March for Our Lives Draws Thousands to Detroit

First in Panel Discussion Series Examines Detroit’s Historical Gay Bar Scene

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IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION
This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or by calling 1-844-722-8266. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

What is Mytesi?
Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

Do Not Take Mytesi if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:
- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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

Should I Take Mytesi if I Am:
- Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?
  - Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant.
  - There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi.
  - This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed.

A Nursing Mother?
- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk.
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?
- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age.
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you.

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?
If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

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For Copay Savings Card and Patient Assistance, see Mytesi.com

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

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Homosexuality, the Middle East and Self-Identity

Artist Presents an American Landscape

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

The American flag is a clear symbol of patriotism and is recognizable the world over. Its distinct red, white and blue color scheme, and its well-defined stars and stripes delineate a simple message: this is America. And, for Americans, the flag can be a comforting reminder of home.

However, muddy the bold colors with orange, smudge the precise lines of the flag’s strips with indefinite ones, dashes and background noise and the reaction can easily be translated to one of fear or confusion.

“A lot of wonderful things have actually come out of it. I’m blown away. Who knew an exhibit like this would end up in The New York Times newspaper? My friend reminded me this morning, ‘You have no idea how big this is, do you?’” Mousa said. “That’s really true.”

Since the Jan. 12 article by Michael T. Luongo, the openly gay, Atlanta-based artist said that he’s received an outpouring of positive reviews from not only people he knows personally, but strangers. On Facebook alone, there were more than 25,000 people who viewed the article, with hundreds of overwhelmingly positive comments from Arabic people around the world. The Syrian-born artist said that this has led him to understand that there’s a grave need for prominent Middle Eastern figures to be positively outspoken about homosexuality.

“I don’t want to call myself a leader because I’m an artist, but somebody (needs) to stand up and show that it can be done. I think that’s the important part. I’ve been told by so many young Arabs that I’ve met. I said, ‘What do I need to do to get you to come out?’ They said, ‘Please don’t give up on us. Keep trying, because we need to come out,’” Mousa said. “To hear that from young gay Arabs in general to say that, it’s powerful. It tells me that I need to keep doing what I’m doing no matter what happens.”

And the topic is one that is especially near and dear to Mousa’s heart, because his highly conservative Christian family was not approving of either his sexuality or his drive to make art his chosen career.

“My parents wanted me to get a college degree or open up a business, and that was their priority because they brought us to this country so that we could succeed. That’s how they measure success.”

Additionally, even when he realized he was gay, Mousa said he couldn’t find any LGBTQ role models that resonated with him personally, and especially not ones who were also Middle Eastern.

“… (We’re) not all wearing high heels and carrying a purse and carrying makeup and that flamboyant, because that’s what the media typically likes to portray us as,” he said. “That’s how I perceived it growing up and that’s why I was terrified, because I couldn’t relate to it. Like, ‘How can I be gay?’ Looking at these images of what gay people were supposed to be, and saying, ‘This is not me.’ I was closeted because of that.”

The long process of understanding his own sexuality, and how it fit into his cultural heritage took Mousa into his 30s. It’s then he decided to come out. However, his reception was not a welcome one.

“I have been disowned for about 17, 18 years now. My parents are good people, they’re just uneducated and they’re ignorant about the gay issues,” he said. “I can only hope that their humanity pushes them in a direction where they’ll open up their hearts and embrace it.”

That spirit of acceptance is exactly what motivated his creation of “American Landscape,” which he began painting in 2010. “It was a process that kept evolving over about four or five years and as I kept adding paintings to it, and my thought process kept evolving as I kept painting,” he said.

Mousa said that now, especially with the positive response to his work, he feels as if this experience has been a call to action. Mousa’s plan is to bring his artwork to the countries that he feels need it the most.

“My parents wanted me to get a college degree or open up a business, and that was their priority because they brought us to this country so that we could succeed. That’s how they measure success.”

“I really want to spearhead this, because I want to take this project to the Middle East. I want to take it to Jordan and Lebanon. I want to take it to these countries that are opposed to gay life that actually have laws against the gay community,” Mousa said.

And although he hasn’t fully developed the strategy for doing yet, Mousa hopes to visit by the end of 2018. Especially to work directly with his native Syrian population, and those in Syrian refugee camps.

“I don’t live in the Middle East, but I do not want to forget my culture, and I do not want to forget how difficult it is for others like me to come out in the Arab world,” he said. “So if I can make a difference and empower somebody to stand up and be who they are, then I’m going to keep doing it.”

When asked if he is afraid of exploring these topics in countries that criminalize LGBTQ behavior, he said that the fear is just another motivator.

“There is always fear or danger in anything that we do that is opposed, but I cannot allow fear to stop me from making this happen,” Mousa said. “So yes, I will be cautious I will do everything I can, but nothing is going to stop me from being outspoken.”

And to Mousa, his boldness coupled with his artist’s platform is the ultimate way of positively changing attitudes and mindsets from within.

“It’s a lone track that we get into and we slowly start separating and making that gap bigger, and you get people thinking, ‘Why did I block this?’” Mousa said. “Because you’re going to have to show them that there are other ways of looking at stuff. A lot of people sometimes are stuck, and unless you open that door a little bit for them they’re not going to get there. We can sometimes lead somebody in another direction.”

“American Landscape” is on display now through April 8 at the Arab American National Museum located at 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. The exhibit is free with the cost of museum admission. More information can be found online at arabamericanmuseum.org/american-landscape or by calling 313-582-2266.
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March for Our Lives Draws Thousands to Detroit

BY DREW HOWARD

Students, politicians and second-hand victims of gun violence voiced their support for comprehensive gun legislation at the Detroit March For Our Lives on Sunday.

Detroit was one of an estimated 800 cities worldwide to host the March For Our Lives, a student-led protest calling for tighter gun laws following the Parkland, Florida school massacre that left 17 dead. The march along Detroit’s riverfront concluded with a speaking engagement emceed by student organizers.

A student from Fraser’s Arts Academy in the Woods was one of the first to speak during the 90-minute session. In her speech, she shared the story of an anonymous friend threatened with gun violence after organizing a school educational event on the transgender community.

The anonymous individual sent a prepared speech detailing the aftermath of the threat. It read:

“I was sick to my stomach, I was jumping at every little noise and I wasn’t acting like myself. People who were supposed to perform were scared that if they did they were going to get shot. The person who made the threat got a five-day suspension, and that was the bulk of his punishment.

“I never get over that feeling of fear. After every school shooting I revert back to being scared, but this time I’m done being scared. No one should have a weapon of mass murder at their disposal. We have no need for AR-15s, and we shouldn’t have to worry about walking in a school that I love.”

Gun violence has also taken a toll on Daryl Harris, a member of the community-based group CeaseFire Detroit devoted to fighting norms about violence. At the podium, Harris was quick to note that gun violence can happen to anyone, and not just the so-called “thugs” in the street.

“I’d be remiss to not talk about how it’s impacted my own life,” Harris said. “Not only my baby brother who was shot in the head and killed, but also my wife who some years ago was held at gunpoint in my own home and brutally raped in my own home as a result of this.”

“Every time I look at my daughter I have to be concerned about whether somebody who got a pass, just because they had a legal ID to go and buy weaponry, can go and do harm to my daughter, to my son, to my wife and to my friends.”

Harris also addressed gun violence against police officers both on and off duty, citing statistics which claim that “over 135 police officers across the country were killed with senseless gun violence” in 2016. He added that “over 100 officers were shot and killed in 2017,” 46 of whom were on duty when it happened.

State Rep. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) spoke through tears as she addressed the crowd, promising gatherers that she would put words into action.

“Senator Stabenow, if you or any other politician does not fight for common sense gun legislation this November you will be out of a job,” Susalla said. “That’s because the youth are in charge. To quote my good friend and fellow organizer Amina, ‘This is not a threat. This is a promise.’”

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) echoed similar comments to Chang, promising the crowd that she would support universal background checks and stand against arming teachers with guns.

Student organizer Harry Susalla warned Stabenow on stage that the youth will be watching to see if she acts on her promises.

Those interested in being updated on future protests, rallies and events can fill out this form at gaybe.am/Xz or go “like” the official March For Our Lives Facebook page.

For more information about the event, to RSVP and for parking information, contact creatingchange@thetaskforce.org to reserve a spot now. The last force staff in attendance will be the Director of Creating Change Conference Sue Hyde, Evangeline Weiss, Daniel Moberg and Mel Braman.

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Gun Control Rallies Take Place Across U.S., Around the World

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

Hundreds of “March for Our Lives” gun control rallies, marches and protests took place across the U.S. and around the world on Saturday.


“I’m here today because I’m a mom of a senior in high school,” Cathy James of Riverview, Fla., told the Washington Blade as she stood with other members of the Metropolitan Community Church of Tampa in the city’s Kiley Gardens where the rally took place. “I’m here as a community member to support our students and to support our community and say this has got to stop. Enough is enough.”

Upwards of 800,000 people attended the “March for Our Lives” rally in D.C. on Saturday.

The “March for Our Lives” events took place less than six weeks after a gunman killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas student Susana Valdíeveso pointed out at the Tampa rally that 7,000 children have died from gun violence since the massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., in 1999. Valdíeveso also recalled the shooting that took place at her school on Feb. 14.

“My classmates were not killed by knives or bombs,” she said. “They were struck down by the bullets of a semi-automatic weapon in the hands of a 19-year-old aided and abetted by the leniency of laws that make it far too easy to acquire a weapon that can massacre dozens in mere seconds.”

“How many more will face down the barrel of a gun before we acknowledge this as a public health crisis,” asked Valdíeveso.

Media reports indicate 20,000 people took part in a “March for Our Lives” march in Parkland.

Virginia state Del. Chris Hurst (D-Blacksburg) – a former television reporter whose then-girlfriend, WDBJ reporter Alison Parker, and her cameraman, Adam Ward, were shot to death in 2015 during a live broadcast – spoke at a “March for Our Lives” rally in Blacksburg, Va.

A gunman in 2007 killed 32 people when he opened fire on the campus of Virginia Tech, which is located in the city.

More than 20,000 people attended a “March for Our Lives” rally and march in Orlando, Fla.

A gunman in 2016 killed 49 people when he opened fire inside the Pulse nightclub in the central Florida city.

Christine Leinonen, whose son, Christopher “Drew” Leinonen, died inside the nightclub, and several survivors of the massacre marched in the D.C. “March for Our Lives” rally. Several of those who attended the “March for Our Lives” rally in Tampa wore t-shirts that honored those who died inside the Pulse nightclub.

A number of the victims were from the Tampa Bay area.

Tracy Vanderneck of Bradenton, Fla., wore an Orlando United t-shirt in honor of the victims of the Pulse nightclub massacre at the Tampa rally. She told the Blade the “same problems that cause the shootings like at the school are the same problems that cause them at Pulse nightclub.”

“We can put different faces on it or different names on it, but it’s the same core problem and until all of these people get together and form a united front, it’s going to keep happening,” said Vanderneck.

Prominent activist acknowledges march participants from Cuba

Gun control advocates around the world also held “March for Our Lives” rallies and events on Saturday.

Several dozen gun control advocates gathered outside the U.S. Embassy in Chile. Michael Petrelis, a prominent American LGBT rights activist who is currently visiting Cuba, in a Facebook post from Havana expressed his solidarity with “March for Our Lives” organizers and participants.

“Muchas, muchas gracias (sic) the student and youth leaders of *today* who called for and organized demonstrations,” he wrote in his post.

Democrats Abroad Haiti on Saturday posted pictures of their members in Pétionville, Haiti, holding signs in support of gun control.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Saturday in a tweet that acknowledged those who marched in support of gun control noted his government last week introduced “a plan for common sense gun control that will keep our communities safer.” This proposal includes enhanced background checks for those who want to have a firearm.
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Memories of a Detroit Gay Past

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

For five dynamic years – 1940 to 1945 – Detroit was America’s Arsenal of Democracy, a vital source of war materials and weapons. First, for England’s defense, later, for our own.

Automotive factories focused on round-the-clock, nonstop production of bombers, tanks, jeeps and planes. Plumb and popular vocalist Kate Smith kept patriotically singing “God Bless America.”

Soldiers, sailors, marines and WACs – Women’s Army Corps – passed through Detroit before shipping out overseas. Many had been inducted and processed in Quonset huts on Wayne University’s campus (I took my first English 101 course in 1960 in one of them).

A result of wartime migration to a big city like Detroit (population 1.3 million) was the unexpected popularity of gay bars. Detroit had four downtown near Old City Hall (and the First Police Precinct Jail.)

Many small town inductees, stopping off briefly in the Arsenal of Democracy, found to their naive surprise – and secretly, happy relief – that they weren’t the only ones who were “hush, hush” gay!

For these many it was a golden opportunity, “Who knows? We might not be alive tomorrow.”

Older gays were quite willing to play host, provide weekend housing, food, drinks, conversation, hugs and – at a time when good gals just didn’t give head – provide friendly lip service to straight servicemen.

As the Allies began to beat the Axis, a mood of cautious celebration took hold in Detroit’s gay bar clubs. Downtown side streets Farmer and Bates, home to Rio Grand, Silver Dollar and LaRosa’s bars, became less secretive. More carefree and obvious (nearby Palais bar was a notorious dyke heaven).

When Halloween 1944 swished around, the Grand Night of Enchantment became an opportunity for celebration. Following the end of Prohibition in 1933, getting in drag was accomplished without too much hoopla – or crossdressing arrest – once a year.

During the war years, Detroit’s non-military gays – those 40 or older, or those classified 4F with “homosexual tendencies” – along with straights who had flat feet (not necessarily because of high heels) kept the home fires burning and factories going 24/7.

These service rejects – no relation to recent biblical “left behinders” – were in a party mood. The war in Europe was winding down. Finally! So, why not celebrate?

What better time than the only day when cross dressing is permitted without penalty, threat of incarceration, or, if your makeup’s thick enough, likelihood of recognition.

The first Halloween display of queens numbered 25 or 30 brave patrons. Those in other costumes, about 50. Some wore rhinestone tiaras and sequin embroidered titles across their ample, canary seed-filled boobies.

Miss Victory Garden, Red Cross Rita’s Revenge, Rosey Rivet Me and Miss Harry James’s Trumpet (pin-up Betty Grable’s band leader husband). It was great fun. War-relieved and weary cops looked the other way.

Each year after World War II’s end, Halloween was planned to outdo the last. Gatherings grew large. More flamboyant. Sometime in the early ’50s, streets were cordoned off. Hundreds came to see and applaud, and “Ooo!” and “Ah!” at the queens who arrived in convertibles and on roller skates. Everybody behaved.

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Viewpoint

Rollback

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

The Trump Administration has once again attempted to ban transgender people from serving in the U.S. military. This time out, the ban was secretly drafted by Vice President Mike Pence, with assistance from Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council (FRC) and Ryan T. Anderson of the Heritage Foundation.

Of course, this new policy relies heavily on claims that transgender people will affect “unit cohesion” – a concept that has sprung up any time the military has moved away from being white, male and straight. Issues of “privacy” came up as well, and used in the same was as always.

“Allowing transgender persons who have not undergone a full sex reassigment (sic), and thus retain at least some of the anatomy of their biological sex, to use the facilities of their identified gender would invade the expectations of privacy that the strict male-female demarcation in berthing, bathroom and shower facilities is meant to serve,” read part of the report leading up to the new ban.

The latter was woven into statements made by Ben Carson, the current head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. When he was not busy ordering up a $31,000 dining set for his office – and blaming its purchase on his wife – he was claiming that transgender people should not be allowed in homeless shelters because, “there are some women who said they were not comfortable with the idea of being in a shelter, being in a shower, and (with) somebody who had a very different anatomy.”

Just a day or two before Carson’s statements, Betsy DeVos, the head of the Department of Education also chimed in on transgender people, noting that the Department of Education will no longer look into complaints from transgender students who end up denied access to sex segregated facilities.

All of these within one week of each other can hardly be accidental, and I suspect each of these can be traced directly back to Pence and people like Anderson and Perkins pushing the usual bathroom claptrap that has failed over and over again at the state level. And that’s what threw North Carolina into chaos over the passage of their own anti-LGBTQ bill, HB2, that barred trans people from state-owned sex segregated facilities.

This is what is happening while Trump spends his time on the golf course, or holed upstairs at the white house.
glued to Fox and “Friends,” tweeting madly. Pence and his far right cronies are pushing a hard-right, anti-LGBTQ agenda that is currently focused squarely on trans rights.

All this while there’s been no evidence that transgender people using facilities appropriate to their gender identity or expression causes any real issues. The whole argument that this will lead to additional sexual assaults simply doesn’t bear out. Never mind that barring transgender people from facilities appropriate to their gender presentation will protect transgender people themselves.

As a transgender activist, it can be so damned tiring to have to continue to deal with these issues. We’ve had to look at these sorts of attacks on transgender people year after year, and have to parrot the same facts over and over. The same junk science and falsehoods simply refuse to perish, and over and over. The same junk science and falsehoods simply refuse to perish, and over and over. The same junk science and falsehoods simply refuse to perish, and over and over.

What’s more, we stand to see a lot more steps against transgender people, wiping out the gains of the Obama years and long before. It would seem clear to me that the end goal is to drive transgender people out of society overall, completely disenfranchising us and eventually forcing us into hiding and fear. I wish I could claim to be using hyperbole here: it would seem the only possible endgame to all these anti-transgender moves, and the long-stated goal of organizations like the FRC and the Heritage Foundation.

All that said, I expect that this new ban of transgender people in the military will fall as the previous one did, and nothing that Betsy DeVos says will halt the fact that Title IX protections have served transgender students in several cases to date. I also suspect that shelters under Carson will end up open to transgender people no matter what he chooses to mumble.

Yet it will not happen without everyone pitching in.

Those of us who are trans have to keep at the front lines. We have to keep speaking out, keep being visible and keep pushing for change at all levels.

That said, those of us who have been fighting this day after day are weary. We need our allies to speak out. We need everyone to stand with us.

If you say you support transgender people, now is the time to act.

Gwen Smith would much rather write about cutesy fun things. You can find her at gwensmith.com.

Betsy DeVos, the head of the Department of Education also chimed in on transgender people, noting that the Department of Education will no longer look into complaints from transgender students who end up denied access to sex segregated facilities.

In 1969, the year of the Stonewall Riots, things got out of hand. Rednecks threw rocks. Tossed bottles. Shouted, “FAGS!” And ripped gowns. The party was over. Insulted – and very, very smart – gays moved northward to the seemingly safer Diplomat, Gigi’s and Woodward bars.

Once home to the Motor City’s first Gay Pride Halloween “Parades,” Farmer and Bates Streets are now bare-ass naked. Silent, haunted, empty streets. Forgotten. RIP. Rest in pride.

Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBT community artist (1000 Face Book images). He is a Spirit of Detroit Award recipient and an Affirmations LGBT CENTER Ian Stevenson awardee. Connect with him at Charles@pridesource.com.
Consistent with expectations for timing for the new policy, President Trump issued a memo late Friday on transgender military service that – while moot thanks to court orders against banning transgender troops – nonetheless reaffirms policy against their service.

In the memo dated March 23, Trump defers on the transgender military issue to Defense Secretary James Mattis and based on his recommendation asserts transgender people shouldn’t be allowed to serve “except under certain limited circumstances.”

“Among other things, the policies set forth by the secretary of defense state that transgender persons with a history or diagnosis of gender dysphoria – individuals who the policies state may require substantial medical treatment, including medications and surgery – are disqualified from military service except under certain limited circumstances,” Trump writes.

Despite media reports indicating Mattis recommended transgender people say in the armed forces, the recommendation reveals in fact he advised the president that having gender dysphoria, a defining characteristic for transgender people, should be a disqualified factor for military service.

“The Department of Defense concludes that there are substantial risks associated with allowing the accession and retention of individuals with a history or diagnosis of gender dysphoria and require, or have already undertaken, a course of treatment to change their gender,” Mattis writes. “Furthermore, the department also finds that exempting such persons from well-established mental health, physical health, and sex-based standards, which apply to all service members, including transgender service members without gender dysphoria, could undermine readiness, disrupt unit cohesion and impose an unreasonable burden on the military that is not conducive to military effectiveness and lethality.”

Although Trump defers to Mattis on implementing the prohibition on transgender military service, the action is moot because four trial courts and two circuit courts have determined barring transgender people from the military because of their gender identity. Hours before the memo was issued, a Pentagon spokesperson told the Blade the military’s own extensive studies.

David Stacy, director of government affairs for the Human Rights Campaign, said Trump administration officials issued the memo late on a Friday night “because they’re embarrassed by it, and they should be.”

“It’s quite clear this is a complete ban, and Secretary Mattis was backed into corner to deliver based on the president’s tweets, so it was a matter of coming up with a justification after the fact,” Nardecchia said. “The government was legally required to have their justification before banning and targeting transgender people. They’re not permitted legally to come up with a justification after the fact, so I don’t think courts will more sympathetically.”

LGBT rights advocates had varying assessments on whether Mattis was culpable for the new policy and said the recommendation seemed like it was developed after the fact to justify Trump’s ban.

Matthew Thorn, executive director of the LGBT military group OutServe-SLDN, said the real villain behind the policy is Trump, although Mattis shares some blame.”

“I wouldn’t characterize it as escaping culpability from this,” Thorn said. “He is making a recommendation that is counterpoint to major, long studies and feedback that was provided to the Defense Department in 2016, but at the end of the day, this is the president and the president directing this decision.”

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Long before there was an Affirmations, they were the community centers of the LGBTQ world. You didn’t just go to the gay bar to dance and drink, you went to socialize and to seek solace and support. The gay community revolved around the bars which, for many, was the only place they could let their hair down and be free; their true authentic selves.

So, it’s important to revisit that rich history and remember that less innocent period of time. At least so sayeth Tim McKee, general manager of Menjos Entertainment Complex. McKee and Menjos will host a panel discussion on the history of gay nightlife in Detroit on April 7th.

“Focusing on the history of Detroit bars and nightlife is important because we need to know where we came from,” said historian and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History and LGBT Studies at Michigan State University Tim Retzloff. Retzloff, with his extensive background, will also moderate the discussion.

“Places like the Gas Station, the Casbah, the Famous Door and so many others have played a vital role in our community and our individual lives,” he said. “For many of us, bars are our entree into a larger LGBT world, especially at a time when there were few organizations to help us understand ourselves and connect with others with shared sexual and gender identities.”

And McKee agrees. “About four years ago I was talking to Dr. Tim and I was telling him that it seemed very odd to me that the history – most of which in my opinion was cultivated and gathered in the gay bar scene – was not being passed on. This is because the teachers, the people who were supposed to pass on that information, died,” McKee said. “And a lot of those people were my friends.”

AIDS ravaged not just the gay bar scene but the gay community at large in the ‘80s. Since that time the LGBTQ community has made significant strides toward advancing the goal of equality for all, the culmination of which was the 2015 Supreme Court ruling that granted the LGBTQ community the right to marry. And in the process of all this advancement, the stories of an earlier time when going to a gay bar was more than just a way to pass a slow Saturday night but an actual act of rebellion and resilience, got lost.

First-person Accounts

Thankfully, there are still those who remember the pre-AIDS gay social scene in Detroit. Among them, and included as scheduled panelists for the discussion, are Mary Sappington, who began publishing the bar magazine Metra in 1979, Stacey “Hottwaxx” Hale, a popular DJ who began spinning in the gay clubs in the late ‘70s, Mark Weise, who was active in the leather community for many years, Palmer Park historian Doug Haller and legendary drag performers Torchy and Lady T Tempest.

“Our panelists represent a cross-section of local bar life in the 1970s and ‘80s, female and male, black and white,” said Retzloff. “The program gives us a chance to hear directly from these pioneering members of the community.”

For her part, Tempest has vivid memories of gay nightlife in Detroit going back more than four decades.

“I think today the young LGBT community has it so easy,” said Tempest. “And I want them to know, as I like to say, it’s because of us old timers that they can live their lives free and open and happy,” she said. “We took the bumps and bruises for them. I’m happy that I did that. I’m glad they’re able to live free and open and safe, but I just want them to know it wasn’t always that way.”

The bars were more than just a place to mix and mingle, though they were of course a place to do that, too. But they were a place to connect with others on many levels, to build a family that accepted its regulars for who they really were.

“It’s where you met people like yourself,” Tempest said. “[It’s] where you were able to communicate. You could discuss your problems at home, perhaps with your family members. You might be having trouble with your mother and father. It was a place to not only meet people but to discuss your life. It was a wonderful community.”

But there were difficult times, too. Tempest recalled working in clubs in the mid-‘70s when performers were required to have an entertainer’s license and LGBTQ performers were frequently harassed by the police department when they went to get one. Conditions in the club were often poor for the performers, who were treated as second-class citizens.

“I worked at a straight club that had female impersonation shows and it was owned by a Detroit policeman and his wife,” Tempest remembered. “The entertainers weren’t allowed to use the bathrooms. We had to urinate in a bucket and then we threw it out into the alley behind the bar. We did what we had to do to survive and, little by little, life got better.”

Over the years, Tempest took home multiple titles around town, including, but not limited to, Miss Gold Coast, Miss Ruby’s, Miss Flaming Ruby’s, Miss Other Side, Miss Cruise Club, Miss Footlights and Miss Gigi’s. It’s Gigi’s that she considers her home bar.

“We were sitting in Gigi’s one afternoon and thank God they had cameras that covered the parking lot,” Tempest said. “We were sitting there having wonderful conversation and a great cocktail and we look up and there were young people breaking out the car windows in the parking lot. Tony Garneau, the original owner of Gigi’s, said ‘OK, everyone, grab a pool stick,’ and out the door we went. We fought them off. We weren’t bothering anybody. Our thing was don’t bother us. We protected our territory.”

Hale also has her share of memories. Starting out in the late ‘70s she spun at clubs such as Club Hollywood, Club Exclusive, Circus and Opus in her early days. The greatest difference between then and now, Hale said, was the amount of people on the dance floor.

“People danced,” she said. “People came out to dance. We still got our groove on, still flirted and did our thing. But people danced. They don’t dance anymore.”

Behind the music, though, things weren’t always easy for Hale either. Especially as a black woman navigating her way through an often segregated club scene.

“I remember I couldn’t get into Menjos,” said Hale. “They asked me for three pieces of ID with a picture and I produced it and they still wouldn’t let me in.”

The Our History in the D panel discussion on the history of the LGBTQ bar scene in Detroit will take place Saturday, April 7 at 7 p.m. The discussion will take place in the Olympus Theater in the Menjos Entertainment Complex. For more information, call 313-863-3934 or visit newmenjoscomplex.com.
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  www.trinityaa.org

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  33360 West Thirteen Mile Rd.
  www.antiochelca.org

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

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  Bethlehem Lutheran Church
  250 Commerce Ave. SW
  www.bethlehemchurchgr.org

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

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  4252 Breton Rd. SE
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  8820 Wayne Rd.
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Comedian Returns to a TV Classic – and Doesn’t Mince Words on Roseanne’s Politics and Kathy Griffin’s Activism

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Before unloading her frank thoughts on TV co-star Roseanne Barr’s alt-right politics and fellow comic Kathy Griffin’s viral Trump-beheading pic (“It just wasn’t funny”), Sandra Bernhard proclaims herself quite aptly as “no-nonsense.” That has been, after all, her way since the ’70s, when lambasting Hollywood’s who’s-who first proved lucrative for the fearless comedian, actress and musician.

Then, from 1991-1997, the Flint native famously put a face to bisexuality not just as herself – Bernhard was out from the get-go – but as Nancy Bartlett on ABC’s hit sitcom “Roseanne.” Introduced in season four as the estranged lesbian wife of Arnie Thomas (Tom Arnold), Nancy, who later came out as bisexual, gets chummy with Roseanne Conner and Jackie Harris, Roseanne’s younger sister (Laurie Metcalf).

Bernhard, 62, will revisit her groundbreaking character during the show’s revival. As for the controversy regarding Roseanne and her TV alter ego’s support for President Trump? “‘Roseanne’ is gonna be another round of really fun and really smart television,” she tells me. “Roseanne has never turned on the gay community. Roseanne likes to stir the pot. She always has. So, I guess that’s the way she’s doing it now, and I don’t agree with any of the Trump shit, but I think she’ll transcend that and the show will still be amazing.”

What can we expect politically from the “Roseanne” reboot?

I think they’re gonna do a deep dive into where the working class is at right now. I mean, maybe not as deep as you would need, considering that half of the working class who don’t have their industrial-ass jobs anymore are strung out on opioids. That’s not very much fun; I don’t think they’ll go there (laughs). But I think we’re in a real crossroads in this country, and “Roseanne” has always been good at revealing that, and at the same time making it funny and moving and insightful. I’m only in the last episode, so I don’t know exactly how they’re approaching it. I know there will be very personal stories like there always were, as opposed to globalizing it. I think that’s what makes the show special.

I imagine you’ve been hearing about the backlash Roseanne’s politics have ignited since the reboot was announced.

I was hearing about that way before they announced the reboot, and I just dropped out of the conversation because I don’t want to get into that on Twitter. You can’t do that; it goes nowhere. And everybody who makes political decisions also has to live with the fallout. That goes for famous, successful people and for people on the street. If you voted for Trump and you thought it was gonna be a lark and funny, the results are right there in front of you every day.
My hope is that it might bridge some severe societal gaps, maybe open some minds, maybe even my own. But it’s been very difficult for people who didn’t vote for Trump to even begin to understand or empathize with someone who supported him.

I don’t have any empathy for people who voted for him. Honestly, I really don’t. It’s obvious that he didn’t know anything about the working class population; he exploited it and (his supporters) were naïve and unwilling to read or to know what was really going on. He played them, and to a certain extent the few people who are still in his corner, he still plays them. So it’s just kind of a bummer.

A lot of people have strong opinions about the liberal-minded cast returning to a show led by a Trump supporter.

I’m glad they do. She should hear it. And it’s better for her to hear it from the people that have supported her and watched her show than it is from me. I mean, we’re friends, we’re friendly, and I’ll continue to do the show. But it gets underneath your skin when 20 million people who used to watch your show are like, “What the fuck?”

She seems to know how people feel about her politics based on her appearance at the Golden Globes, when she said, “I’m kind of known for creating some great drama” while presenting with co-star John Goodman.

Of course she knows.

Well, I’m excited to have Nancy Bartlett back. You told me in 2013 that you didn’t think Nancy would have a place on the show if it ever returned.

It’s not that she didn’t have a place. But I didn’t think they’d be able to fit her story back in because of all the new characters and the family and reestablishing what’s been going on politically, so when they added the extra episode and wrote me in I was thrilled.

Nancy was one of the earliest portrayals of bisexuality on TV. What surprised you most about how her sexuality was treated on the show in the ‘90s?

I mean, she was fun and it was a fun concept that she ran from being married to Tom Arnold into the relationship with Morgan Fairchild. It was sort of a lark at first, and of course it evolved. They wouldn’t let me kiss Morgan Fairchild under the mistletoe – we had to cut the kiss – so that’s how far we’ve come in terms of what you see sexually on TV.

But yeah, she was a funny, kooky, free-spirited character who got to do things and say things that was part of the evolution of sexuality on TV. It wasn’t intentional – it wasn’t like we were trying to do something groundbreaking. But that is how Roseanne is and was. She just did things that felt organic and authentic. She ended up having the actual kiss with Merle Hemingway (at a gay bar that Nancy took her to), but nonetheless, Nancy’s fun, and if they picked up the show again they’ll expand her story.

We’ll get more Nancy if there’s another season? Oh yeah, absolutely. For sure, yeah.

Roseanne will have a genderfluid grandson, Mark (played by newcomer Ames McNamara), on the show as well.

Yes.

What are your thoughts on the show continuing to be inclusive?

I just think there has to be a little bit of everything in all the shows now, and I don’t know. I’ve gotta see the show before I can comment. He’s in my episode, but to the extent of what they’re trying to do with that character, we’ll have to see.

Speaking more generally, how do you feel about representation as far as LGBTQ people go on TV?

It’s certainly gotten a helluva lot better than when Nancy first came on the scene. And I think with each year that goes by, especially with the advent of Hulu and Netflix and Amazon, there’s been major breakthroughs.

Are you currently enjoying any shows with LGBTQ characters?

I watch “9-1-1” just because I think it’s a ridiculous show. Everywhere you turn there’s new, interesting gay characters. But I don’t go to a show for that. For me, my life has never been informed by that. I’ve always been comfortable with who I am sexually. I’ve been sexually fluid, I’ve broken all the ground rules since I was 17 years old. So, I’ve never had any need for somebody to be my role model. I’ve been my own role model. So, it’s a non-issue. But I think for the public at large it’s been a great time and a revolutionary time for people to see all kinds of characters – racially, sexually, women, men – come to life in a new way.

Have you heard of the very gay-centric “Schitt’s Creek”? Honey, I was one of the first people to be hip to it!

Oh, snap.

(Laughs) I know, yes. But yeah, of course. Love it. Dan Levy is terrific – super funny and smart.

What can we expect from you in the future? See Sandra Bernhard, page 19
6 Things I’d Like to See on the ‘Roseanne’ Revival

BY MIKEY ROX

Roseanne Barr knows how to keep tongues wagging. From her infamous bungling of “The Star-Spangled Banner” and my-way-or-the-highway tyranny on the set of her groundbreaking sitcom to her failed presidential bid and accusation that Ireland (yes, the whole darn country) is anti-Semitic, the self-proclaimed domestic goddess has been a controversial pop-culture mainstay for more than 30 years.

This month, the legendary comedienne will return with her original TV family and friends to ABC’s primetime lineup. How will she make us laugh, side-eye, and ask WTF next? Who knows, but here are six things I’d like to see the series tackle in season 10.

1. Gay Darlene

In the series finale of “Roseanne”’s original run, it was revealed by newly widowed matriarch Roseanne that her daughter Darlene (Sara Gilbert) was married to her sister Becky’s (Lecy Goranson) husband Mark (the late Glenn Quinn), not his brother David (Johnny Galecki), whom she had been with since season four. The latter storyline was explained as a fictional plot in a story that Roseanne had written about her life, which, as it turned out, encompassed the entire series. Nothing that we had watched over the past nine years was as it seemed. That fan-disappointing decision will be retconned in the reboot, leaving everything leading up to season nine of the original series as canon. Praise Jesus. In the reboot, however, Darlene and David will be separated, opening up the potential opportunity for her to date women, which seems appropriate since Sara Gilbert is a lesbian in real life. Just don’t expect it to happen immediately since Darlene’s 9-year-old gender-nonconforming son Mark (Ames McNamara) will be the basis for any initial LGBT diversity storylines. Not complaining, though; representation is representation.

2. George Clooney cameo

Jackie (Laurie Metcalf) was known for her revolving door of one-night stands and sometimes boyfriends – and a very tumultuous but short-lived marriage to her baby daddy Fred (Michael O’Keefe) – but none shared the kind of chemistry with her as first-season love interest, Booker, played by George Clooney. Of course, GC’s a big-shot Hollywood movie star now – and has been for the past 20 years – so it’s probably a long shot that he’ll make a guest appearance. On the other hand, the Oscar-nominated Laurie Metcalf is a star in her own right, and “Friends” landed Brad Pitt and Julie Roberts in its heyday, so I’m keeping my fingers crossed.

3. The return of Kathy Bowman

Roseanne and Dan Conner (John Goodman) dealt with their fair share of neighbors over the years – who could forget the elderly nudists? – but the most formidable was “needle-butt” Kathy Bowman (Meagen Fay), Roseanne’s arch-nemesis from the minute she and her husband Jerry moved next door to 714 Delaware Street. It was a rivalry for the ages until Roseanne inadvertently helped burglars dressed as good Samaritans (one of whom looked like Bob Hope) rob Kathy’s house, which ultimately drove the snippy housewife back to her hometown of Chicago. Fay is still a fixture on television – she most recently appeared on ABC’s “Dr. Ken” in a guest role – and if the network knows what’s good for its loyal “Roseanne” lovers, she’ll at least make a pit stop in Lanford one more time.

4. All the grown-up babies

When we last left the Conners in 1997, Roseanne had baby Jerry Garcia, Jackie had baby Andy, and Darlene had just popped out baby Harris before the series finale. Baby Harris will be featured in the revival (now a teenager of 14 years old instead of the actual age of 21 she would be in real time) – as will her brother Mark and cousin Mary (Jayden Rey), daughter of D.J. Conner (Michael Fishman). As for Jerry Garcia and Andy, they’re still part of the continuity, according to Roseanne, but the characters will not appear in season 10.

5. Dan’s boat

What ever happened to Dan’s boat? Some “Roseanne”-aphiles consider it a casualty of the writers’ room, just another abandoned plot point, while others seem to remember Dan’s mentally ill mother setting it on fire. Whatever the truth is – which is hard to discern from a show like “Roseanne” – I hope it makes a comeback. If they can resurrect Dan from the dead (it was revealed he died of a heart attack in the series finale), surely they can put a half-completed boat back up on cinderblocks.

6. Topical subject matter

One of the greatest legacies of “Roseanne,” and why it was a top-20 show for eight of its nine seasons (No. 1 overall in 1989), is that it never shied away from controversial subject matter. From first periods and teenage masturbation to gay marriage and race relations, “Roseanne” blazed a trail across the television landscape, the effects of which can still be seen in sitcoms today. You can expect more of the same from the reboot – Roseanne the comedienne is still as feisty as ever – as they tackle the Trump administration (Roseanne the character admits she voted for the kook in an early episode), gender-identity issues, for-hire surrogacy, and mixed-race families. Throw an episode about gun control in there and we’re halfway to an Emmy nom.

“Roseanne” premieres at 8/7c on March 27 on ABC.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.
I’ve got three scripted projects I’m trying to get off the ground right now, so that’s a lot of my focus, and it’s a lot of hard work. So, I’m chipping away at that and, of course, continuing to go up for other roles as an actress and do my live performing.

**What kind of scripts are you working on?**

They’re all comedic. One is based on my early years in LA when I started off as a manicurist. One is a project with (performance artist) Justin Vivian Bond. We wrote a musical about six years ago called “Arts & Crafts” and we’re trying to get it into a TV series.

I remember you telling me you’d never stoop so low to do a reality show. Still out of the question?

Yeah, listen, if I haven’t done it by now, I’m certainly not gonna do it at this late date.

**How do you feel about the way comedy has addressed the Trump era?**

Everybody’s speaking about it and being funny and creative about it, and obviously people like Bill Maher and those types do it in a more political way. I think it’s been really interesting.

**Has your recent comedy reflected current politics?**

Sort of, kind of through the back door. I don’t hit people over the head talking about that stuff because so many people are good at doing it verbatim, so I try to keep it more global than just obvious.

**Did you think Kathy Griffin went too far with the picture of her holding Trump’s decapitated head?**

It’s not about going too far – it just wasn’t funny, and she’s not political. Why is she suddenly jumping on the bandwagon? That’s not what she does. And it wasn’t smart enough or interesting enough. That was its biggest crime.

But Kathy Griffin has been politically engaged and an activist for the gay community.

She’s an activist? I don’t know. I don’t think she’s an activist, frankly. I mean, that’s – she certainly takes advantage of the gay population in her way, but I don’t think she’s done anything earth-shattering for … I mean, I don’t agree.

**Who would you consider an entertainer and an activist?**

I mean, I’m an activist for being a human being. There’s bigger fish to fry, and my work is inherently political, and it’s been inherently LGBTQ-informed because it’s who I am; it’s what I’ve done from the beginning. I don’t call my audience “my gays.” My audience is my audience and everybody in it forms an alliance every night. You perform for the entire crowd – it’s not about singling anyone out. And if your work is very, very daring and interesting, then smart people come to it, whether they’re gay, straight, black, white, men, women. I mean, you gotta be able to get underneath what’s really going on culturally, and then you’re always gonna have a smart audience sitting in front of you.

**Who else in the comedy world can really dig into the cultural zeitgeist?**

I don’t have a litany of people I’m sitting here thinking about. I’m sorry. It’s, like, too hard to do that. Right now the people who are impressing me the most are all these kids from the school in Florida. They’re activists. Went through a terrible trauma and they’ve been able to transform it into total activation, and that to me is really impressive and exciting. To talk about entertainers and people – it’s easy for all of us to do all that stuff because we’re not under duress, but when you’ve been practically possibly severely injured or murdered, yeah, that’s something to really applaud and stand by.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBTQ wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. Reach him via his website at www.chrisazzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

**Continued from p. 17**

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March 29, 2018 | BTL 21

Aepex Contemporary Performance and Kerrytown Concert House Push Boundaries with Transgender Opera ‘As One’

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Thinking of opera, one might imagine a knight in shining armor, a damsel in distress or Brunnhilde— a woman with a viking helmet and blonde braids belting out some massive vocal power. And, in many ways, opera is still representative of those traditional characters, but it’s also an ever-changing medium that is growing with the times. “As One,” an opera that talks about one transgender woman’s path to her own acceptance is the perfect example of that. Set to premiere in Michigan on April 6 and 7, it’s being put on locally by Ann Arbor’s Aepex Contemporary Performance and Kerrytown Concert House.

“The project began with a conversation between Kathy Kelly (the show’s director) and a very accomplished opera director and vocal coach at the University of Michigan. And then she had coffee with Kevin Fitzgerald who is Aepex’s music director almost a year ago,” said Garrett Schumann, Aepex’s executive director. “She was aware of ‘As One’ and brought it up talking to Kevin and he was really excited about it.”

“As One” turned out to be the perfect fit for Aepex’s programming said Schumann, specifically because Fitzgerald had had experience putting on LGBTQ-friendly programming, and because it fit perfectly with Aepex’s overall mission.

“Kevin Fitzgerald has been involved in a number of concerts surrounding specific issues, and one of them was a community-based performance of the Mozart ‘Requiem’ that he organized right after the Pulse Nightclub shooting in the summer of 2016. So when he was talking about ‘As One’ the connections he had made with the LGBTQ community in Ann Arbor gave him a lot of confidence about our ability to build an audience for it,” Schumann said. “This is the first opera production we’ve been involved with, and we’re also very excited about not just the story that it tells … but that it’s something we care about as an organization: sharing artistic perspectives and stories that are not normally programmed in this music space.”

The opera stars soprano Jennifer Cresswell and baritone Jonathan Lasch who will be portraying the same person at different stages in their journey of transition and acceptance. The performers will also be performing alongside a video created by transgender filmmaker and the opera’s co-librettist Kimberly Reed. Schumann said that this addition will also add another modern twist in the presentation of this story.

Fitzgerald said that although opera might be an art form that intimidates some who have never attended, that this performance is a direct answer to that: not only does it cover progressive material, but it provides an intimate concert setting in a much smaller concert hall than normal.

“I think that classical music in general has been associated with a class system that’s been around for hundreds of years, because, frankly, classical music was used for the most part in two contexts: one in church and two as entertainment for rich people,” Fitzgerald said. “We are, as a global classical community, trying to figure out how to break that down.”

The show’s director Kathleen Kelly agreed. She said that the show’s intimacy will resonate deeply with its audience because of the language the show is in, too.

“The piece is in English, so you don’t have to be reading a translation, you don’t have to be informed in advance of the story so you can come like you come to theater and be surprised. Also, because the space is small the singers don’t have
Ypsilanti to Host Queernival Prom 2018

BY BTL STAFF

For many, prom is considered to be a rite of passage from childhood to adulthood, and although greater amounts of LGBTQ people are able to experience it, many students still attend schools that don’t accommodate same-sex couples at their events. That’s why both Ann Arbor’s Ozone House and Ypsilanti’s Corner Health Center have teamed up to provide a safe, affirming event for youth aged 14 to 21.

Ozone House is an organization that has been in Ann Arbor since 1969. In its nearly 50-year history, it has, “Actively developed unique, high-quality housing and support programs and services that provide support, intervention, training and assistance to runaway, homeless and high-risk youth and their families,” according to its website.

The Corner Health Center provides “a full range of health care, mental health and supportive services for young people as they transition into adulthood” and a “judgment-free, high-quality, affordable health service” for people aged 12 to 25, its website said.

This year, the event theme is a Queernival, or queer carnival. In addition to the dance, prom-goers can expect a variety of games, prizes and a tarot card reader. The event is free and open to youth within the age limits to attend.

To RSVP visit gaybe.am/ry. The event will be held at the Riverside Arts Center in Ypsilanti at 76 N. Huron St. The alcohol/drug-free event also needs volunteers to help with both supervision, setup and teardown. Those interested in helping can contact Andi at asalinas@cornerhealth.org.
Ypsilanti Drag Queen Bingo Supports Ann Arbor Pride

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Bingo by itself can be fun, but add drag queens into the mix and it can turn into a party. That’s why Boylesque Bitchy Bingo is hosting a fundraiser for this year’s Ann Arbor Pride.

Hosted by drag queens Jadein Black and Maxi Chanel, attendees can brace themselves for a wry mix of observational humor and, should they come late, assume they’ll be made fun of—all for a good cause of course.

Tickets cost $30 for six games, and the event will include a full dinner and drink menu with table service.

The event will be held at the Tap Room located at 201 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Michigan.

▶ ‘As One’

Continued from p. 21

"As One" will be performed at the Kerrytown Concert House on April 6 and 7 at 8 p.m. Tickets and more information about the performance are available at kerrytownconcerthouse.com. The venue is located at 415 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor.
Editor's Pick

Joyce Brienza Exhibit Floating Points at University of Michigan Campus

Detroit artist Joyce Brienza has had a decades-long interest in what she describes as the "places between." Her new exhibit Floating Points explores abstractions and themes like male and female, high art and low and fragmented parts. The internationally-displayed artist's work will be exhibited at the University of Michigan's North Campus Research Complex now through April 16. The exhibit is free and available for viewing at 2800 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor. Reach out to serraj@med.umich.edu or call 734-647-2788 for more information.

Happenings

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OUTINGS

Thursday, March 29
Talk With The Girls: Security, Safety, Prevention and Response 6 p.m. Understand the misconceptions that impact the prevention of and response to hate crimes targeting transgender women-federal allies. Ask questions about the "most successful movie in musical history", "The Sound of Music" has been viewed by more than 44 million people worldwide! Now's the time to see it at the Fox Theatre! One event on March 31 at 3:00pm. Two events on March 31 at 8:00pm. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 3134716611 http://www.olympiaentertainment.com

Friday, March 30
2018 Grand Rapids Pride Festival Kick Off 5 p.m. The 2018 Grand Rapids Pride Festival will be taking place Sat., June 16 at Calder Plaza. We're celebrating 30 years and feeling 30 and Fabulous! Come down to the Apartment Lounge for drinks, 50/50 Apartment Lounge, 3 Sheldon Ave., NE, Grand Rapids. 616-456-8623

Saturday, March 31
TDOV: Art Showcase and Stories of Truth, Power & Possibility 2 p.m. a.m. The exhibit is free and available for viewing at 118 W. Michigan St., Grand Rapids. 616-456-8623

Sunday, April 1
Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 6:30 p.m. Hilltop Counseling, 111 W. Maumee Street, Adrian. 313-909-5408 www.standwithtrans.org http://www.hilltopcounseling.org

Wednesday, April 4
Fendalton Pride Fundraiser at Rosie O’Grady’s 7 p.m. Come one, come all to Rosie O’Grady’s First Wednesday Share the Wealth Raffle for Fendalton Pride! Rosie O’Grady’s, 279 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-591-9163 julia@fendaltonpride.com http://rosieogradyshirtpub.com/fendalton/rosies/fendaltonpride http://www.fendaltonpride.com

Thursday, April 5
OU 15th Annual Drag Show 7 p.m. The 15th Annual Drag Show is a major aspect of Pride Month. The drag show is the Gay-Straight Alliance’s largest event, with hundreds of spectators each year. Consisting of both professional and student-auditioned performers, this Oakland Center, 312 Meadow Brook Road, Room 118, Rochester. 248-370-3230

Kygo to Headline at Masonic Temple
Norwegian-born DJ/producer Kygo is slated to perform at Detroit’s Masonic Temple on Thursday, May 3. The 26-year-old first became internationally known when he remixed the track “I See Fire” by Ed Sheeran. That track has since gained 55 million plays on SoundCloud and been viewed 65 million times on YouTube and SoundCloud. Today, Kygo has been nominated for over 30 industry awards with almost 10 to his name. The show starts at 6:30 p.m. and tickets start at $45. More information can be found online at templatedetroit.com.

Foolmoon 2018 10 a.m. FoolMoon is the nighttime kick-off event to our foolish weekend! In the heart of downtown Ann Arbor, everyone and anyone is invited to gather in the streets to shake off those cold gray winters. The Ann Arbor, Ashley St. and Washington St., https://wonderfoolproductions.com/foolmoon/

As One: An Opera About The Transgender Experience 8 p.m. APEX Contemporary Performance and Kerrytown Concert House present Kathleen Kelly’s new staging of the renowned chamber opera “As One” — music and concept by Laura Kaminsky and libretto by Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed. An event every day that begins at 7:00pm on day First of the month, repeating indefinitely St. Mary’s In the Hills Episcopal Church, 252 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-9663 www.stmarysinthehills.org http://www.standwithtrans.org

Queer Prom 2018 7 p.m. Second Annual Queer Prom Ages 14-18 Early Bird Registration opens March 7th at 8 a.m. Early Bird tickets are $15. Ticket prices increase to $20 on April 1st. Tickets will be available at the door Streeters Ground Zero, 1569 S. Garfield Ave, Traverse City. 231-932-1300

Spring TG Prom 9 p.m. Join us for our annual TG Prom. DJ Doug, 9 p.m. Who will be our next Prom Queen and King? The Dunes Resort, 333 Blue Star Hwy,Douglas. 269-857-1401 dunesresort.com

Sunday, April 8
Festifools 2018 4 p.m. Festifools is one
The nationally-lauded play “Ripcord” is coming to Northville’s Tipping Point Theatre. The story follows Abby, a cantankerous resident at the Bristol Place Senior Living Facility, who is forced to accommodate an overly cheery new roommate Marilyn. When their personalities start to clash, the two engage in a prank war filled with tricks. Going on now through April 23, shows are selling out already. Tickets start at $30. More information can be found online at tippingpointtheatre.com.
When a child is born and assigned a gender at birth, the status quo is that they’ll stick to the well-defined lines of gender: girls will play with dolls, boys will play with trucks. However, there are many children who won’t adhere to these rules, because they don’t feel comfortable with the gender they were assigned at birth. These children are called gender expansive. Stand with Trans, an organization dedicated to aid transgender youth, will host an event on April 10 to help parents understand if and why their young child is exhibiting signs of gender expansion.

According to Stand with Trans Founder and Board President Roz Keith, children know early on what gender they identify as.

“The statistic that I’ve heard is as young as two children know who they are,” Keith said. “They’ll also address the fact that just because a child desires to play in the princess dress-up dress doesn’t mean that they’re a trans girl, or because they like trucks or rough and tumble play doesn’t mean that they’re going to be going to identify as a boy. Time will tell, so they will address that factor and how do you know and what do you do about it.”

The event will consist of a panel of three medical experts: pediatric endocrinologist Dr. Dan Shumer, licensed social worker Sara Wiener and clinical psychologist Dr. Antonia Caretto. Additionally, the panel will be joined by Sara Kaplan, a mother of two transgender children from Berkeley, California. According to Keith, the event’s main goal is to dispel doubts and misunderstandings about young transgender children.

“We wanted to make sure that we address this topic in a meaningful and sensitive way so their parents could understand why a child starts exhibiting certain behavior or declaring, ‘I’m a boy,’ or ‘I’m a girl.’ There is a biological origin to gender and what do you do as a parent when the child is so young,” she said. “And how do you manage that? How do you manage that socially?”

And although the event is aimed at parents, Keith urges anyone who works with children to attend as well.

“I am really pushing hard that anyone who does anything with children on a regular basis, whether it’s someone in a school — a teacher, an office admin person — to mental health professionals, any kind of medical personnel whether it’s a medical assistant, nurse or med student, or anyone who has contact with children needs to hear this information because it’s relevant,” she said. “It will help educate so you know what to do when this happens in your medical practice, your therapy practice, in your classroom, in your family.”

The Understanding the Gender Expansive Young Child Event will happen on April 10 at 6:30 p.m. The first 90 minutes will be panel discussion with the last 30 minutes open to meet the panelists and talk with them further. The event will be held at Orchard United Methodist Church at 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. Interested parties should RSVP with roz@standwithtrans.org.

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

**Stand With Trans Offers Understanding Gender Expansive Children Event**

**BY EVE KUCHARSKI**

Central Michigan University is offering a new course for the current term. Its name is Queer Fashion and it was conceptualized by fashion designer and CMU Associate Professor Michael Mamp.

“I’m a fashion historian,” said Mamp. “I started in 2013 and here we are in the middle of the 2018 spring semester at CMU and I am teaching the course for the first time.”

Suddenly a lightbulb went off in Mamp’s head.

“This exhibition was the turning point for me when I realized that I could take the information from the exhibit’s catalog, other pieces of scholarship completed by my peers across the country and my own work and use it as a framework to develop a class that I immediately knew would be titled Queer Fashion,” Mamp said.

But there’s a whole road of challenges between conceptualizing a class and being ready to offer one.

“It is not easy,” said Mamp of the road it took to bring his course to life.

“I started in 2013 and here we are in the middle of the 2018 spring semester at CMU and I am teaching the course for the first time.”

Thankfully, Mamp had the support of his colleagues in the Fashion Merchandising & Design program and his affiliate program Women & Gender Studies as well. They encouraged him to bring his vision to life.

“They were willing to allow it to become a permanent part of the curriculum,” Mamp said. “However from there it took me almost two years to work on the course content and then a third year for the course to go through all the necessary stages of approval at the university. The course is offered as part of the curriculum in both fashion and women and gender studies as I mentioned. But is also part of the general education program at CMU entitled the University Program.”

Response to the class, Mamp said, has been highly favorable.

“I assumed that the students would be interested in the course,” said Mamp. “However, by far this has been the most engaged group of students I have had the privilege to teach in quite some time. My classroom of 43 people is also incredibly diverse. About 34 percent of the students in the class are persons of color. This tells me that minorities such as African Americans, even if they don’t identify as LGBT, they are interested in topics that are diverse in nature. I am so encouraged by the focus on diversity and inclusion from today’s students.”

CMU’s queer fashion course explores fashion history from a unique perspective.
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Kristen Stewart takes on Jean Seberg

The late Jean Seberg, the American actress whose face helped usher in the French New Wave in Jean-Luc Godard’s “Breathless,” lived what can only be called a difficult, and in the end, tragic life. Her personal relationships with directors were fraught with trouble and her ‘60s activism landed her on FBI watch lists. In other words, perfect material for a thoughtful and pointed biopic about what happens when women actors don’t always behave themselves the way powerful men want. Well, “Against All Enemies,” from director Benedict Andrews (“Una”) and screenwriters Anna Waterhouse and Joe Shrapnel (both “Frankie & Alice”), will explore Seberg’s rocky path and Kristen Stewart will be stepping into her shoes. Stewart is on an artistic roll lately, with new footage and other unseen material, with excerpts from his diaries narrated by Rupert Everett, the film follows his work with “Vogue,” his time spent with the British Royal Family, and a perhaps shockingly bisexual liaison with Greta Garbo. It’s all going to be very chic in that vintage aristocratic sense, and should prove to be the perfect moviegoing antidote to all the crashingly loud superhero films (it opens at the end of June, high season for capes and tights) that will try to drown it out. Old-school queens, you have your summer cinema agenda.

Jean Seberg, “is a good place to get yourself up to speed on the fascinating actor’s troubled story.

Gina Rodriguez will probably slay in ‘Miss Bala’

The new Catherine Hardwicke film, “Miss Bala,” is a remake of a 2011 film from Mexico, about a beauty contest contestant forced to work for a crime boss after she witnesses a murder. There’s a cast booked for the project, including “Kingdom” star Matt Lauria. But there’s one star who’s still got the word “rumored” next to her name in any online discussion of the film, and that’s Gina Rodriguez, the force of nature behind “Jane the Virgin.” As certified GR obsessives, we check on this status on a pretty regular basis, hoping that the ink is dry on the contract and we can openly cheer on our favorite sexually fluid Latinx woman. And if you have a problem with calling her that, then just check her social media where she refuses to obscure or label her sexuality, and openly swoons over her “Annihilation” co-star Tessa Thompson (who herself recently made a very bisexual-leaning music video with Janelle Monae). Sure, no definitive statements have happened yet, but we’re still very into it and we definitely here for the loose, undefined approach of this new generation of relaxed Hollywood queerness. Now, please, Ms. R, get that job.

‘Gotham’s Cory Michael Smith comes out, joins ‘First Man’

You need a scorecard to keep up with the next generation of actors who are pre-empting speculation and just coming out before they get famous and saddled with skittish publicists. This week it’s a fellow named Joey Pollari (who perhaps not coincidentally had a small but relevant role in “Love, Simon”) and also “Gotham” star Cory Michael Smith. On that show Smith plays Young Riddler, but he’s also the lead in the gay period drama “1985” that just bowed at SXSW and will be rolling into arthouses soon. Bigger still, he’s got a part in the latest from “La La Land” director Damien Chazelle. It’s called “First Man,” it’s the story of Neil Armstrong (Ryan Gosling) and that legendary moon landing, and it co-stars a list of ensemble players as long as your arm: “The Crown”’s Claire Foy, Jon Bernthal (“The Punisher”), Kyle Chandler, Corey Stoll, Jason Clarke and Lukas Haas, to name a few. Smith will play naval Roger Chaffee, a naval aviator who died in an early pre-landing test. So congratulations to this young man. From here it all looks like the beginning of a winning career, one that will have one less stressful element to navigate when household name status finally arrives.

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## Across

1 With 9-Across and 27-Across, “In the first place, ___”  
6 Title for Alec Guinness  
9 See 1-Across  
14 Isle of the birth state of Bette Midler  
16 She had her hand up Lamb Chop  
17 Tickle pink  
18 Hitler’s partner  
19 Engaged in, as war  
20 Eleanor’s pooch  
21 Plumbers go after them with their snakes  
23 Bone below the elbow  
24 Cash register part  
25 Out-and-out nonsense  
26 Stud poker demand  
27 See 1-Across  
30 One you may see in a shower  
33 Billie Jean’s game  
37 That to Juan  
38 Olyphant of “The Broken Hearts Club”  
42 Cole Porter, for one  
43 Dusting for bottoms  
44 Customer on “Six Feet Under”?  
46 Fruitless  
47 “In the second place, ___”  
52 Fairy tales and such  
53 Medium for Frasier Crane  
56 Semifrozen soft drink  
59 Character of David Ogden Stiers (1942-2018) on _M*A*S*H_ and source of this puzzle’s quote  
63 “The Way We ___”  
67 “The Way We ___”  
68 Denis of “The Ref”  
69 Type of balls  

## Down

1 “___ My Heart in San Francisco”  
2 Start of a holy name  
3 ___ fours (doggy-style)  
4 Writer Barney  
5 Practice B&D, e.g.  
6 “Roma Sub Rosa” series writer Steven  
7 Source for Rita Mae Brown, for example  
8 Handled at the cash register  
9 One-eighthy from NNE  
10 “The Double Man” author  
11 Two under for Sheehan  
12 Where to find your favorite boxers  
13 Like one that comes on the beach  
21 1920 Colette novel  
22 “Empress of the Blues” Bessie  
28 Pansy’s place  
29 Wilder’s “The Bridge of San Luis ___”  
30 Came upon  
31 Morales of movies  
32 Outed, for example, with “on”  
34 Songwriter Holly  
35 Eurythmics’ “Would ___ to You?”  
39 Hang one’s head  
40 Arena cry, to Frida  
41 Canvas covering  
42 Cause of AIDS, and others  
43 Dusting for bottoms  
44 Customer on “Six Feet Under”?  
45 “Spamalot” review, perhaps  
46 Small pussy cat noise  
47 “The Broken Hearts Club”  
48 Word after film or cafe  
49 Tool you can stick in your garden  
50 Walk like a man in drag  
51 Load of money  
52 Fairy tales and such  
53 Medium for Frasier Crane  
54 “Spamalot” review, perhaps  
55 Open a crack  
56 Semifrozen soft drink  
57 Phaser setting in “Star Trek”  
58 Chaplain Judge of the NYFD, e.g.  
59 Small pussy cat noise  
60 Land of singer S. O’Connor  
61 Peeples of “Fame”  
62 “Proud Mary” band, for short  
63 Straight line

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### City of Ferndale

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586-465-9217

Matrix Ryan White
HIV/AIDS Program
120 Parsons Street
Detroit, MI 48201
888-226-6366
248-545-1435
www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond
3011 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 230
Detroit, MI 48202
313-446-9800
www.miunified.org
Michigan HIV/STD Hotline
800-872-2437
www.miunified.org

Community Centers
Michigan has nine active LGBTQ community centers, with a tenth planned in Lansing. Here are three of them:

Jim Toy Community Center
319 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734-995-9867

LGBT Detroit
Detroit
www.lgbtdetroit.org
www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit
or follow them on Twitter @ LGBTDetroit.
20025 Greenfield Road
Detroit, MI
Phone: 313-397-2127

Legal
American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan
Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
www.aclumich.org
313-578-6800

Fair Michigan
PO Box 6136
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-487-4149

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center
www.ltc.edenbeginnings.com
734-487-4149

Wayne State JIGSAW
www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW
wsujigsaw@gmail.com

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

Political
The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party
Facebook.com/TheLGBT-CaucusoftheMDP

Stonewall for Revolution
www.facebook.com/stonewall4resolution

Transgender
FTM Detroit
https://www.facebook.com/FTMDetroit/
ftmdetroit@gmail.com.

Trans A2 Ypsi
ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/

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

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

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

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

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

Take an active role in your health.
Ask your doctor if an HIV medicine made by Gilead is right for you.

GILEAD
onepillchoices.com

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