated by the Michigan Democratic Party.

“Once again, all paths lead to this election and the importance of everybody participating,” Kaplan said. And that includes the LGBTQ community, now more than ever.

“There’s part of our community that’s complacent and not very well-informed,” Kaplan said. “And the fact that we have a fifth of the [LGBTQ community] who aren’t even registered to vote, that’s of concern. There’s so much at stake right now and certainly, the courts are among them.”

Putting It in Perspective

Despite Ginsburg’s final wish, in all likelihood, she will be replaced before the election, and by a conservative justice.

“I’m always one that’s been kind of able to put things a little bit in perspective and focus on the work, but it’s been difficult,” Kaplan said. “It’s been very difficult... when you care so much [about] what’s happening in this world and you see so much that goes against your ethics and values about what you think is right and what you think is fair.

“But I find comfort in the fact that a lot of other people do share those same values,” he continued. “And just like Justice Ginsburg said, even when you know you might not be able to win, on everything you might want to accomplish, you still have to lead. You still have to do things that give hope to other people.”

Finally, Kaplan summed up the sentiments of many people who have felt Ginsburg’s “comforting and reassuring presence” on the Court over the past four years under this president.

“Everybody feels a little untethered as a result of her death.”

VOTE NOW

AT YOUR CLERK'S OFFICE

REGISTERED VOTERS
CAN VOTE EARLY AT THEIR CLERK'S OFFICE
FROM SEPTEMBER 24 UNTIL 4:00 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 2.
– THE DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION.

REGISTERED VOTERS HAVE SEVERAL WAYS TO VOTE.

- Vote at home and put your ballot in the mail before October 20.
- Vote at home and drop your ballot off at your clerk's office or secure drop box by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 3.
- **Vote at your city or township clerk's office or satellite office from September 24th until 4:00 P.M. on November 2.**
- Vote in person at your polling location 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on November 3.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS, MAKE SURE IT'S HEARD THIS ELECTION.

KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS – **MichiganVoting.org**



LGBTQ Activists Alarmed at Thomas-Alito Anti-Equal Marriage Statement

BY LISA KEEN

While there was cause for alarm for LGBTQ people watching the opening day of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2020-21 session on Monday, there was also at least a tiny bit of reassurance, too.

The alarm came with an unusual, unsolicited statement from two of the court's most conservative justices, indicating they are still opposed to the Supreme Court's 2015 decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which struck down state bans on marriage for same-sex couples.

Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito made the declaration alongside the court's announcement that it would not hear the appeal of a Kentucky county clerk, Kim Davis, who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples in defiance of *Obergefell*.

Thomas and Alito's statement complained that the *Obergefell* decision had forced Davis to choose between her religious beliefs and her job.

They did not mention that Davis lost her appeal at the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals before a panel of three Republican appointees, including Judge John Bush, an appointee of President Trump.

"Davis may have been one of the first victims



Washington Blade | Michael Key

of this Court's cavalier treatment of religion in its *Obergefell* decision, but she will not be the last," warned the statement penned by Justice Thomas. "... *Obergefell* enables courts and governments to brand religious adherents who believe that marriage is between one man and one woman as bigots, making their religious liberty concerns that much easier to dismiss."

Thomas and Alito agreed that the case Davis brought before the Supreme Court did not "cleanly" present an issue through which the court could revisit *Obergefell* and address "a problem that only it can fix."

"Until then, *Obergefell* will continue to

have ruinous consequences for religious liberty," the statement read.

Davis needed at least four justices to say yes in order for the high court to take her appeal. She got only two, even though the court currently has five conservative justices.

Her appeal did not win the support of Chief Justice John Roberts Jr., who also dissented in the *Obergefell* decision. And it did not get the support of President Trump's two appointees

– Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

What troubles LGBTQ legal activists, however, is that the *Obergefell* decision in 2015 was a close one: 5-4, with now-retired Justice Anthony Kennedy joining four liberal justices in the majority. Now, not only is Kennedy gone but so is another member of the *Obergefell* majority: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 87, died Sept. 18 following a long struggle against cancer. And, to replace her, President Trump has nominated a judge with a documented hostility to same-sex marriages: Amy Coney Barrett.

"The nightmare of a hostile Supreme Court

majority is already here," said Lambda Legal Chief Executive Officer Kevin Jennings. "The confirmation hearings for Judge Amy Coney Barrett haven't even started yet and Justices Thomas and Alito are already creating a laundry list of cases they want to overturn. And unsurprisingly, marriage equality is first on the chopping block. Confirming Judge Barrett would be the final puzzle piece they need in order to make it happen."

"Overturning our right to legally marry the person we love and to protect our families would only be the beginning," said Jennings, adding that "none of the hard-fought rights that we have won in the courts are safe. That includes the right to marry, to work, or to be recognized as the legal parents of our children."

The Human Rights Campaign issued a statement saying that, while it is good news that there were not four justices to grant Kim Davis' appeal, Thomas and Alito "took it as an opportunity to renew their war on LGBTQ rights and the historic marriage equality decision."

"They are paving the way for an anti-equality court, just as Senate Republicans rush to confirm Amy Coney Barrett, who herself is an anti-equality extremist," HRC said.

Activists Believe Ginsburg Replacement Barrett Could Hinder LGBTQ Rights

BY LISA KEEN

President Trump announced Saturday, Sept. 26, that his nominee to replace U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is, as expected, a jurist that LGBTQ groups are expected to vehemently oppose. President Trump said his nominee, federal appeals Judge Amy Coney Barrett, would receive a "very quick" confirmation.

LGBTQ legal experts are both deeply concerned and somewhat confident that this nomination could spell doom for legal protections of LGBTQ people and close doors for future LGBTQ plaintiffs seeking their rights to be upheld under the Constitution.

Barrett comes to the nomination after serving just two years the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals where she did not weigh in on any LGBTQ-related cases. However, in her years prior to that, as a professor at the University of Notre Dame School of Law, she signed onto a letter from Catholic Women supporting the church's views on various issues, including that "marriage and family [are] founded on the indissoluble commitment of a man and a woman."

During her 2017 confirmation process, one senator asked Barrett, via written questionnaire, how she could assure members of the LGBTQ community that she is committed to rendering decisions impartially and without bias or prejudice?

"I do not think it lawful for a judge to impose personal opinions, from whatever source they derive, upon the law," Barrett said. "If confirmed, I will apply the law faithfully and impartially in accordance with the judicial oath."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.s.) asked of Barrett in a questionnaire, "Do you agree that the church's view regarding marriage as a union between a man and a woman is irrelevant to the legal question of the right of same-sex couples to marry?"

Barrett responded with one word: "Yes."

She then repeatedly stated that several important LGBTQ decisions at the Supreme Court were "binding precedent that I will faithfully follow if confirmed."

They included *Obergefell v. Hodges*, U.S. v. *Windsor* and *Lawrence v. Texas*.

LGBTQ groups opposed Barrett's nomination then. They said her views on civil rights issues were "fundamentally at odds with the notion that LGBT people are entitled to equality, liberty, justice and dignity under the law."

In a letter to then-Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, 27 national and state LGBTQ groups said in 2017 that they were concerned that Barrett's "religiously-infused moral beliefs would inform her judicial decision-making" on issues of specific interest to LGBTQ people. And they expressed alarm that Barrett had delivered a paid speech to the "most extreme anti-LGBT

legal organization in the United States," the Alliance Defending Freedom.

In reaction to the news that Trump would nominate Barrett to U.S. Supreme Court, Lambda Legal issued a statement, saying, "Barrett will unleash a Supreme Court majority that is hostile to all of our basic civil rights, and the impact will be felt for decades."

In the coming U.S. Supreme Court session, the court is set to hear *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, a case in which a Catholic adoption service wants the court to declare that it has a First Amendment right to violate a Philadelphia law against sexual orientation discrimination. And a Virginia school district is expected to appeal its loss in a case that tests whether Title IX of the federal Education Amendments Act — which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education — prevents discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

There is some optimism still around the Title IX case. That's because, just last June, a 6-3 majority of the Supreme Court ruled that Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act, which prohibits job discrimination on the basis of sex, also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. That ruling, *Bostock v. Clayton County*, is expected to serve as a precedent for the Title IX litigation, too.

While Ginsburg is gone now from that 6-3 *Bostock* majority, Chief Justice John Roberts, who joined the majority opinion, and Justice

Neil Gorsuch, who authored it, are still there.

And "because Justice Gorsuch's opinion for the Court was so relentlessly textual," said Stanford University Professor Pamela Karlan, who successfully argued the case for the gay employee in *Bostock*, "I don't see the Court coming out the other way on Title IX's coverage."

Jon Davidson, former legal director for Lambda Legal and current chief counsel for Freedom for All Americans, agrees.

"That majority [in *Bostock*] also should agree that other federal laws prohibiting sex discrimination (including laws barring sex discrimination in education, housing, and credit) encompass discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity because the Supreme Court's decision [in *Bostock*] did not rest on anything unique to the federal employment nondiscrimination, but rather on the correct conclusion that, as a general matter, one cannot discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity without discriminating based on sex," Davidson said.

But Both Karlan and Davidson expressed concern for what the Supreme Court didn't rule on last session: accommodating religious employers, such as the one in the *Philadelphia* case, set for oral argument on Nov. 4.

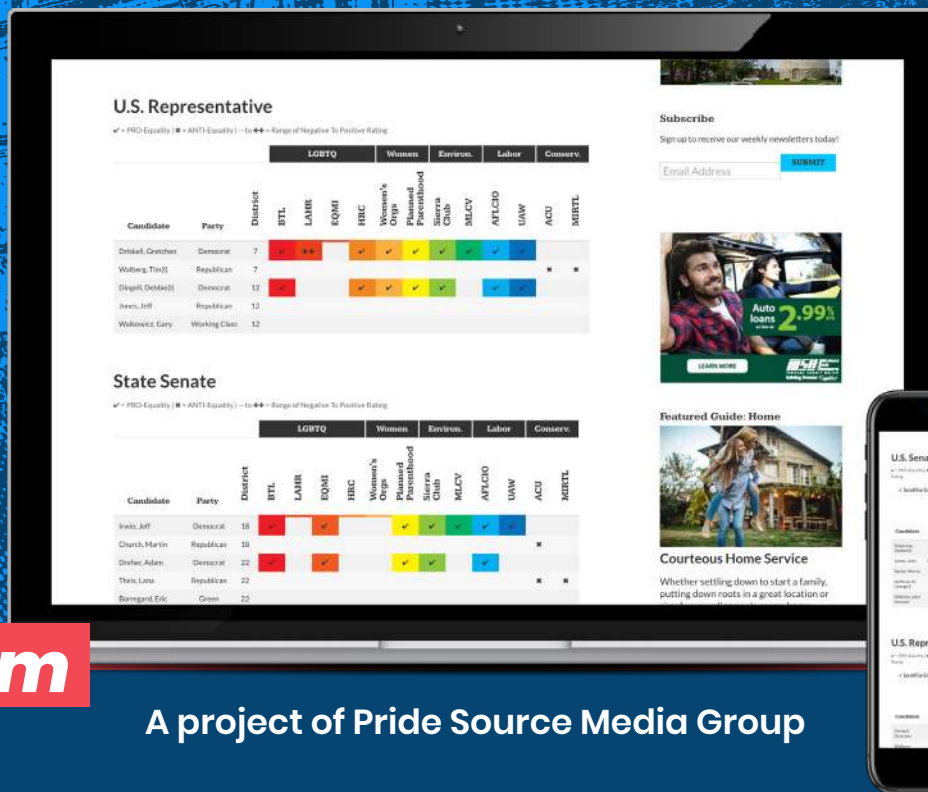
"The outcome could have broad implications

See **Barrett**, continued on p. 10

See page 7 of this issue to learn more on how registered voters can turn in your ballot early.

Let's Make Michigan Progressive Again.

Just plug in your zip code to see how to vote



MiVoterGuide.com

A project of Pride Source Media Group

The 2020 Michigan Progressive Voters Guide aggregates endorsements from 10+ state and national organizations dedicated to supporting equality and justice for all Americans regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, economic status, age, concern for the environment or other divisive lines drawn between us and our fellow citizens.

All in one place, you can see which candidates have the support of the progressive organizations on your own personalized statewide and local ballot. The Guide also provides right wing, conservative endorsements so voters can see which candidates, if elected, would actively work against progressive values in Michigan.

Go to www.mivoterguide.com to learn more.



Crown Pharmacy

Specializing in providing world class HIV pharmaceutical care

866-575-3784 (toll free)
www.crownpharmacy.com

24401 Plymouth Rd., Redford, MI 48239
313-532-DRUG (3784) 313-532-3718 (fax)
crownpharmacy1@aol.com
HOURS: M-F 10 am - 6 pm Weds 10am-5pm
Closed Weekends and Holidays





Low Cost Pet Prescriptions




/ therapy for today's world

Lori Edelson, LMSW, LMFT

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




Birmingham Manle Clinic



CORKTOWN
—HEALTH CENTER—

HEALTHCARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY



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

313-832-3300
www.corktownhealth.org

► Barrett

Continued from p. 8

for the application of nondiscrimination laws and government policies around the country," said Davidson.

Davidson said he doesn't think existing marriages of same-sex couples are at risk.

"Those who married same-sex partners after the Obergefell decision did so in compliance with the law at the time and have strong due process rights in not having those lawful marriages dissolved against their will," Davidson said. "Whether a new justice will respect the precedent of Obergefell going forward, however, is of course of concern."

But Jenny Pizer, senior counsel at Lambda Legal, notes that, even with the marriage ruling in favor of same-sex couples, "we still have had to continue fighting for family equality for LGBTQ people and their children."

"For example, we are in court now fighting for two married same-sex couples whose daughters are being denied citizenship by the Trump administration even though the law is explicit that their American citizen parents' being married entitles them to citizenship," Pizer said.

And Barrett, says Pizer, "has been outspoken in her belief that same-sex couples do not have the same fundamental Constitutional right to marry that different-sex couples have and that the marriages of same-sex couples do not deserve legal respect."

Barrett also wrote a law review article arguing that, while all Supreme Court decisions serve as a precedent for lower court decisions and subsequent Supreme Court decisions, some are "super precedents" and others are more susceptible to change. Barrett's super-precedent theory, said Pizer, "seems designed to create room for reconsidering and reversing precedents that justices do not consider 'super.'"

Barrett is Trump's third opportunity to select a Supreme Court justice. He previously nominated, and the Senate confirmed, two other federal appeals court judges to the Supreme Court: Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. Gorsuch's nomination was marred by the controversy that ensued when Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refused to give consideration to then-President Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland, even though Obama still had 11 months to go in his second term. McConnell left the seat open until after the 2016 presidential election and, because Trump



won that election, the Republican president was given the opportunity to appoint the seat left open by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February 2016.

Kavanaugh's confirmation was controversial as well following the accusations that emerged after his nomination that he had sexually assaulted women. He denied those accusations, and the Republican-controlled Senate approved his nomination.

The Senate approved Gorsuch's nomination by a vote of 54-45, and it approved Kavanaugh by 50-48.

Barrett's nomination also begins in controversy: While McConnell claimed he couldn't advance President Obama's nominee because it was a presidential election year, he has promised to rush through Barrett's nomination even though this, too, is a presidential election year.

McConnell has made clear he has to votes to confirm the nominee and that he intends to rush through that confirmation process ahead of the Nov. 3 presidential election.

President Trump said Saturday that Barrett "will defend the sacred principle of equal justice for citizens of every race, color, religion and creed."

Barrett professed "love" for the U.S. Constitution and said she is "mindful" of the legacy of Justice Ginsburg, whose seat she has been nominated to fill. Ginsburg died at age 87 on Sept. 18, following a long struggle with cancer.

Barrett noted that Ginsburg was good friends with Justice Antonin Scalia, for whom Barrett clerked, despite the fact that Ginsburg was one of the court's most liberal jurists and Scalia one of its most conservative.



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

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

LOVE Wins

Between THE Lines™

Fair Michigan Launches LGBTQ Voter Participation Initiative

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Fair Michigan is a nonprofit LGBTQ advocacy organization that works to secure equal rights protections under the law based on sexual orientation, sex, gender identity and gender. Now, the group is focusing its efforts on a voter participation effort intended to engage and empower LGBTQ people in Detroit, with a special emphasis on people of color. Victim Advocate and Director of Transgender Outreach and Advocacy for Fair Michigan Julisa Abad is working spearhead this movement by providing accurate information to LGBTQ people across the city about how to vote.

“We know the climate that we’re in and the importance of voting. A lot of my community, specifically the LGBTQ community and trans women of color, are really misinformed about different things when it comes to voting,” Abad said. “For example, if you are on parole, people are under the assumption that you can’t vote, if you’re on probation they think that you can’t vote. People also don’t know that if they are in or out of jail awaiting to be sentenced they can still vote.”

For LGBTQ people, particularly those who identify as transgender or nonbinary, getting to the polls can be difficult. In fact, the Williams Institute — an LGBTQ research center and UCLA think tank — reports that 21 percent of LGBTQ Americans are not registered to vote. Abad says many factors contribute to this reality.

“A lot of people that don’t have documentation that matches [with their gender identity] might feel scared to go to a place to vote and be discriminated against or might not even know where to vote or where to register,” Abad said. “I’m trying to get the word out there



Fair Michigan Victim Advocate and Director of Transgender Advocacy and Outreach Julisa Abad.

that can go to Michigan.gov/vote. On there, you can see where you’re registered to vote and if you’re registered to vote. If people are registered to vote, great. They can walk in on election day where it tells them to vote on the website. If they’re not, I want to also let them know that they can go into their clerk’s office, [register to vote], request a ballot and vote right then and there and they don’t have to wait.”

Ultimately, Abad said, dispelling myths about voting is vital to getting everyone’s voice heard in this and future elections.

“I don’t care who you believe in or what you vote for, but I want everyone in my community to get out there and have their voices heard,” Abad said.

To find out more about how this initiative works visit fairmichigan.org. To get a pro-equality candidate guide for the upcoming election visit mivoterguide.com.

Michigan Secretary of State Announces 16- and 17-Year-Olds Can Be Poll Workers

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and The Michigan Voting Coalition, as part of its 40 Days of Early Voting campaign focused on historically disenfranchised communities, is trying to sign up poll workers for the Nov. 3 general election. Any registered voter can be a poll worker, and, for the first time, it has been announced that 16- and 17-year-olds can participate as poll workers as well.

“Poll workers are first responders for democracy, and they serve to ensure our election runs smoothly before the polls open at 7 a.m. and well past closing time at 8 p.m.,” said

Rhonda Saxton, area director for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund.

Poll workers are trained and paid for their work. According to Michigan law, those with felony records are allowed to vote, but they are not permitted to serve as poll workers. The critical need for poll workers was a key message reinforced by the diverse members of the Michigan Voting Coalition and Secretary of State Benson at a press conference kicking off the 40 Days of Early Voting campaign.

Many communities struggle to recruit enough poll workers to make Election Day run smoothly. Without enough poll workers,



You can feel safe and confident at Fox Run.

In good times and uncertain times, there’s no safer, smarter place to be than at an Erickson Living®-managed community like Fox Run in Novi. Enjoy independent senior living, plus a safety net of additional support should you ever need it.

Learn more.
Call 1-877-356-4913 for your FREE brochure.

Erickson LIVING
Fox Run
Add more Living to your Life®
Novi
FoxRunNovi.com



New in-office procedures

Don't Suffer in Silence!

Now offering FemTouch™ Vaginal rejuvenation treatments.

Do you suffer from any of these symptoms?

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

NO DOWNTIME.
NO HORMONES.
NO SURGERY.

Bring your life back to life!
with FemTouch™



GianClair
MEDICAL SPA
AT PARTRIDGE CREEK GROVE

GianClair Medical Spa offers a wide variety of new cosmetic services

• Botox • Fillers
• Dysport • Peels

• PRP - Platelet-Rich Plasma
For Facial and Hair Rejuvenation

PRP Facial, combines plasma and platelets from your blood with other rejuvenation techniques.

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



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

PartridgeCreek
Obstetrics & Gynecology

Call today 586-247-8609

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



Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOG



See **Poll Workers**, continued on p. 12

After Thwarted Kidnapping Plans, Whitmer Calls for Unity

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer addressed the State of Michigan after a plan to kidnap her and other Michigan government officials was thwarted by state and federal law enforcement agencies.

She started by saying thank you to law enforcement and FBI agents who participated in stopping this kidnapping attempt as well as Attorney General Dana Nessel who held a press conference earlier today announcing the charges against those who have been taken into custody. Whitmer went on to say that 2020 has been a hard year, but that Michiganders can move past it.

“We’re Michiganders. We have grit. We have heart. And we are tough as hell. We made it through the great recession, we made it through auto bankruptcies, we made it through floods and polar vortexes, but none of us has faced a challenge like COVID-19. Not in our lifetimes,” Whitmer said. “I’ve said it many times. We are not one another’s enemy. This virus is our enemy and this enemy is relentless.”

She went on to call for unity.

“It doesn’t care if you’re a Republican or a Democrat, young or old, rich or poor. It doesn’t care if we’re tired of it. It threatens us all. Our lives, our families, our jobs, our businesses, our economy, it preys on our elderly and medically vulnerable residents, and it has exposed deep inequities in our society,” Whitmer said. “This should be a moment for national unity where we all pull together to meet this challenge head-on with the same might and muscle that put a man on the moon.”

FBI Reports Michigan Militia had Plot to Kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, AG Nessel Hosts Press Conference on Charges

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Six people have been charged by the federal government with conspiring to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and other government and law enforcement officials. Seven others have been charged by the state of Michigan for conspiring to commit terrorist acts brought by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. Law enforcement reports that all 13 are in custody at this time.

Nessel held a press conference today “regarding significant law enforcement operation and criminal charges” of those involved with the kidnapping plot.

“The interagency effort represented here in tandem with my office culminated in the execution of several search warrants and arrests across the state including in the communities of Grand Rapids, Hartland, Luther, Canton, Orion Township, Waterford, Belleville, Milford, Cadillac, Shelbyville, Plainwell, Zeeland, Munith, Ovid, Kalamazoo, Charlotte, Clarkston, Sterling Heights and Shelby Township,” she said.

Nessel was joined by Andrew Birge, US attorney for the western district of Michigan; Matthew Schneider, US attorney for the eastern district of Michigan; Josh Hauxhurst, FBI assistant special agent-in-charge; and Michigan State Police Col. Joseph Gasper.

“Last night, the FBI and Michigan State Police arrested six individuals charged in a federal complaint with conspiring to kidnap the governor of Michigan, Gretchen Whitmer. According to the complaint unsealed this morning, Adam Fox, Barry Croft, Ty Garbin, Kaleb Franks, Daniel Harris and Brandon Caserta conspired to kidnap the governor from her vacation home in the western district of Michigan before the November election,” Birge said. “Under federal law, each of these individuals faces a term of any number of years up to life in prison if convicted.”

Fox, Garbin, Franks, Harris and Caserta are residents of Michigan, while Croft is a resident of Delaware. Birge said that the FBI began an



investigation of these individuals earlier in the year after becoming aware of their presence on a social media group where they were “discussing the violent overthrow of certain government and law enforcement components.”

“Through confidential sources, undercover agents and clandestine reportings, law enforcement learned particular individuals were planning to kidnap the governor and acting in furtherance of that plan. The alleged conspirators used operational security measures including by communicating by encrypted messaging platforms and used code words and phrases in an attempt to avoid detection by law enforcement,” Birge said. “Among other activities, members of this conspiracy conducted on two occasions coordinated surveillance on the governor’s vacation home.”

Birge went on to say that, according to the complaint, Fox and Croft discussed “detonating explosive devices to divert police from the area of the home and Fox even inspected the underside

of a Michigan highway bridge for places to seat an explosive.”

Birge’s office, the US Attorney’s office for the Western District of Michigan, is prosecuting this federal case with assistance from the US Attorney’s offices in the Eastern District of Michigan and Delaware.

Nessel’s office filed state charges against seven people in addition to the charges already announced by the US Attorney’s Office in the Western District.

- Paul Beller, age 21 of Milford, is charged with three felony counts: providing material support for terrorist acts, gang membership and carrying or possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony.

- Shaun Fix, age 38, of Belleville is charged with two felony counts: providing material support for terrorist acts and carrying or possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony.

- Eric Molitor, age 36 of Cadillac is charged with two felony counts: providing material support for terrorist acts and carrying or possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony.

- Michael Null, age 38 of Plainwell, is charged with two felony counts: providing material support for terrorist acts and carrying or possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony.

- William Null, of Shelbyville, is charged with two felony counts: providing material support for terrorist acts and carrying or possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony.

- Pete Muscio, age 42, of Munith is charged with four felony counts: threat of terrorism, gang membership, one count each of providing material support for terrorist acts and one count each of carrying or possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony.

- Joseph Morrison, age 42, of Munith is charged with four felony counts: threat of terrorism, gang membership, one count each of providing material support for terrorist acts and one count each of carrying or possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony.

► Poll Workers

Continued from p. 11

voters may have to wait in long lines, an inconvenience that has disproportionately impacted Michiganders from communities with significant numbers of voters of color and young voters. In addition to the right to vote by mail and vote early, Michigan voters have the right to vote at their assigned polling location on election day. Having enough trained poll workers is critical to ensuring full and fair access to the ballot for all Michigan voters.

LGBT Detroit has already signed up to assist with the effort to recruit more poll workers.

“LGBT Detroit is a proud partner organization, and happy to be among this hugely diverse statewide coalition,” said Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit. “We need poll workers. Poll workers are an essential part of the democratic system. Almost any registered Michigan voter can become a poll worker, [as well as] 16- and 17-year-old teenagers.”

Some important dates to note as part of the

40 Days of Early Voting campaign:

- Now: Voters can print and submit a paper application for an absentee ballot for the Nov. 3 general election. You can also request an absentee ballot online at mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/avapplication. Already registered voters can vote early at their city or township’s clerk’s office.

- The last day to register online or through the mail for the Nov. 3 election is Monday, Oct. 19.

- Starting on Oct. 20 through 8 p.m. on Election Day, you must register to vote in

person at your city or township clerk’s office and provide proof of residency. Once you are registered, you can vote, all in one trip. If you plan to vote by mailing in your absentee ballot, please put it in the mail by this date to make sure it arrives on time.

- Nov. 3 is Election Day. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time.

To learn more or sign up today, visit michiganvoting.org/be-a-poll-worker or email pollworkers@michiganvoting.org.

#TIME2KNOWGET TESTED

NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED TESTING



- Rapid HIV
- Gonorrhea
- Chlamydia

CONVENIENT METRO DETROIT LOCATIONS

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

ALSO TESTING IN BARS, CLUBS AND OTHER METRO AREA LOCATIONS

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

NO SUNDAY TESTING

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

1 (888) A CONDOM



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

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



MANY STYLES • GARAGE DOORS & OPENERS TOO!

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



SERVING WAYNE, OAKLAND, MACOMB & WASHTENAW COUNTIES



We Fix Broken Springs FAST
✓ Check Our Prices On Broken Spring Replacement



TOWN & COUNTRY DOOR LLC

Over 500 Five Star Reviews



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

All Work Warranted In Writing
248-600-4683
WWW.TOWNANDCOUNTRYDOOR.NET



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

White House Shenanigans

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1965 historic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, for equal voter rights changed the South forever. Or, did it?

Few know that another King – William Rufus DeVane King – gave Selma its name 145 years earlier. It means “high seat” or “throne,” and comes from an epic Ossianic poem, “The Song of Selma.”

Billy DeVane was the live-in companion – partner, spouse, lover – of James Buchanan, the 15th president of the U.S.

Buchanan met Billy in 1834 while they were both serving in the Senate. They became inseparable for almost 20 years.

Gay historians say there's a strong possibility that Buchanan may have broken his engagement to his fiancée Ann Coleman for the handsome, slightly older Billy. Poor Ann. She died brokenhearted shortly thereafter.

Buchanan referred to Billy's friendship as a “communion”. Washington gossips called Billy Jamie Buchanan's “better half,” and the two of them “the Siamese Twins”.

Former President Andrew Jackson dubbed Billy “Miss Nancy”. Jackson's own wife – a zesty, buxom tart of a thing – was also the subject of much amorous gossip.

Democrat Aaron Brown confided in letters to his friends that Billy was “Aunt Fancy trigged in her best clothes”. He called Billy “she” and referenced to “her” telltale behavior and conversations. There's hinting that Billy may have been a crossdresser.

But Billy was also a highly respected politician, with 38 years of dedicated service in the House of Representatives, Senate and as Minister With Portfolio – perhaps beaded – to France and to St. Petersburg, Russia.

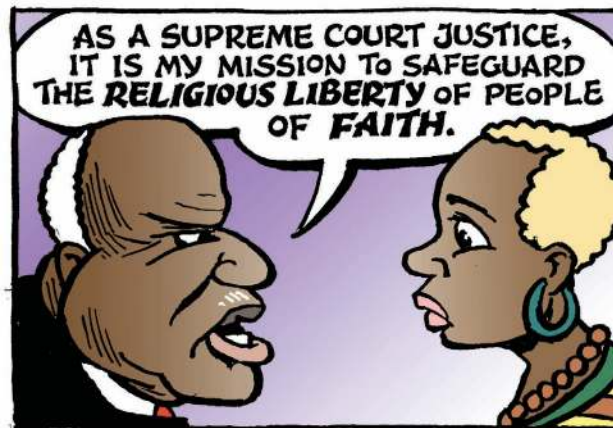
It's rumored at the time that Billy took the post in France to quash gossip about himself and Jamie. Whether true or not, he did a splendid job of keeping the French from interfering in this country's plans to annex Texas from Mexico. Things might have been better for all parties concerned today if France had succeeded.

In 1853, Billy became vice president to our 14th president, Franklin Pierce. Billy, who owned slaves, was chosen as a compromise candidate on a pro-slavery ticket. But before taking office he showed signs of tuberculosis, hastening to a friend's plantation near Havana, Cuba, to recuperate and mint julep it up in the sun.

For the only time in our history, a special act of Congress was passed to allow King to take the Oath of Office outside of the U.S. But excessive drinking further weakened Billy's constitution, and within six weeks of being sworn in he was dead. Jamie Buchanan was devastated.

In 1850, Buchanan without his beloved Billy, became our only bachelor president. His indecisiveness in office brought the Civil War closer. Lincoln inherited the conflict. Gay historians think Lincoln a possible sleep-over bisexual.

Billy DeVane King is buried in a shady cemetery just outside Selma, a city remembered today for two Kings. And a queen. Perhaps America's first – J. Edgar Hoover, drag would-be, notwithstanding.



BY JAY KAPLAN

Viewpoint

A Tribute to RBG's Pro-LGBTQ Legacy

People who have been in my home will note that most of the wall space in my 840-square-foot abode is adorned by theatrical posters of plays and musicals, most of which would be regarded as “obscure.” In addition to all those colorful and varied posters, there is wall space reserved for a wonderful piece of artwork by our community's much-beloved Charles Alexander, who so kindly and generously gifted it to me. Also hanging on limited wall space in my kitchen is a framed poster, featuring the silhouette of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, with a quote from her: “Fight for the things you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

Like so many others, I'm still mourning the loss of RBG and her contributions to the world of jurisprudence, particularly in the area of civil rights and social justice – now even more so because of the rush by the Trump Administration and Mitch McConnell to fill her seat with a judge whose legal viewpoint to civil rights is so vastly different from that of Justice Ginsburg.

If the Republican Senate majority is successful in confirming Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court before the Nov. 3 election, there is so much at stake for those who care about access to health care, a woman's right to choose and

LGBTQ rights.

During RBG's 27-year tenure on the Supreme Court she had the opportunity to weigh in on each and every seminal LGBTQ rights case. Although she was not the author of the majority opinions in each of these decisions, she sided with the majority each and every time, affirming the dignity of LGBTQ people and challenging policies and practices that treated our community unfairly. The following are those decisions:

Romer v. Evans (1996): Here, the Supreme Court struck down a Colorado voter initiative that prevented state and local governments from passing laws protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination. The Court majority held that laws targeting LGBTQ people for discriminatory treatment and motivated by animus against them violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution. This decision helped provide a template for challenging anti-LGBTQ laws, policies, and practices at both the state and federal levels of government.

See next page

Lawrence v. Texas (2003): This decision overturned the previous 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision upholding laws that criminalized private same-sex sodomy between consenting adults. In addition to criminal penalties, these laws often were used to justify discrimination against LGBTQ people by defining them solely by presumed sexual behaviors. In striking down Texas' criminalization of same-sex sodomy as unconstitutional, the Court majority recognized that LGBTQ people are to be afforded the same privacy interest in their intimate relationships as heterosexuals.

Windsor v. United States (2013): The Court struck down a provision of the federal Defense of Marriage Act that prohibited federal recognition of legal same-sex marriages. During oral arguments, Justice Ginsburg asked particularly pointed questions, including whether the law imposed "two kinds of marriage — the full marriage and then this sort of skim-milk marriage" for same-sex couples. The legal rationale for overruling DOMA paved the way for the Court majority two years later to strike down state laws, including Michigan's, that prohibited same-sex couples from marrying.

Obergefell v. Hodges (2015): This was the landmark marriage equality decision where the Court majority held that the right to marry is a fundamental constitutional right that cannot be denied to same-sex couples and that the right to marry includes the legal benefits of marriage.

Masterpiece Cake Ltd v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission (2018): This decision involved a Colorado baker who refused to bake a cake for a same-sex couple who were planning to marry, citing his religious beliefs. Here the Court majority reversed the Colorado courts' discrimination charges against the baker, citing animus towards the baker's religious beliefs on the part of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. The Court majority, however, did not say that discrimination against LGBTQ people in public accommodations — such as a bakery — based on religious beliefs is OK. The Court reaffirmed the government's interest in enforcing civil rights laws — including those that protect LGBTQ people — and that when a business is open to the public, it has to serve the public. Justice Ginsburg dissented from

this decision because she did not believe that the facts presented showed hostility or animus towards the baker's religion to result in this reversal. Justice Ginsburg's dissent demonstrated her concern that religion not be used as a basis to justify discrimination against LGBTQ people in non-religious settings. Another reason her voice will be very much missed is that on Nov. 4, the Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case of *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, a case that will determine whether faith-based foster care agencies that have government contracts can discriminate against LGBTQ families who wish to become foster parents, citing the agencies' religious beliefs.

Bostock v. Clayton County (2020): In June 2020 the 6-3 Supreme Court decision held that employment discrimination against employees because they are LGBT constitutes sex discrimination in violation of Title VII, the federal civil rights law that prohibits such discrimination in employment. This landmark decision provides a remedy to LGBTQ people, particularly those who live in states, like Michigan, that do not provide explicit protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in their civil rights laws. I attended the Supreme Court hearings in the three cases — one of those cases involved our plaintiff Aimee Stephens — and observed Justice Ginsburg demonstrate her mastery regarding Title VII law and sex employment discrimination cases, through her sharp questioning during oral arguments. Although looking frail, her voice was strong and her comments were highly focused on the issue what is discrimination because of sex.

During her almost three-decade tenure on the Court, RBG was a friend and ally to the LGBTQ community and on the right side of every historic LGBTQ civil rights case. In a year where we have lost two civil rights giants, John Lewis and now Ruth Bader Ginsburg, we must commit ourselves to help carry on their work. We need to ensure that RBG's legacy continues through our courts. The fight for LGBTQ rights and equality is a fight that we all need to care about and we have to lead others to join us.

Jay Kaplan is the Nancy Katz and Margo Dichtemiller LGBT Rights Project Staff Attorney of the Michigan ACLU. He can be reached at Kaplan@aclumich.org.

Creep Of The Week

Mitch McConnell

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

The Senate Confirmation Hearing for Amy Coney Barrett was happening today and I watched exactly zero minutes of it because I was practicing self care.

I have no doubt that she will be confirmed and the Supreme Court will lurch to the right for decades. I know that there are a lot of pundits who are hypothesizing how it might be stopped, and that's a fun exercise, but that's all it is. If a miracle happens I will be the first one to say I was wrong. But I'm not going to waste time prepping a correction speech.

It's interesting, no, hypocritical, that all Republicans want to do right now is shout about court-packing as if they haven't been packing the court with right-wing extremists during every second of Trump's term. And no, President Obama didn't leave seats open because he was too lazy to fill them, as Glenn Beck recently said. Those seats weren't filled because the Senate under Mitch McConnell refused to consider them.

McConnell even said it himself during a 2019 interview with Sean Hannity on Fox News about the number of vacancies: "I'll tell you why. I was in charge of what we did in the last two years of the Obama administration." Hannity then tells McConnell he should "take a bow."

You'll remember that McConnell refused to hold confirmation hearings for Merrick Garland, Obama's nominee to the Supreme Court. His reasoning? It was an election year. The next president should choose the next Supreme Court member. Now, of course, we're not just in an election year, we're in the middle of an actual election and for some reason McConnell's reasoning no longer holds.

Once Trump was elected he could nominate a T-shirt with a Confederate flag airbrushed on the front and McConnell would rush the nomination through.

Ugh. Mitch McConnell. How I hate him. Hate him, too? Donate to his opponent, Democrat Amy McGrath here: amymcgrath.com.

As I write this it is Indigenous People's Day. I am listening to a compilation of Indigenous metal bands in order to observe this day. Donald Trump, however, chose to observe this day by issuing a proclamation declaring it Columbus Day that begins like a middle school book report and ends like "Mein Kampf."

The proclamation can be summarized thusly: Italian gentleman Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue and discovered America and did absolutely nothing wrong in fact America has never done anything wrong in all of its history and the Native Americans should be thanking us for murdering them they deserved it.

It's sick stuff. But it is also what a lot of people believe. The idea that America is a white,

(Trump) is a danger to the country and even to the Republican party. But McConnell is more than happy to aid and abet this president if it means that he can pack the courts with judges who will rule against things like reproductive rights, LGBTQ equality, environmental regulations and racial justice. For decades.

Christian nation. It isn't. It never has been. We literally stole it from people who were neither white nor Christian. Hence the whole, "America is a nation of immigrants" thing. Trump would like you to believe that immigrants are violent brown people trying to sneak into the country to do you harm. The majority of immigrants are seeking a better life — which is something Republicans are all about when white people do it. They call it "personal responsibility."

Unfortunately, Republicans have no sense of collective responsibility. No sense of history. No sense of decency. Also no sense of humor if we're getting right down to it.

And there's Mitch McConnell at the helm of it all.

Wait, you might be thinking, I thought Trump was at the helm of it all.

As if. Trump is a moron who spends most of his day watching Fox News. He is a danger to the country and even to the Republican party. But McConnell is more than happy to aid and abet this president if it means that he can pack the courts with judges who will rule against things like reproductive rights, LGBTQ equality, environmental regulations and racial justice. For decades.

You've got to hand it to McConnell he DGAF. Like, at all. No morals, no ethics, no chin. And he will stop at nothing to get Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Supreme Court seat filled with a woman who will eagerly undo RBG's legacy.

And he'll do it with a smile. Just kidding. He is not capable of smiling. He's capable of moving his lips in a way that imitates a smile and doing this weird thing with his mouth. Just Google "Mitch McConnell smiling" and you'll see. You'll see.

Not surprisingly, Newsweek just reported that he elicits "very cold" feelings from, 57 percent Americans.

It's because his heart is made of ice.

Michigan Physicians Support Governor's Response to COVID-19, Urge Legislature to Support Her Measures

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Following last week's Michigan Supreme Court ruling that effectively ended Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's emergency powers in response to the novel coronavirus crisis, a group of Michigan physicians spoke to the media via Zoom Wednesday, Sept. 7, to applaud Whitmer for what they called her "science-based COVID-19 response." They then simultaneously urged leaders in the Republican-controlled Michigan legislature, whom they called "obstructionists," to fall in line and support Whitmer's efforts while chastising them for dismissing evidence-based safety measures such as wearing masks and limiting crowds. The physicians were speaking in their capacity as members of the Committee to Protect Medicare, an advocacy organization made up of frontline doctors engaging in direct advocacy and communications in support of a stronger health care system in America.

"As physicians, we greatly appreciate Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and her public health team's approach throughout this pandemic for the past eight months, and strongly urge the Michigan Legislature and its leaders to work with her and pass legislation that can reduce COVID-19 transmissions," said Dr. Farhan Bhatti, Michigan state lead for the



Dr. Farhan Bhatti, Michigan state lead for the Committee to Protect Medicare and a family physician in Lansing. Courtesy photo.

Committee to Protect Medicare and a family physician in Lansing. "Unfortunately, Republican politicians are rejecting science, turning down federal aid and many are even attending public events without wearing masks — putting more Michigan lives at risk when they should be doing the hard work of keeping people safe and demanding the Trump Administration provide relief for Michigan families.

"From a medical perspective, we ask Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, House Speaker Lee Chatfield and their fellow legislators to stop dragging their feet and help get health workers the resources we need to turn the corner on this pandemic," Bhatti continued. "By reining in COVID-19 the right way, using science to guide us, we can make businesses, schools and public life safer so people can enjoy their freedom without putting their lives or the lives of others at risk."

Bhatti and fellow physicians Dr. Ijeoma Nnodim Opara of Westland and Dr. Stephanie

Markle of Kalamazoo called on the legislature to immediately pass measures that would require masks to be worn in all indoor locations, with no exceptions; enable the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to call for stay-at-home orders in counties that are experiencing outbreaks or where outbreaks are imminent; expand rapid-response tests for schools, businesses and anyone who has been exposed; support community health efforts to hire and train enough contact tracers; and provide support to individuals who must quarantine, including financial and educational support.

"We join physicians across Michigan and the country in hoping that President Trump's COVID-19 diagnosis and the outbreaks linked to events he attended will serve as a wake-up call to every American that COVID-19 can strike anywhere, anytime and anyone, especially when basic safety measures such as masks and social distancing are ignored," Opara said. "The COVID-19 pandemic is still with us and continues to kill around 1,000 Americans every day. Instead of waving the white flag of surrender, as some politicians who don't want to put in the work suggest we do, we can gain the upper hand against COVID-19 if we follow the science and implement safe and effective measures that public health experts agree work, such as wearing masks and maximizing social distancing."

More than 170 studies across 16 nations

and six continents show that common, simple interventions such as mask-wearing and social distancing lower the risk of COVID-19 infections, the doctors said. In communities without mask requirements, positive case growth was three times higher than communities that implemented universal mask requirements over the long term. Studies show that maximum social distancing measures such as stay-at-home orders could save thousands of lives. One analysis credited Whitmer's stay-at-home order, which began March 24, with reducing the number of people each COVID-19-positive person infects in Michigan from 3.5 to 1.

"Scientific and medical evidence tells us that we have ways to keep people safer during the COVID-19 pandemic, and refusing to take basic, simple precautions that we know can save lives is negligent behavior that endangers people," Markle said. "We have an opportunity to come together and show a unified front against an indiscriminate disease that has killed more than 209,000 Americans, including 7,100 Michiganders. The most irresponsible thing we could do right now is refuse to act on the science and give up, which will only lead to more pain and suffering. Every Michigan family deserves better than what Republican politicians in Lansing are offering, which is defeat and surrender."

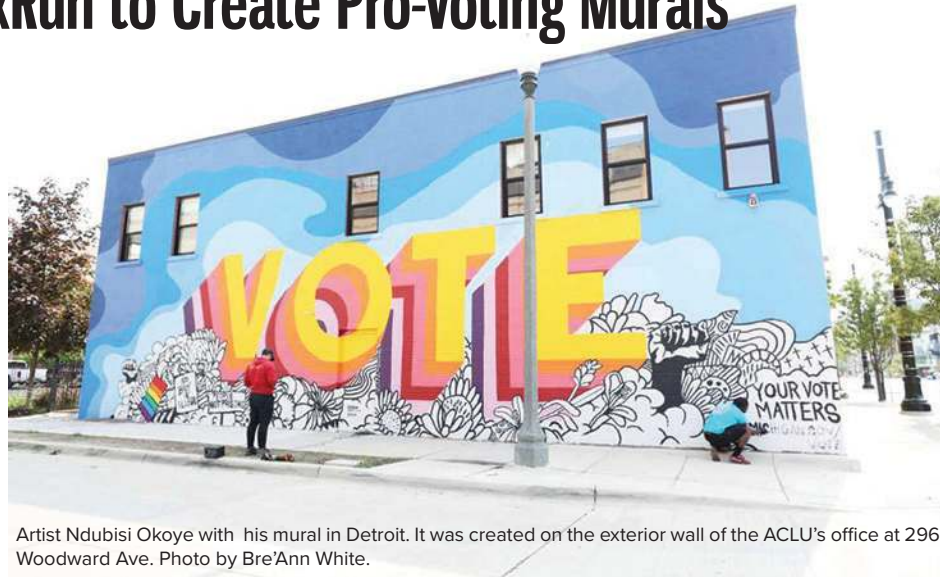
ACLU Partners With 1xRun to Create Pro-Voting Murals

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The ACLU has partnered with local artists to create public murals across Michigan to increase voter participation in the upcoming general election on Nov. 3. Eight murals have been commissioned and they will appear in six different Michigan cities to engage voters about new voting rights, including the opportunity for all to vote early, by mail or at their poll on election day.

The first three of these murals were unveiled late last month in Detroit and Flint. The public art campaign is a partnership between the ACLU and a coalition of over 100 partners across the state. The murals are being created in collaboration with 1xRun, a Detroit-based gallery and arts publisher.

"Partnering with such talented muralists is one of the many creative ways we hope to engage all eligible voters about their new voting rights," said Sharon Dolente, ACLU of Michigan voting rights strategist. "Voting in Michigan has never been easier, but many may not know they have the right to vote in-person starting Sept. 24 at their city or township clerk's office, the right to vote by mail and to register to vote up to and on election day. Our goal is to increase the voices being heard at the ballot box, and the mural project is a powerful and fun way



Artist Ndubisi Okoye with his mural in Detroit. It was created on the exterior wall of the ACLU's office at 2966 Woodward Ave. Photo by Bre'Ann White.

to do it."

While each mural is based on the central theme of the ACLU's mission to increase voter turnout by educating all eligible voters about mail-in and in-person early voting options, the artists were encouraged to create unique works in their respective cities to inspire public conversation and increase community and civic awareness that will last beyond one election.

In addition to Detroit and Flint, murals are in the process of going up in Benton Harbor,

Highland Park, Grand Rapids and Pontiac. The locations were chosen for maximum engagement with potential voters and to drive increased participation among millennials and communities of color.

Artists creating murals include Sheefy McFly, who will be working in Flint; Ndubisi Okoye, who created a Detroit mural on the ACLU office; Phil Simpson, who will be working in Detroit on Livernois; Freddy Diaz, who will be working in Detroit on Joy Road; Tony WHLGN,

who will be working in Highland Park; Jesse Kassel, who will be working in Benton Harbor; Rick Williams, who will be working in Pontiac; and Ann Lewis, who will be working in Grand Rapids.

"In the work we've been doing as organizers with artists over the years, we've seen the transformative power that public murals have to activate new conversations and build a sense of community, to get people invested and involved," said Roula David, vice president of 1xRUN and the founder and executive director of the annual Murals in the Market festival in Detroit. "It's a natural extension of our work to focus the drive and creativity of artists to push forward the ACLU's mission to make sure that voters across Michigan are able to make their voices heard in this election."

The ACLU is also recruiting poll workers, and training volunteers for voter outreach and voting rights education, and operating an election protection hotline for voters with questions or concerns. The election protection hotline – 866-OUR-VOTE – is staffed by trained legal professionals from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday. Weekend hours will be added as the election grows nearer.

Supporting the Community Since Before it was Cool.

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



Sandi & Linda
www.trilliumrealtors.com

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



C & N PARTY RENTALS

5140 Meijer Drive,
Royal Oak, MI 48073



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

We have Beautiful Linens for all events and budgets!

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

Meet MOT's New Artistic Director Yuval Sharon



BTL Photo: Andrew Cohen

Pledges to Make it 'Most Progressive Opera Company' in US

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

While the operatic stage has been responsible for sharing some of the world's most famous stories, it's still regarded by many to be an artistic medium that is inaccessible to the general public. For years now, there has been a push by artistic directors from around the world to both rebrand the art form and bring it back to its community-focused roots. In the case of Yuval Sharon, Michigan Opera Theatre's new openly gay artistic director, he is no stranger to taking a modern, more accessible approach to operatic performance.

Besides being a 2017 MacArthur Fellow, recipient of the 2014 Götz Friedrich Prize in Germany for his production of "Doctor Atomic" and the first American ever invited to direct at Bayreuth, Sharon is the founder of The Industry, a Los Angeles-based opera company. Under Sharon's direction, it earned a name for itself by expanding the public's perception of what opera can be through its experimental works. Perhaps most notably, The Industry debuted performances like "Invisible Cities," which took place in Los Angeles' bustling Union Station, and "Hopscotch," which was showcased via 24 moving vehicles around downtown LA. Now, Sharon is bringing his passion for the craft and artistic ingenuity to Detroit through a never-before-seen interpretation of Wagner's "Twilight Gods" on Oct. 17, 18 and 20. In light of social distancing requirements as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic, guests will view the opera as they drive their vehicles through the Detroit Opera House parking structure.

In the middle of "frantically trying to increase ticket capacity" after the show sold out in 32 hours, Sharon made time to chat with Between The Lines about his inspiration for the unique performance of "Twilight Gods," why he's eager to feature LGBTQ storylines in upcoming shows, queer thinking in opera and his plans to make Michigan Opera Theatre the "most progressive opera company in the country."

Due to the immense interest, are you looking to expand how long "Twilight Gods" will run?

It's going to be difficult to do that, and yet, we are exploring it. Unfortunately, it's not quite as easy a Broadway show or anything like that where we can say, "OK, we'll keep it going." Also, the thing that I'm very excited about is trying to figure out how we can add a free component to this, and what we're exploring now is that the last rotation of certain performances might be projected onto the wall of the opera house and we might invite people to watch it for free from the street level. And I would really love that because that feels really in line with something that I'm very passionate about and definitely want to bring with me to MOT, which is this notion that opera can really be an art form that's really close to the life of the street. I think we tend to think that Opera is this elevated art form that's in an ivory tower (laughs) and only speaks to a certain elite, highly educated and Euro-centric type of audience, but I actually think that there's a lot more

possibility in opera that's much closer to our own community and closer to our own time.

How will the socially distanced performance work?

Even though it's live and really close to them, people will still hear the piece transmitted on their FM radios so that they can stay in their cars and stay socially distanced. And I think it's actually going to contribute to part of what's going to be a fascinating experience. It'll be eight cars at a time that move through this parking structure and they each see several different scenes of the opera playing out on different levels of the structure. So as eight cars go in and they move to the next level, eight additional cars will move into the parking garage and the scene will start again. So, the singers and instrumentalists repeat the same scene over and over and over again, but the audience experiences one narrative that takes them through. Brunhilde is only on the top level, but we'll see her in a couple of ways before to prepare for her and they're pretty specific to individual characters. The connecting tissue for all of this will be new poetry written by Marsha Music, who is a true Detroit legend. She's a really great writer who is retelling the story for us and connecting all of the various scenes through this experience so that people can understand the context through which they are seeing this.

You've had to be creative during the pandemic in how you present this upcoming show. Do you think that COVID-19 will change how people approach presenting opera because they'll be forced to adapt?

I really hope so! (Laughs) Let me put it this way. I love the Detroit Opera House. I think it is a beautiful building and it is clearly the chief asset of Michigan Opera Theatre, this wonderful hall. But I don't think that precludes us from exploring other avenues of what opera can be. I think that we can sometimes think of opera so monolithically like it's always 19th-century Italian pieces that take place in a theater (laughs), but actually, the wonderful thing about opera — and the reason that I believe in it as an art form so much — is because it can be so many things. It can really be a connection to the past and it can be a vision of the future. It can be something that's completely in English written by an American composer and it can be in an African language. There's so many kinds of opera, and I would love an opera company like MOT to embrace all of that, you know? Inside the theater, outside the theater, in a parking structure or in one of those beautiful gilded 1920s skyscrapers in Detroit with these incredibly beautiful lobbies. It can and should happen everywhere, and that's something I'd very much like to explore. It doesn't mean we're not going to be doing "La Bohème" or some of the classics, it's just that we're going to look at it in a fresh way and we're going to allow these classic works to have some really exciting contemporary dialogue partners.

What drew you to opera initially? Was your perception always that opera is a space that is more equal than people might imagine?

(Laughs) No, I think my first encounter with opera was probably one that a lot of people could sympathize with. I remember seeing my first opera and I remembered feeling like it seemed to be a kind of alien landscape. And it was in another landscape. It's people from another time behaving in such strange ways and I didn't really quite understand it and I didn't really feel comfortable being there. And yet, the more that I started to investigate it and thinking about the potential of opera and maybe also the difference between the art form and the way that it's usually performed or usually presented at least, I did start imagining what opera looks like when it's closer to our time and closer to our communities. And when I got to know opera better, I started to see that there really was this impulse toward an almost carnival-like approach to the way it connected with audiences. And in Venice in the 17th century, there were really these competing opera houses that were probably closer to what Broadway musicals feel like, this feeling closer to a popular entertainment rather than how we experience it now. So, there is in its history this past where opera really is of the people, and I think that that is a really powerful way forward for opera in America, which needs to claim its own identity differently than how it's presented in Europe.

Your works in Los Angeles were described as "radically collaborative bulwarks against historical revisionism."

Such a great phrase! (Laughs) I'm impressed by that!

Was that description used in reference to not putting new storylines within classic works or something else?

I think that's been in reference to my work with my company in Los Angeles, The Industry, and really creating brand-new pieces and doing it in a way that truly embraces the collaborative nature of opera that is not such a — we tend to think of opera as surrounding one person of genius where everything emanates from that person and they are the dominant voice of what happens on stage.

And I think that that really has had a negative effect on opera overall because it's reduced us to thinking about a kind of monolithic or certainly myopic view of artistic creation. In the case of opera, where there is somebody writing music, there is a composer, a poet, a choreographer, a designer, both a costume designer and a set designer and then the architecture of the performances happening, there are so many different points of view. And that's not even to say anything about the people playing in the orchestra or singing on stage.

See **MOT**, continued on p. 20

HISTORIC & HIP

The Elaine Lofts

Built in 1912-Reimagined in 2020

Modern, Boutique, High-End Finishes, Energy Efficient Appliances

Located in the Milwaukee District, Four blocks East of Woodward

Call 248-890-0604 today to schedule your private tour

designbulldetroit.com

50% off 1st months rent

The Elaine Lofts is a diverse & inclusive community



DESIGN BUILD DETROIT

Celebrating 48 Years

OF OUTREACH TO THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY




PASTOR ROLAND SMITH, SENIOR PASTOR REV. DR. ROLAND STRINGFELLOW, PASTOR HATTIE ALEXANDER-KEY, PASTOR KAREN DILLAMAN



Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit
A diverse, inclusive Christian church serving the LGBTQ
and ally community since 1972.

www.mccdetroit.org
205 N. Main St, Clawson, MI 48017 | 248.399.7741


TRIANGLE CHIROPRACTIC



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

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

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



JOHN TSAKOS, DC

MOST INSURANCES
ACCEPTED

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

Find Puzzle on p.29

Prism of Possibilities
Psychotherapy

Christine Cantrell, PhD
Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

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

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



CALL NOW! 248-591-2888

► **MOT**

Continued from p. 19

And all of these points of view find this convergence in one point in time when this performance happens. And that is the thing that is so thrilling about opera: all of these people from many, many walks of life can come together and agree to do something together that is perfectly coordinated and that can be so magical when it works out. And that is something that feels like it points away toward a kind of future that we're all hungry for, which is much more participatory, much more representative of the city that we live in and a place where everyone has a voice. That's something that I think opera can model. And I think that's a power that is quite unique to opera and one that I would like opera to claim.

I spoke to tenor Michael Fabiano last year and he spoke of being open to portraying LGBTQ roles in opera but not altering "the intention of the libretto" by not changing stories for "new social implications." However, he gave an example of giving the character of Rodrigo a kiss when he played Don Carlo because of existing interpretations of what the relationship between the two men could be. What are your thoughts on potentially reimagining classics?

I would only say that I'm not terribly afraid of — I wouldn't call it adding a storyline, I would call it interpreting the piece. And that happens anyway. We interpret the piece whether or not it is strictly written in the story or whether it's something that our sense of story leads us to believe these two characters are having sort of a love affair — even if it's not spelled out. And there are ways that actually drawing them out in a production can be something that is very exciting because it asks us to look at these pieces in brand-new ways. I've seen many productions

that have suggested that characters like Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin" is obsessed with his friend Lenski (laughs), and that's why he had no interest in Tatiana. And, funny enough, that's hardly a contemporary suggestion. All the way back in Pushkin's time, the original poem, before it was an opera, people already kind of understood that that might be what is happening. So, there is this feeling that this is not necessarily a new imposition. And it is, I think, certainly the responsibility of the stage director to offer a strong interpretation of the work. And that does mean making some choices and that does mean you are shaping the experience, but it does not mean it is the only way that this piece can happen. It would be great to see "Eugene Onegin" in another time when maybe that's not mentioned at all and maybe Tatiana's the one who's in love with some other character (laughs). But I think opera being a living art form is embracing this notion that you can absolutely, with love for the music and text, draw new ideas out of it and present new ideas with that.

Do you have any LGBTQ-specific performances in the works?

Yeah! It's funny, opera has such a great history with queer culture in so many ways. Whether it is these kinds of operatic idols and divas that have become obsessive fixations (laughs), or whether it is that so many stories represent cross-dressing in such wonderfully normal ways, or male characters being played by female singers or increasingly vice versa. So, there is a lot of queer thinking that underpins opera, and I think that I would love to keep embracing that. But, you know, I think that there will certainly be, as new pieces are written, more and more exploration of stories that do explore LGBTQ narratives. And I would love to support that with my general attitude of wanting MOT to be the most progressive opera company in the country.

Then I assume it's no mistake that "Twilight Gods" is about dismantling an old order and system.

It is! Very much. That's why I chose this piece, because it is fundamentally a piece that is about the tearing down of something, and it's a strong woman that does it. Basically, she sets fire to her father's palace because it is no longer serving humanity. And she sacrifices herself for that revolutionary act. And this is not an idea that I was sitting on for years, this is absolutely a response to the time. It's a piece I've loved for a long time, but it's a piece that I don't know I ever really understood until living through this period with our twin pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism flaring up. So, with both of those things calling us to think differently about everything, opera is part of that conversation, I would like opera to lead that conversation and not just respond to it but actually offer a way forward.

Dependable Collision Center



FREE loaners on any job
(subject to terms and conditions)

We are committed to providing the highest quality precision service.

5133 Carpenter Road, Suite A
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Phone (734) 528-9581
Fax (734) 528-9593
www.dependablecc.com

We work with all insurance companies!

Right at Home.

MORTGAGES TO FIT YOUR LIFE

Home Ownership Made Easy!
Apply Online, Anytime, Any Device
at www.genisyscu.org




BIDWELL TOVAREZ PLLC

PROVIDING BANKRUPTCY SOLUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES



For a Fresh Start and
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

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

What clients say about Bidwell Tovarez:

"Most trustworthy and experienced"

"Outstanding representation"

"Services with a personal touch"



Bidwell Tovarez PLLC

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

www.bidwelltovarez.com

david@bidwelltovarez.com

Call 248-270-3333

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



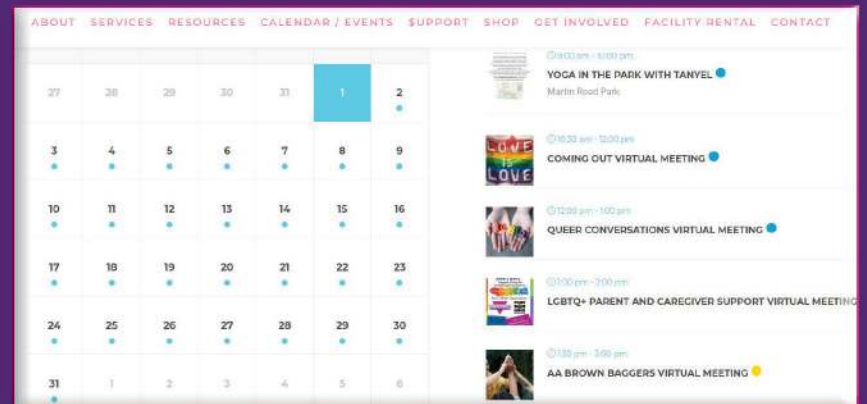
SHELTON & DEON Law Group
Anticipate
Innovate
Advocate

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

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

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

**Keep up with
Happenings
at Aff!**



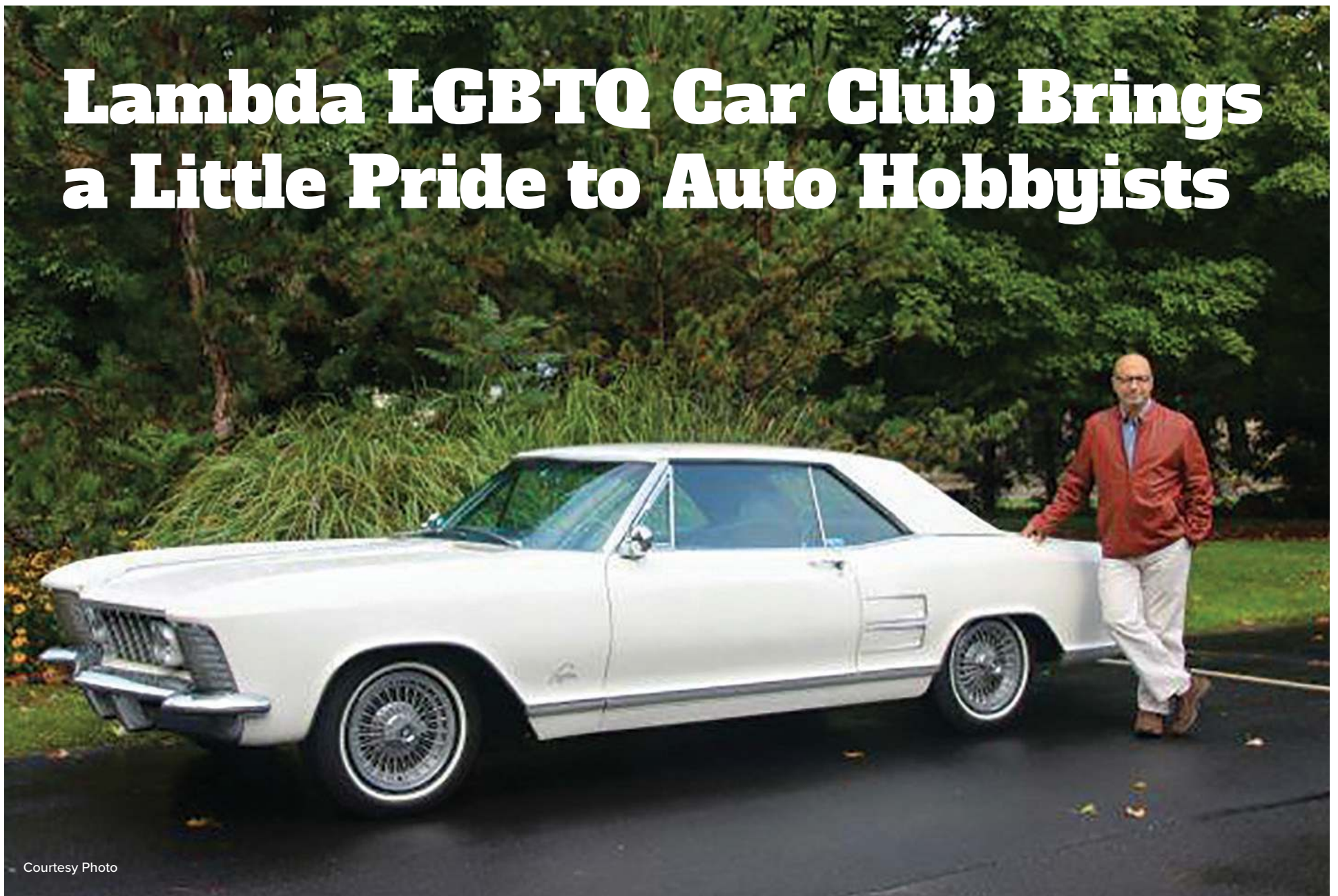
Don't miss out on what's happening at the Center. Use our website calendar to stay current with all scheduled activities:

GoAffirmations.Org/Calendar/

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



Lambda LGBTQ Car Club Brings a Little Pride to Auto Hobbyists



Courtesy Photo

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Sometimes it takes a person years to find their passion, but for Adam Bernard, he was only 3 years old when he first took a shine to toy cars, and that interest eventually developed into a career at General Motors. When he's not working, cars make up a big portion of his free time, too, because Bernard acts as the president of the Detroit region of the Lambda Car Club International — an LGBTQ-specific car enthusiast group. He said that while he was working for GM Design in 2000, it was a “true coincidence” that brought him and his hobby together.

“One of our executives said, ‘We’re sending a concept car to this dinner this weekend and we’d like someone to go and accompany it in case there are any questions.’ I’m like, ‘Sure, I’ll do that,’” Bernard said. “Thursday rolled around and I saw this executive in the hall. I said, ‘Where am I going on Saturday?’ And he says, ‘It’s the Lambda Car Club. It’s a gay car

club.’ I had never heard of it before.”

Soon after, Bernard joined up himself and by 2010 he had become president of the group’s Detroit region. Since joining, he said that the club has been a great place for car aficionados from all walks of life to chat about all things automotive while being their authentic LGBTQ selves.

“For people who are out, it’s great. For people who are not out, it’s great, too,” he said, adding that he himself was not openly gay at the time that he joined. “We’ve had people who have met and formed relationships through the club.”

And beyond being an online community of people who like classic vehicles, he said it’s a great resource for those in the market for a new car.

“Say you find a car in Houston on eBay, you can go to the national directory and find people who are in Houston who can go and look at the car in person for you,” Bernard said. “And you can also, from the directory, find people who own the same kind of car and ask, ‘Hey,

I’m looking at this, what should I look for?’”

He said that this collaborative approach extends not only from a car shopping perspective but a maintenance one, too.

“You have a wealth of information out there,” he said. “I’m not personally super mechanically inclined, but there are people out there who are. So, if your car has a weird warning light or it’s making a funny noise, you can actually ask people for some informal advice. And people will recommend storage places and mechanics and things like that, so it’s an opportunity to get involved with the hobby and meet people who have different experiences and share their experiences.”

And Lambda is far from an online-only club. Bernard said that members regularly host themed events and fundraisers that draw people from around the region and the U.S. The most notable of these is the the Grand Invitational event, which in 2020 was scheduled to be held in the Detroit area. Due to coronavirus pandemic concerns, the event has been rescheduled to

2021, but plans to host it are still in motion.

Bernard joined the group himself with a 1972 Aston Mini in 2000, but he said that owning a classic car is not a requirement for membership.

“You may have just a daily driver and an old American sedan of some sort or a Corvette of some sort. Whatever your passion is, you’ll probably find someone who shares that passion,” Bernard said. “We do lean toward a preference for large American cars, but that’s not all we have. We have some Italian sports cars, we have Mercedes, we have some trucks. So, people ask us, ‘What kind of cars?’ And I say, ‘We have just about everything you could imagine.’”

To learn more about the Lambda Car Club International, visit lccimembers.com or the group’s Facebook page.

At Cadillac of Novi, our doors are
open for everyone.



2020 Cadillac
XT4

#1 Cadillac Dealer in the Nation!*

Cadillac of Novi
A Ken Garff Dealership



41350 Grand River Avenue, Novi, MI
248.476.4466 • CadillacofNovi.com
*Based on a 2018 GM new vehicle sales report.

'Boys in the Band' For a New Generation

Actor Jim Parsons on Reviving the Gay Classic, His Personal Takeaway and Playing Bitchy Queens

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

A lot has happened this year, and that's aside from Jim Parsons dancing around in a bra. That bit, of course, graced screens across the world thanks to Netflix's "Hollywood," the "Big Bang Theory" actor shedding his well-established onscreen TV persona to play a sleazy Hollywood agent in the flashy revisionist drama. The Ryan Murphy series garnered him an Emmy nomination, but best of all: It wouldn't be the only time in 2020 that Parsons would be taking on the role of a bitchy queen.

In Netflix's "The Boys in the Band," again produced by Murphy, Parsons is a standout among standouts in the remake of the pioneering 1970 gay-centric drama, directed by William Friedkin. Initially staged as an Off-Broadway play in 1968, the film is based on Mart Crowley's screenplay, written about a group of gay friends and frenemies living in New York City. An awkward birthday party for their friend Harold, a self-proclaimed "ugly, pockmarked Jew fairy," becomes the breeding ground for savage takedowns, as they tear into each other, exposing the kind of self-hatred familiar to gay men trying to survive the oppressive state of pre-Stonewall America. Parsons plays seething party host Michael, a semi-lapsed Catholic whose aggressively nasty observations about his friends reveal more about him than it does about them.

In the remake, Parsons reprises his role alongside the original – and entirely openly gay – cast of the 2018 Broadway revival: Zachary Quinto, Matt Bomer, Andrew Rannells, Charlie Carver, Robin de Jesús, Brian Hutchison, Michael Benjamin Washington and Tuc Watkins. Parsons's out "Hollywood" co-star Joe Mantello, who directed the Broadway revival, once again directs.

On Zoom recently, Parsons talked about the revealing conversations he shared with Crowley about "The Boys in the Band" before his death in March and how working on the project led to a deeper understanding and questioning of his own self-worth.

Being the bitchy queen doesn't seem like something that comes naturally to you.

Apparently I have an affinity with it, or an interest in it. Or Ryan Murphy has an interest in forcing me to *do* it! I'm not sure which. Ha!

What has that experience been like for you?

It's been heaven. As an actor, I'll be honest

with you: Both of these men are complicated characters, and the two roles this year in "Hollywood" and in "Boys in the Band" were very different in many ways, but they had a similar feeling to me. Going into the projects, there was a mystery and an unknown quality about the challenge that lied ahead. I felt confident that I would be able to get there with both of them, but it was exciting to know it wasn't a done deal. I was going to work to get there, and I was going to have to, most



Photo: Netflix

importantly, get on set and start doing these scenes for both these characters and see what happened, and that was exciting.

Your role in "Hollywood" earned you an Emmy nomination, which must have felt validating after being uncertain about playing that role.

That was a great feeling.

Playing more challenging characters such as these, when do you know, "OK, I think I've got it"?

I feel like that specific feeling comes in little spots through the process, where you just feel good about something. But in general, everything I do, by the time it's all done and the months go by until it's released, suddenly I start having trouble remembering any of the good moments and I'm like, "Oh god, oh god. It's coming."

When I worked on "Hollywood" on the

character Henry, that was a longer process than the film because it was episodes and it went on for about six months. We were about midway through the process when I actually wrote Ryan Murphy an email just telling him how appreciative I was of the experience, and it was because I had crossed some bridge about working on that character. It had really clicked in me what a special opportunity this was, this character, that I just hadn't seen as clearly when I first started.

way and he's cracked.

What's interesting about both characters is that Henry in "Hollywood" was based on a real man, Henry Wilson, the man who invented Rock Hudson, and so I had this beautiful book by Robert Hofler that is Henry's biography. Robert had done so much research about who he was and when he was young and when he got old, and we focus on one specific part of Henry – and invented so much around it too; it wasn't all pure truth

– so to have all that information gave me a humane quality to Henry that I understood.

Michael was a little different. Even though I consciously knew that he was a rough stand-in for the writer, Mart Crowley, I didn't want to presume how much, nor did I want to put that responsibility on myself. At the time, both for the play and the movie, Mart was alive and I just thought, "Don't even think about it." But it kind of couldn't help creeping in, and the more chances I had to be around Mart and talk to Mart and exchange emails with Mart, one thing after another began to click and I was like, "The character of Michael is a writer just like Mart is." From this distance, now that we've had this put to bed for so long, although it's just now being released, I see a version of it where this is partly the story of Mart before he was able to write "Boys in the Band."

For me, the main magical thing about "Boys in the Band" comes from the fact that Mart was finally able to reveal himself and his situation and the people that he knew and loved with so much brutal honesty. I think that's why it connected with so many people. I think that's why it stood the test of time. I think that's why, as a piece of literature, it has stayed bubbling in our consciousness this long, and lo and behold has expanded to become something that's not just about gay men. It's become something that's about *all* people suffering under oppression and shame. And that's the way the world went, but I don't think, unless you're willing to open a vein the way that Mart was, that, going back to Michael, I believe that you can't create something that impactful and be that honest until you accept yourself for everything that

With Michael, the reasons for his ruthless disdain really reveal themselves at the end of the film. When you're playing characters as vicious as Michael and Henry, what's your process for exposing the layers of humanity beneath the surface of these characters' rough edges?

In the case of Michael, I think that's a big part of what you carry with you going into the beginning of the rehearsal process, knowing that you're dealing with a character who is compensating as much as he can. I always had this phrase in my head every time I was working with the character: He's just dancing as fast as he can in order to keep things afloat. But it's so superficial because there's this elemental part of himself that he is completely unhappy with and so, as happens in this, just the right amount of things break the wrong

See **Boys**, continued on p. 26

Hodges...

2020 SUBARU
OUTBACK LDD

MANUFACTURER OFFER:
0% APR Financing for 63 Months
FOR ALL OUTBACKS

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

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

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

EVERYDAY!

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

*Model code LFD-02 only. \$1,000 down payment. \$0 security deposit. 1st month payment due at lease signing. 36 month/10K miles per year. 15 cents every mile thereafter. Tax, title, and license fees not included. Subject to the credit approval through Subaru Motors Finance.

CELEBRATING 50th ANNIVERSARY

NON-CONTACT SYSTEM/SAFETY POLICY IN PLACE.

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
NORTHERN
Auto Repairs
SINCE 1970

Winner 2015-2020 Vote4TheBest

SAME-AS-CASH FINANCING
Available (6 months interest-free)

FREE SCAN
Advanced Testing Extra
w/coupon* expires March 2021

FREE NOISE CHECK
w/coupon* expires March 2021

We don't just repair cars, we create **RELATIONSHIPS**
We believe in hassle-free transparent **SERVICE WITH A SMILE**
& reliable transportation at the most effective cost.

WE REPAIR DOMESTICS & IMPORTS

- Oil Change Service Pkg
- Advanced Diagnostics
- Computer Diagnostics
- Maintenance
- A/C
- Tires
- Belts
- Brakes
- Shocks
- Mufflers
- Axles
- Batteries
- Radiators
- Alignment
- Alternators
- Heaters and more...

27201 Woodward Ave, Berkley
northernautorepairs.com

Princeton X Woodward
11 Mile Rd

(248) 548-6748
(248) 548-9666

CarTalk, AC Delco, VOTE 4 THE BEST, Angio's list, AAA

VISA

Sneathkamp
CHRYSLER • DODGE • JEEP • RAM

Khary Fanning
New and Used
Car Sales Associate
313-207-3583
kfanning@sneathkamp.com

Make \$100 the Easy Way!
Refer someone to Sneathkamp's Highland Park dealership and you could receive \$100!!
AND The person you refer will receive \$250 OFF the final price on their new car purchase or lease!

Have your friend present this coupon to Khary Fanning at Sneathkamp in Highland Park:
*We will contact you to send your \$100 referral check. Valid only on a completed purchase or lease.

*Your Name & Phone #:

The person you referred:

Jeep CELEBRATION EVENT
CHRYSLER PACIFICA
INCREDIBLE SALES EVENT

Sneathkamp Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
313-868-3300 www.billsneathkamp.net 16400 Woodward Ave. Highland Park, MI 48203

-- TAKE \$10 OFF ANY OIL CHANGE --

TWO LOCATIONS

FRANKLIN AUTO SERVICE 32725 Franklin Rd., South of 14 Mile Rd. (248) 626-2080

DARRELL'S FIRESTONE 23534 Farmington Rd. in Downtown Farmington (248) 477-9090

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

MARATHON

GOODYEAR

TOWING THE SAFE WAY!

VISA MasterCard
DISCOVER NETWORK AMERICAN EXPRESS

WWW.DARRELLSFIRESTONE.COM
WWW.FRANKLIN-AUTOREPAIR.COM

AIR CONDITIONING • HEATING • BELTS/HOSES
SHOCKS/STRUTS • MAJOR ENGINE REPAIR • TIRES
EXHAUST SYSTEMS • STEERING • TRANSMISSIONS • ALIGNMENTS



Life insurance from a real-life person.


Joan M Warner Ins Agcy Inc
Joan Warner, Agent
joan@warneragency.com
Bus: 248-474-8020 Toll Free: 888-298-8020

Get life insurance that comes with someone local (me). I'm here to help you protect your family's financial future. **LET'S TALK TODAY.**




State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not licensed in MA, NY or WI)
State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI)
1708148 Bloomington, IL

DAVID HARRIS, PH.D.
Fully Licensed Psychologist




Individual | Couples
Family Therapy


G.DAVID.HARRIS@COMCAST.NET
234 MICHIGAN AVENUE, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823
(517) 337-6545 X 232 | Fax: (517) 337-3010 | adjacent to MSU campus



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




Your Personal Advocate




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

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



Michigan's Largest Real Estate Company



► Boys

Continued from p. 24

you are. That's where we leave Michael, with Harold telling him, "You will always be a homosexual. There's nothing you can do to change it." And we don't see Michael transition into a healthier, self-loving person, but the more I think about it, the more I think that if he's truly a stand-in for Mart, then that's where Michael goes. Maybe he goes off to write his "Boys in the Band."

It's interesting to me to think that the film, when it was released in 1970, before the lexicon of LGBTQ identities expanded, resonated with an especially niche group of people. And that was, specifically, gay men. Now, that specific demographic seems almost antiquated because identity is far less restrictive.

One of the things I'm realizing – and please understand that so many things that I'm realizing I'm realizing them in the moment as we are now able to talk about the release of this film and the evolution that this story that Mart created has gone through – that no writer or anybody could predict because you don't know what's going to happen in the world.

Stonewall happened shortly after "Boys in the Band." It was a moment that created a real backlash from the gay community against "Boys in the Band," and for all the complaints, the main one was, "We don't want to be represented like this, as unhappy, self-hating, have-to-hide-at-home (people)." And I totally understand that. Especially in that infantile time, that embryo of this independence starting to form, you need all the nutrition you can get, ha!

But because of the efforts of so many, we have come far enough that we are more than OK to look at an honest portrayal of a real side of what it was to be gay. And even though it's not as intense in this way, there's residual (issues).

One of the things I discovered going through this and having the luxury to spend so much time with this part, both in the play and in the movie, was how much of those feelings that I thought I didn't really have because of my age and the acceptance in the world. Bullshit. I do. I *do*. It's not as intense. It's a different world. But it's not gone completely. And there is still a part of me that, as a gay person, I see more clearly having played Michael for so long. (I'm) still dealing with – and it's *truly* OK, consciously I know this – but there's that little voice inside sometimes that still goes, "Am I enough? Am I OK?"

I recognize that, with my very good friends especially, there's a language that we speak with each other that's tart-tongued and lovingly bitchy. I'm wondering if the way these gay men talk to each other on-screen translated off-screen since you worked with a cast of all gay men.

(Smiles.) You know what? I don't know if it was because of who we are or because of the time we're living – ha! – or because we were actually working together: It was certainly not as biting; it's a lot kinder, although Charlie, sweet thing, may disagree. He takes a beating from us! But you know what? That's youth, and that's what you get. Ha!

But no, definitely, it was one of the most profound things about going through this process, and I'm not even speaking about whether or not this is reflected in the final product on film. I'm really talking about my own personal experience of working on this: I feel we have the luxury now of not needing for safety and for personal comfort to be surrounded by your tribe of gay men. Many people have plenty of gay friends, and so many people solely, but it's not for the same reasons in my opinion that it would've been in the late '60s, early '70s where it was like, "Truly, we have to stick together." That's wonderful. But what I realized working with these guys is there's a



Jim Parsons (left), with Andrew Rannells, in "The Boys in the Band." Photo: Netflix

language spoken. I don't know if it's all gay men all over the planet. All gay people. I don't know if it's strictly specific to a gay American male. I will say it's the only time I've gone to curtain call and repeatedly – and I don't even know why because I hate saying this, but I'm like, "Hey *henny!*" I mean, I never talk like that. Ha! But every once in a while, I would grab Zach Quinto's hand on stage before the bow and I'd go, "Hi *henny!*"

Ryan Murphy has said we need more stories about the history of LGBTQ people. Aside from starring in "Boys in the Band" this year, you are producing the LGBTQ docudrama "Equal" for HBO Max. What are some other LGBTQ stories you would like to see revived for new generations of LGBTQ people to experience?

That's hard to say. You know what's funny to me, and I don't know what this says about me, exactly – well, it says that I'm a child of privilege, that I'm a gay man of privilege living in the world that I've grown up in. But I've been so fortunate that the people that I've worked with have called on me to be a part of these things, whether it was "Normal Heart" or "Boys in the Band." Even "Equal" was something that was being created and thought of and they included me in on it. So I have been blessed with this story lesson since I was, again, just too privileged and going about my own daily business in order to go research on my own.

But I guess my answer is twofold: I don't know what the next story is that should be revived, and the second thing is that I do realize the importance because of the impact that it's had on me being exposed to these stories, and a strength and a well-roundness that I feel as a gay man by understanding more specifically the historical context within which I walk as a gay man in 2020 now. It's crucial for making me the person I am.

And I get sweaty palms at the thought of, were it not for the sliding-door moments of these people asking me to do this, I might miss it, or not understand it, or feel it the way that I do now. So I hope that these projects go out to people and give a similar level of that. I don't want to say education because it's entertainment and I want people to watch it, for Christ's sake. Ha! But I hope that we've portrayed it in a way that is realistic and humanizing enough that you can't help but get the point.

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.

THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UAW
STAND WITH YOU IN THE FIGHT FOR
EQUALITY FOR ALL.

“SOMETIMES
SILENCE IS BETRAYAL.”

Martin Luther King



President, Rory L. Gamble

Secretary-Treasurer, Ray Curry

Vice Presidents, Terry Dittes, Cindy Estrada, Gerald Kariem

UAW.ORG   

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!

BUY
ADULT DVD'S
STARTING AT
\$5.95

EVERY TUES & FRIDAY
NEW
RELEASE
DAY

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



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

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

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

Hours:
Mon-Sat 10am - 9pm
Sun 12 - 6pm

Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'Boys In The Band' star Robin de Jesús goes 'Boom'

What we love most in this life is a real queen, someone whose flashing discoball personality you can feel from miles away. And if you watched the recent Netflix update of "The Boys In The Band," you saw "Camp" star Robin de Jesús, then you witnessed a queenly performance of extravagant proportions. Rooting for this three-time Tony nominated actor is one of our hobbies and we're thrilled to see him included in the cast of the upcoming directorial debut from Lin-Manuel Miranda, "Tick, Tick... Boom!" Based on the semi-autobiographical stage musical from "Rent" creator Jonathan Larson, the story concerns an aspiring theater composer approaching 30 and despairing that he might not realize his dreams (no spoilers intended, but we're going to assume it has a happy ending). The cast for this one is impressive: de Jesús is joined by Andrew Garfield, Alexandra Shipp, Vanessa Hudgens, Bradley Whitford and Judith Light. It's all just getting underway right now, so maybe by the time it's ready to hit a big screen... well, you know.



Tessa Thompson. Photo: KathClick

Tessa Thompson finds Jazz Age romance in 'Sylvie's Love'

Cue up our enthusiasm for "Sylvie's Love." Written and directed by Eugene Ashe (director of the 2012 indie feature "Homecoming"), it stars queer fave Tessa Thompson and former NFL All-Pro player-turned-actor Nnamdi Asomugha as lovers in 1957 New York. She dreams of working in TV and he's a struggling jazz saxophonist. When circumstances separate them and pull them in different directions, they become mutual "One(s) That Got Away." Fast forward many years later to a reunion and one more chance for romance. The film co-stars Eva Longoria, Wendi McLendon-Covey ("The Goldbergs"), Aja Naomi King ("How To Get Away with Murder"), and Jemima Kirke ("Girls"). Amazon drops this one on Christmas Day, and with the period setting and the promise of that kind of only-in-the-movies romance, it sounds like the perfect gift.

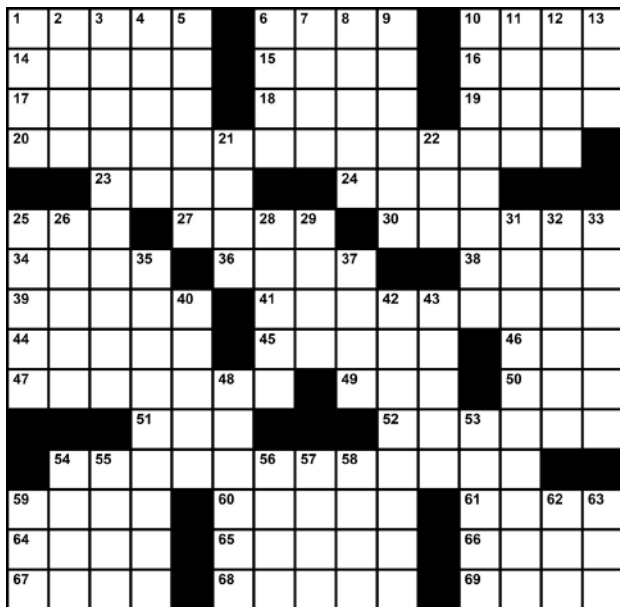
Meet Sam Jay, Late Night Host

It's very possible you aren't aware of Sam Jay. The Black lesbian stand-up comic has appeared on Netflix's "The Comedy Lineup" and starred in her own Comedy Central special, before getting her own Netflix standup special in 2020, "Sam Jay: 3 in the Morning." But in a world of too many TV choices, you might still have missed her. It's more likely that you know her work as a writer on "Saturday Night Live" as the co-creator of the recurring sketch, "Black Jeopardy." Well, you'll soon be able to see her work on HBO as the host of an as-yet-untitled late night series – one executive produced by "Insecure" showrunner Prentice Penny – where she'll dissect culture and politics from her unique perspective. Currently, Peacock is streaming another late night format show hosted by a Black woman, "The Amber Ruffin Show," which means all we need now is for another platform to do the same thing for this to become the trend it always should have been. For now at least it's a welcome future disruption in the late night world of seemingly endless white dudes. Jay's HBO bow takes place sometime in 2021.

Romeo San Vicente demands lesbian domination in all areas of entertainment.

Kaley Cuoco takes off in 'The Flight Attendant'

Like so many experiences with air travel, "The Flight Attendant" hit some pretty major turbulence. The new Kaley Cuoco-starring limited series based on the novel of the same name by Chris Bohjalian and executive produced by Greg Berlanti ("Love, Simon"), was in the middle of shooting its first season for HBO Max when the COVID shutdown began. Then in late August production resumed on the remaining episodes for a future air date. The story involves Cuoco's flight attendant waking up in Dubai on a layover, with a hangover and a dead body lying next to her. Unable to remember the night before, she begins to think she might be the killer. We love a murder mystery and we also love it when a sitcom powerhouse changes up her career with something unsavory. The supporting cast includes Rosie Perez, Bebe Neuwirth, our favorite "Girls" "girl" Zosia Mamet and the return of "Grey's Anatomy"'s T.R. Knight. So we'll be streaming along when this one finally arrives, later than expected, sometime in November.



38 Start of an Evan Wolfson memo
 39 See 20-Across
 41 With 39-Across, poet who wrote "I am nobody!"
 44 Ryan Seacrest, for one
 45 Improvise, like Robin Williams
 46 Sappho's long E
 47 Takes umbrage at
 49 Us, to Rilke
 50 "Good Will Hunting" setting
 51 Arena for GLSEN
 52 Patent subject
 54 She played the title role in the movie in this puzzle

59 Change from red to pink
 60 Nephew of Donald Duck
 61 Infatuated with Mr. Right Now
 64 Apt anagram for "yeas"
 65 Black pussy cats, e.g.
 66 Place for Young men?
 67 "New York Times Magazine" editor Adam

68 Silences for Tchaikovsky
 69 Slippery swimmers

Down

1 Type of balls
 2 System for a Johnny Mathis song
 3 Truman Capote et al., medically
 4 Off-color
 5 Made amends (for)
 6 Web info source
 7 Barrie's lake
 8 Young girl of old comics
 9 Wimbledon champ Andre
 10 Lover of Henry and June
 11 Shopping area
 12 "Well, Did You ___"
 13 Snatch
 21 "Understood" to Ginsberg
 22 Come out on top
 25 "Do" equivalent for Maria
 26 River of Debussy's land
 28 King with the golden touch
 29 Town in O-o-o-o-oklahoma

31 Be a male breeder
 32 Like stories of Simon Sheppard
 33 Tammy Baldwin's realm
 35 Like nights of insomniacs
 37 Sometime defender of gay rts.
 40 Movie about a cross-dresser
 42 "For beauty lives with ___" (Shakespeare)
 43 "Hedda Gabler" playwright
 48 AIDS activist Elizabeth
 53 Madonna song of 1990

54 It goes on a hero's meat, maybe
 55 Sapphic poems
 56 To a degree
 57 Pink and lavender
 58 Isn't informal
 59 Close kin, for short
 62 k. d. lang's "Big Boned ___"
 63 Post-lovemaking sighs

Solution pg. 20

I Am Nobody! Q Puzzle

Across

1 "Come Back, Little ___"
 6 Enchanted Disney character
 10 Sherman Hemsley religious sitcom
 14 Try to bite, doggy-style
 15 Electronic synthesizer

16 "Rag and Bone" author
 17 "Sands ___ Jima"
 18 Lambda Legal Defense records
 19 Oman man
 20 With 39-Across, 2018 movie about a reclusive poet
 23 Watched intently

24 Label on a lemon that isn't a fruit
 25 Nile reptile
 27 Bas relief of Eleanor's husband
 30 Some bellybuttons
 34 Umlaut parts, in Rilke's language
 36 Gershon of "Bound"

Toyota
 PAGE TOYOTA HONDA
 CALL DEAN
 21262 TELEGRAPH RD
 SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033
 DEANJ@PAGETOYOTA.COM
 248-352 8580 X1110

2020 Tacoma
 SR V6 Truck Double Cab
\$179 per month

\$179 per month for 36 months. \$2,999 cash due at signing. Offer only valid 7/07/2020 through 8/31/2020. 3-YEAR LOW MILEAGE 10,000 MILE/YEAR LEASE. Security Deposit waived. Lease includes \$600 cash incentive and excludes tax, title, license, registration fees, and dealer options and charges.

OR

2020 Tundra
 SR5 5.7L V8 Truck Double Cab
\$319 per month

\$319 per month for 36 months. \$2,999 cash due at signing. Offer only valid 7/07/2020 through 8/31/2020. 3-YEAR LOW MILEAGE 10,000 MILE/YEAR LEASE. Security Deposit waived. Lease excludes tax, title, license, registration fees, and dealer options and charges.

METRO CARE
 COORDINATION NETWORK
 ACCESS, Matrix Human Services, OLHSA

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

CALL (248) 266-5545
MetroCareNetwork.org

STD/HIV CLINIC

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



Health
Department

Services Provided:

- Risk Assessment Counseling
- Free Condoms
- HIV Counseling
- Linkage to HIV Care Services
- Covid-19 Testing Referrals
- PrEP Referrals



Testing and Treatment:

Confidential, Appointment Only, Persons 12 and Older
Minors (under 18 years of age) do not need parental consent

- Syphilis
- Gonorrhea/Chlamydia
- Trichomoniasis
- Non-Gonococcal Urethritis (NGU)
- Pubic Lice
- Scabies
- Rapid HIV Testing
- Hepatitis C Testing

"We take pride in taking care of our residents"

To schedule an appointment

CALL 586-465-9217

Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00

27690 Van Dyke Ave., Suite B, Warren, MI, 48093

You're Cordially
Invited
To

**Fight
For
Equality**



Become an ACLU member
at ACLUmich.org



FERNDALE, MICHIGAN – FIRE CHIEF



FERNDALE

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT FERNDALE, MICHIGAN FIRE CHIEF

Ferndale, MI (pop. 20,428) – The City of Ferndale is known for its award-winning downtown, community events, excellent housing options, and welcoming culture. It is proud of the high quality of life it offers its residents. Ideal candidates for the position of Fire Chief will have demonstrated a record of leadership and a commitment to proactive, hands-on, participative management and will possess excellent interpersonal, problem solving, and financial management skills. The successful candidate will have exceptional communication skills and will intentionally engage with the diverse constituencies of the City.

Candidates are required to have:

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Fire, Public or Business Administration or a related field.
Ten years of progressively increasing leadership experience. Five years of experience as a chief officer is preferred, but not required. National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer and Chief Fire Officer Accreditation preferred. A valid Michigan driver's license or obtain one within 30 days of appointment. Must currently have and maintain the following certifications, or the highest level of certification required to maintain the certification series: Fire Officer I certification; Michigan or National Registry EMT-Basic; NIMS ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800 (within 60 days of appointment).

Starting salary is \$92,325-\$115,301 (DOQE), with excellent benefits.

For a full job description and to apply by November 2 go to GovHRjobs.com and apply to the attention of Jaymes Vettraino, Vice President, GovHR USA, 630 Dundee Road, Suite 130, Northbrook, IL 60062.

Ferndale is proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer. The City values diversity, equity and inclusion, all qualified applicants will receive consideration with these values in mind.



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31, 2020
7-9 PM ET**

Live from Affirmations'
Pittmann-Puckett
Gallery

catch the livestream on



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

I Stay Ready. I Use Condoms.

Using condoms can protect you from sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and pregnancy.



Free condoms delivered by mail to residents of **Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck.**

Order yours at:
www.detroitmi.gov/health

PrEP Clinic

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

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

UNIFIED
hiv health and beyond
LIFE CONTINUES. LIVE HEALTHY.

In partnership with
Sinai Grace Hospital

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

WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG



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

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



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

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

We're Smiling for Pride!

RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS

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

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

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

www.rontwilliamsondds.com

Find us on facebook

Care Credit



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