Out Musician on Why ‘Iconic’ Is Overused, Industry Homophobia and Finding His Place in the Music Business

John Duff Spreads His Wings

Trump Admin to Allow Adoption Agencies to Refuse Placement in LGBTQ Homes

Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter to Run for 4-Year Term in 2020
THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING!

Clean Up Now!

Don’t let the holidays sneak up on you! Let Hagopian do the hard work to get your home fresh and clean for holiday guests.

**RUG CLEANING**

**2 FOR 1**

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

Some restrictions apply

Expires 11/30/19

**CARPET CLEANING**

3 ROOMS $99

Some restrictions apply

Expires 11/30/19

**AIR DUCT CLEANING**

$100 OFF

must mention coupon when scheduling service

Some restrictions apply

Expires 11/30/19

1-800-HAGOPIAN
(424-6742)

Schedule Online! HagopianClean.com

The Most Trusted Name in Cleaning Since 1939

Cleaning Drop-Off & 2-Day Rug Express Service
Oak Park

Showrooms & Cleaning Drop-Off
Birmingham • Novi

Additional Drop-Off Locations
Ann Arbor • Clarkston • Plymouth
Utica • Grand Rapids
14 COVER: John Duff Spreads His Wings

NEWS
4 Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter to Run for 4-Year Term in 2020
4 Affirmations, Corktown Health Center to Announce Partnership With Details to Be Revealed
4 One-Day Community Ed Event on How to Support, Embrace and Celebrate Transgender Youth
4 ACLU Commends Gov. Whitmer, Michigan Lawmakers for Passing Raise the Age Legislation
5 Trump Admin to Allow Adoption Agencies to Refuse Placement in LGBTQ Homes
6 Sen. Moss: A Sign of Change
6 Buttigieg Calls Latest Trump Move Enabling Anti-LGBT Bias a ‘Huge Step Backward’
8 Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II: ‘It’s Time to Do the ACLU’
12 Trump HHS Reverses Obama-Era Non-Discrimination Policy
12 Obit: Frederick William Hoffman

OPINION
10 Parting Glances
10 Viewpoint
11 Creep of the Week

LIFE
14 John Duff Spreads His Wings
22 Happenings
23 Windsor Film Fest Celebrates 25th Anniversary of ‘Priscilla, Queen of the Desert’ With Trixie Mattel
24 Deep Inside Hollywood
25 Puzzle
26 ‘Drawn to Detroit’ Exhibit Friday, Nov. 8 at Blossoming Artists Gallery
26 Queer Fashion Course Draws Students LGBTQ and Straight Alike

COOL CITIES: ANN ARBOR
20 November LezRead ‘The Miseducation of Cameron Post’ Nov. 17
20 Theatre NOVA Presents Premiere of ‘DJ Whittington’s Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto’
 Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter to Run for 4-Year Term in 2020

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Dave Coulter, Oakland County Executive, has announced he will seek a full four-year term in 2020. He made the announcement today at Brass Aluminum Enterprises Forging in Ferndale.

Appointed in August following the death of County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Coulter became the first Democrat to hold that position since it was created. And he is only the second openly LGBTQ person to hold countywide office in Oakland, following Circuit Court Judge Jake Cunningham who was elected last year.

“In just a few short months, I have seen the bright possibilities we can create for our county,” said Coulter, whose appointed appointment followed a contentious political battle among Democrats and Republicans alike.

“As I talk to residents, community leaders and business owners, they are eager for both stability and forward progress. We have a historic opportunity to leverage the tremendous strengths within our county to create the next and best version of Oakland County. To build on this momentum, I have decided to seek the full term for county executive next year.”

A county commissioner from 2002 to 2010, Coulter was the Democratic minority leader for most of that time. He then served as mayor of Ferndale, his home since 1994, from 2011 until this April when he announced that he would not seek another term. Coulter then announced in July a run for representative for Michigan’s 27th House District. That seat is open in 2020 due to term limits and is currently held by Rep. Robert Wittenberg (D-Huntington Woods) who announced a run for county treasurer.

Andy Meisner, the current county treasurer, announced in March his run for county executive and has been campaigning since. The other Democrat in the picture, County Board Chair Dave Woodward, who had announced his own bid for the county executive position, endorsed Coulter and will not seek that office.

Affirmations, Corktown Health Center Announce Partnership With Details to Be Revealed

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Over the last 30 years Ferndale’s Affirmations LGBTQ community center has been focused on providing Southeast Michigan’s LGBTQ community with not only social but community support services. Now, the center is set to expand its offerings to include health care. This is made possible because of a joint partnership with Corktown Health Center, which focuses specifically on LGBTQ health services, that will serve to expand the reach of Corktown as well.

Mike Flores, formerly Affirmations’ board president, announced at a community event last month that he will be stepping down from his position at the center to oversee this partnership via a new staff position at Corktown.

“I will be focused on this partnership, that will be one of my primary roles, and make sure that we are able to meet milestones, to be able to execute on the plan that we’re going to share in the future,” he said.

As of right now, the exact nature of the partnership is yet to be revealed but Flores said there are plans for the release of a community announcement with more details by the end of 2019. He did say, however, that it won’t be long before regulars at Affirmations will start to notice a positive change in the community center.

“I think the first thing that most visitors to the center will notice is that they will now have direct access to information related to health care, the services that may be available to them in the community, beyond just the [current] resources that we provided at Affirmations,” he said.

He said that the idea for the partnership came about last year, when Affirmations was facing financial difficulties and focused on forging stronger community relationships.

“Back in November of last year, the board made a strategic decision that we could not do business as usual and what that meant was that we really needed to think outside of the box in terms of how we were going to make Affirmations sustainable. And one of the conclusions that we came up with was we needed to have partnerships that allowed us to provide additional service to the community,” Flores said. “So, what we’ve been doing over the last year now is talking to several organizations about potential partnerships and one of the areas that we wanted to focus in on was health care. And it was just a natural progression to start conversations with Corktown, because, obviously, they have a focus in the LGBT community. Obviously, we do as well, and it just made sense for us to do some initial touchpoints with each other to see if there was an opportunity for us to start discussing partnerships.”

Affirmations Board Vice President Cheryl Czach will step into the interim president role. This is a developing story.

A few key points to note:

- The partnership is yet to be revealed but plans for the release of a community announcement with more details by the end of 2019.
- Mike Flores, formerly Affirmations’ board president, announced at a community event last month that he will be stepping down from his position at the center to oversee this partnership via a new staff position at Corktown.
- Corktown Health Center focuses specifically on LGBTQ health services, allowing for the expansion of the Affirmations’ offerings.
- The partnership came about last year when Affirmations was facing financial difficulties.

To find out more about Affirmations visit goaffirmations.org.

To learn more about Corktown Health Center visit corktownhealth.org.
Trump Admin to Allow Adoption Agencies to Refuse Placement in LGBTQ Homes

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The Trump administration is moving forward with a proposed regulation that will allow taxpayer-funded adoption agencies to refuse placement to LGBTQ families over religious objections.

The Department of Health & Human Services went public on Friday with the regulation, which will undo an Obama-era policy implemented in December 2016 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity among federal grantees.

The proposed regulation, which will have far-reaching implications, was immediately criticized by LGBTQ rights supporters.

Julie Kruse, director of federal policy at Family Equality Council, said in a statement the policy was “outrageous,” especially at the start of National Adoption Month.

“The American public overwhelmingly opposes allowing taxpayer-funded adoption and foster care agencies to turn away qualified parents simply because they are in a same-sex relationship,” Kruse said.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in a statement the regulation would also allow anti-trans discrimination in health care.

“This rule is an abuse of taxpayer dollars in the name of empowering hatred and bigotry towards society’s most vulnerable members,” Keisling said. “Stigma and prejudice are fueling a public health crisis among transgender people across the country, one that manifests itself as suicide, addiction, intimate partner violence and HIV. Enabling providers of life-saving services to worsen these crises by rejecting transgender people is a moral crime and a severe abdication of HHS’s mission to preserve public health.”

According to NCTE, the rule will allow anti-trans discrimination in HIV and STI prevention programs, opioid programs, youth homelessness services, health professional training, substance-use recovery programs and other life-saving services.

The proposal seeks to gut an Obama-era rule that barred entities receiving money under federal contracts, including adoption agencies, from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation.

As the new proposed rule notes, HHS has already granted an exemption from the Obama-era rule to South Carolina, which sought to get out of the regulation on behalf of the Miracle Hill Ministries adoption agency.

The rule seeks to justify itself by saying the Obama-era regulations aren’t based on statutes and religious-affiliated groups have complained and filed lawsuits over meeting those requirements. These groups, HHS noted, assert the policy is unlawful under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the First Amendment.

“The existence of these complaints and legal actions indicates [the Obama-era rule] imposed regulatory burden and created a lack of predictability and stability for the department and stakeholders with respect to these provisions’ viability and enforcement,” the rule says.

It’s true the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in federal programs, has no language against either sex discrimination or anti-LGBTQ discrimination. The Obama-era rule, therefore, is more than an expanded interpretation of discrimination based on sex as defined under the law to include anti-LGBTQ discrimination.

The proposed rule also says religious-affiliated agencies will cease to provide services altogether if forced to comply with the Obama-era rule, which HHS concludes “would likely reduce the effectiveness of programs funded by federal grants by reducing the number of entities available to provide services under these programs.”

In recent years, Catholic adoption agencies have closed in Massachusetts, Illinois and D.C., citing new laws that bar anti-LGBTQ discrimination and allow same-sex couples to marry. Those decisions pre-dated the Obama-era rule, but show the extent these agencies are willing to go to deny placement into LGBT homes.

Religiously-affiliated agencies have also challenged the Obama-era rule in court. Just last month, a federal judge in Michigan ruled in favor of St. Vincent, a Lansing-based adoption agency that sued both the state and federal government to allow it to refuse to certify LGBT homes for adoption.

As a result, the Trump administration proposal seeks an amendment to the Obama-era rule with the following language to give federal grantees more leeway — including the ability to discriminate against LGBT people — in the services they provide:

"It is a public policy requirement of HHS that no person otherwise eligible will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in the administration of HHS programs and services, to the extent doing so is prohibited by federal statute," the language says.

The new regulation was expected. In May, Axios reported the Trump administration was planning to implement a rule to allow adoption agencies to reject same-sex parents.

In a speech on the National Day of Prayer in February, President Trump expressed solidarity with religiously affiliated agencies seeking to place children into homes consistent with their religious beliefs, even if that means denying placement into LGBT families.

---

See Adoption, continued on p. 12
Buttigieg Calls Latest Trump Move Enabling Anti-LGBT Bias a ‘Huge Step Backward’

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

DECORAH, IOWA — In the aftermath of the Trump administration unveiling a proposed rule change enabling taxpayer-funded adoption agencies to deny placement in LGBT families, South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg has denounced the move as “a huge step backward.”

The gay 2020 presidential hopeful made the comments on his Iowa campaign bus en route to a rally in Waverly, Iowa, under questioning from the Washington Blade.

“I think it’s a huge step backward,” Buttigieg said. “It’s bad enough that discrimination is taking place across the country, but when discrimination is being supported with federal funds, it takes away, first of all the movement justice and equality, but also an opportunity for the federal government to show leadership in advancing equality.”

The Department of Health & Human Services on Friday announced the proposed rule change, which would reverse an Obama-era regulation implemented in December 2016 to prohibiting recipients of federal grants, most notably adoption agencies, from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and transgender status.

Buttigieg pointed out reversing of the rule was part and parcel to “a whole bunch of things they’ve done on the administrative side” in the current White House to undermine LGBT rights.

Although Buttigieg said a lot of focus is on the Equality Act, legislation that would categorically ban anti-LGBT discrimination under federal law, more attention should be paid to the administrative changes the Trump administration is making against LGBT rights.

“I’m guessing there are some things we haven’t even heard much about yet that are happening across the departments, the way they make changes in practice, the way they set up some of these offices,” Buttigieg said.

The Trump administration has cited complaints from religious organizations that obtain federal grants threatening to end services entirely if forced to comply with LGBT non-discrimination rules. Just last month, a federal judge ruled in favor of St. Vincent, a Lansing, Mich.-based adoption agency, which seeking to get out state and federal non-discrimination requirements on religious grounds.

Asked by the Blade whether it’s right to impose non-discrimination rules unilaterally through regulation on religious organizations, Buttigieg said recipients of federal grants should be held to “the highest standard.”

“Regulations obviously create more of a complex landscape constitutionally, but we know that we can and should apply non-discrimination [rules],” he said.

Buttigieg also drew a distinction between requiring religious organizations to adhere to rules against LGBT non-discrimination and dictating their religious belief to them.

“That is different from telling religious organizations what their theology ought to be, or invading their practice or religious belief,” Buttigieg said. “We’re talking about social services being offered in partnership with the taxpayer, and that creates an obligation and shared expectation for the United States.”

Asked whether he reinstate the regulations as implemented during the Obama administration, Buttigieg demurred, but signaled his intent to return to that general direction.

“I’d want look at how we might revise it in carrying things forward, so I don’t say that I’d cut and paste, but we’d certainly move back in that direction,” Buttigieg said.

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National LGBT Media Association.
Sweeney Todd
The Demon Barber of Fleet Street – A Musical Thriller
Music and lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Sat. Nov. 16 at 7:30 PM
Wed. Nov. 20 at 7:30 PM
Fri. Nov. 22 at 7:30 PM
Sun. Nov. 24 at 2:30 PM
At the Detroit Opera House

Featuring the MOT Orchestra and Chorus

MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

TICKETS:
MichiganOpera.org
or 313.237.7464

NOW OPEN!

Senior Health Clinic
for LGBTQ+ adults 55 and older

Primary and Specialty Care
Preventive and Support Services

Wednesdays from 10 AM - 2 PM
Call for an appointment

(313) 832-3300
1726 Howard Street
Detroit, MI 48216
www.corktownhealth.org

Age with respect, dignity and pride at Corktown Health Center

Lynn Nottage’s Pulitzer Prize-Winning Play

SWEAT

November 1 to 17, 2019
Hilberry Theatre
“Surprisingly funny—but ultimately heartbreaking”
– The New York Times

Between the Lines readers SAVE $5
on each adult ticket using code LGBTQ5

Order now at
theatreanddanceatwayne.com | 313-577-2972

Sweat is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.
Photo by Chuck Nowak Photography
Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II: ‘It’s Time to Do the ACLU’

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Our Movement, Our Moment

At the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn before a sold-out crowd that included Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib and Debbie Dingell as well as numerous state legislators, the ACLU of Michigan Board of Directors President Dan Varner welcomed supporters to this year’s annual dinner, titled “Our Movement, Our Moment.”

“It’s been another incredible year as we take on some of the biggest challenges facing our state and nation,” Varner said. “But thanks to the commitment of everyone in this room and supporters throughout the state, together we’re making strides to ensure that the civil rights and civil liberties of all are protected.”

New Executive Director Dave Noble knows that commitment well. He shared the experience of being on a plane returning from Florida in December of 2000, following the Supreme Court ruling that called off the recount of the presidential election. For that, Noble had, among other things, inspected those now-famous hanging chads. Surveying the rows of passengers, some quick math led him to realize the equivalent of just two more plane-loads of voters would have made the difference in the outcome of the election — “even with everything wrong with the system,” Noble said.

“Considering what a different course our country might have taken with an alternative outcome of the election,” Noble declared, “I’ve been pissed off about voter suppression ever since.”

To follow that up, Noble spoke next of last year’s passage of Proposal 3, the greatest expansion of voting rights in Michigan.

“With your help, we made one of the worst voting systems in the country one of the best,” he said.

He went on to speak with pride about the ACLU’s national efforts.

“Back in 2016, we put [Trump] on notice,” he said. “That if elected, we would see him in court based on his promises to violate the Constitution. Guess what? We have sued his administration more than 200 times, with extraordinary success,” he said, to a round of applause.

Perhaps most poignant, Noble spoke of Aimee Stephens, who was in the room that evening. Despite previous court rulings to the contrary, “the Trump Administration argued that it should be legal to fire Aimee and other transgender people and gay people like me,” Noble said. “No matter what the court decides, her case, her courage, has changed this nation.”

Following his description of the ACLU’s efforts to fight back against child separation, ballot initiatives to deny access to abortion and what he characterized as our racist criminal justice system, Noble made the following pledge:

“My commitment to you, is that we will stay vigilant and we will stay bold. We will stay in this light. With those in power trying to take rights away, the ACLU of Michigan will be there. With you by our side, we’ll keep fighting, and we’ll keep winning. We are up to the challenge.”

2019 Honorees

A lifelong advocate for, and supporter of, abortion rights, Vicki Moore was the evening’s first honoree. Her clinics in mid-Michigan, the Women’s Health Centers, are the only ones between Saginaw and Traverse City that provide abortion care. The inspiration behind opening the clinics was the work of her parents in the years before abortion was legal. However, by 2011, new restrictive laws were being enacted that were designed to shut her down.

“With the ACLU’s unwavering dedication, incredible legal prowess and belief in me, we were able to team up and prevail,” Moore said.

The other honoree of the evening was Lamonte Card, who was released from 25 years in prison after being sentenced when he was a juvenile to life without the possibility of parole. Grateful for the efforts of the ACLU on his behalf, Card wished to be involved with the organization in whatever capacity he could. Just five days following his release, Card joined the ACLU to fight for voting reform as part of the Promote the Vote campaign, or Proposal 3. And as someone who had lacked the right to vote for so many years, Card had a unique ability and passion to change hearts and minds.

“I didn’t have a job. I didn’t have anything. All I had was a desire to make a difference and contribute to society,” Card said.

Later, speaking of his experience working with the ACLU, he said, “It enhanced my life.”


Keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II exhorted the crowd to act, challenge, love and unite throughout his remarks. Barber leads the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, that is described as uniting people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation’s distorted morality.

“Two things that bother him the most, Barber said, are people who say, ‘We’ve never seen anything like this before,’” and, “This is the era of Donald Trump.” Thus, Barber provided a history lesson.

He described how 100 years ago racial riots were breaking out against blacks due to post-World War II tensions. With America in an economic slump, there was increased competition for jobs because the leaders of industry were greedy, and preferred to make their goods cheaply instead of expanding the workforce. It was also a time of unrest among immigrants. Government leaders sowed fear that returning soldiers were bringing back socialism and communism from overseas. Civil rights activist James Weldon Johnson coined the term Red Summer to describe the widespread white supremacist attacks that plagued the U.S. in 1919.

“And then America elected a racist,” Barber said. “He was a racist. He was a narcissist.” Without mentioning President Woodrow Wilson by name, Barber quoted him as saying, “The American Negro returning from abroad would be our greatest medium in conveying Bolshevism to America.”

“In other words,” Barber said, “fear the returning American soldier, because they are the conduit of socialism and communism.”

Barber went on to talk about how, 100 years later, this country is faced with racist voter suppression laws that predate the current president’s election. Echoing what others have put forth, Barber stated, “Trump is not the problem. He is the symptom.”

“A hundred years later ... we need to do the ACLU,” Barber said. “We need to act. We need to challenge. We need to love. And we need to unite. We need to put down our petty differences between organizations and understand that there are forces out there trying to hurt us all.”

The same politicians that support voter suppression are the same ones denying health care, said Barber. And they are the same ones opposing a living wage, harming the LGBTQ community, refusing to take measures against climate change, supporting mass incarceration and so on.

“And if they are cynical enough to be together, we ought to be smart enough to come together,” Barber said. “It’s time to do the ACLU.”
FOR DOGS
WHO DON’T LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE ANIMALS

GROOMING  pet care extraordinaire  BOARDING

A SECOND HOME FOR YOUR FURRY FRIEND

Accommodations

24/HR SUPERVISION

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

673 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan

Happy Hounds
Dog Day Care & Lodging

Michigan Memorial
Funeral Home • Park • Crematory
www.MiMemorial.com

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

Southeast Michigan Community Education and Engagement Day
Presented by MOASH and Stand with Trans

November 9, 2019
Location:
Beaumont Dearborn
Kalman Auditorium
18101 Oakwood, Dearborn, MI 48124

Speakers:
Melissa Farrell, Psy.D.
Dr. Farrell is a psychologist, ACT trainer and international presenter. She is a former co-chair for the gender and sexual minorities special interest group for the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ACBS). She specializes in working with gender and sexual minorities, particularly youth and their families.

• 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Transgender 101 for parents/caregivers of trans/gender diverse youth (open to everyone in the community)
• 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. – LUNCH (provided)
• 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Roundtable discussion
  (legal, education, mental health, medical, & youth tables)
This event is made possible by a generous grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the HOPE fund.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Lacey Slay at lacey.slay@moash.org

Beaumont
To register, use this link: https://bit.ly/2kk7mTb
Gaydar Goes Half App’d

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I’ve been told by a high techie source — but perhaps it’s just wishful thinking “queersay” — that there’s a new app on the market called Gaydetection.

Its purpose is to determine at a glance just who might be gay. Correction. Who is gay.

(For some reason of digital failure at manipulation of internal incorporated judgmental criteria, the app does not work in the detection of dykes. I’m told that Gaydetection app developers feel that it’s not necessary to determine what, to them, is already perceived as obvious.)

Interestingly enough, Gaydetection is a big hit with straights who, now that gays have seemingly made such great equality strides, feel its most politically correct and unhesitatingly expedient to tell at a glance who’s queer, who’s not, who’s just pretending.

I don’t plan to purchase or — if you’ll pardon the expression — download the app. I’ve been using my God-given gaydar for so long now that I can tell who’s gay in a nanosecond, and have received many straight requests to perform this service free of charge in the interest of ecumenical and spiritual considerations (say, to answer questions like, “Is our choir director a fag? Is father so-and-so really celibate?”)

Of course what happens whenever social assimilation occurs is that the majority wants in on the action of what’s perceived as an up-and-coming, enviable popularity plus on the part of the heretofore marginalized minority. (NOTE: I have a B.A. minor in sociology.)

According to a recent article in Psychology Today (“Gaydar: The Dorian Gray Effect”), fancied cellphone sensors like Gaydetection are not necessary. Apparently, straights are now tapping into their own media-acquired gaydar to determine who is and who isn’t gay. Safe bet: Adam Lambert. Another: Jim Parsons.

As reported by PT, two psychologists, Nalini Ambady, Tufts University, and Nicholas Rule, University of Toronto, have teamed up to do research on just how much is revealed by one’s facial expressions.

PT continues, “Subjects identify lesbians accurately between 64 and 70 percent of the time; gay men and lesbians, naturally, and” — cocktail party tidbit — “ovulating women.”

I feel that the gender reveal has become the polar opposite of the classic baby shower, an event that has become an event focused around the trappings of toxic masculinity. While cakes and balloons still certainly exist, one hears far more about far more hypermasculine ways to reveal a pink or blue cloud of smoke.

One thing seems to be viewed as an even worse sin:

In 2008, a woman named Jenna Karvunidis sliced open a cake, revealing pink frosting within the layers. With her, the “gender reveal party” entered the popular lexicon. A decade or so later, the gender reveal has gone a long way from those humble beginnings becoming something far different from that cake.

I feel that the gender reveal has become the polar opposite of the classic baby shower, an event that has become an event focused around the trappings of toxic masculinity. While cakes and balloons still certainly exist, one hears far more about far more hypermasculine ways to reveal a pink or blue cloud of smoke.

Of these, an exploding rifle target marketed as the “Tannerite Gender Reveal Boom Box” seems a common choice. Last year, a Tannerite device led to the Sawmill Fire, burning roughly 47,000 acres in Arizona. That gender reveal blaze ended up costing $8 million dollars in damage, far above the $99.00 list price of a “Boom Box.”

In Australia, a 2018 reveal using a car ended up destroying the vehicle after the blue smoke that heralded a baby boy burst into flames. The driver and passengers were able to escape the burning car with their lives.

Last month, however, a 56-year-old Iowa woman was killed when shrapnel from a presumably home-made “gender reveal” device struck and killed her. Police described the device as functioning much like a pipe bomb.

Days after this, within the same state, a “Boom Box” caused an explosion that was felt more than two miles away.

When one examines so many videos taken at these parties, a pattern emerges: blue smoke is treated as a success all around, while pink smoke can lead men to sorrow or anger. It is as if a male was the only “winning” solution, and being revealed as the father of a little girl is viewed as some sort of personal failure.

This view is hardly new. The notion of a son “carrying on the family name” is embedded deeply into popular culture, while a daughter is seen as a sign of weakness, not only for the family name” is embedded deeply into popular culture, while a daughter is seen as a sign of weakness, not only for the family name but also for her father. Among some men, that is viewed as a sign that the father’s own sperm is inferior somehow.

Only one thing seems to be viewed as an even worse sin:
having a child who homo- or bisexual or, one step even further down the scale, transgender. This is how it was in my own family. While my father was, perhaps, not outwardly upset when an ultrasound revealed that the second child he would have with his wife was a daughter, he likely felt fortunate that he had already preserved his legacy with his first-born. In Texas, there is a 7-year-old named Luna Younger. At age 3, she had her own gender reveal of her own, declaring even then that she was a girl. Her mother, Anne Georgulas, has accepted her new daughter — but not so for Luna’s father, Jeffrey Younger. Jeffrey Younger — who lived a life formed around a series of lies around military service serving with the Marines in Iraq, having never been previously wed, and having a Ph.D. from the University of Dallas — is unwilling to accept Luna’s reality. After his divorce from Georgulas, according to the Dallas Morning News, Georgulas received, “the right to make decisions about the children’s medical and psychological treatment, among other issues, provided she notified Younger.” Younger fought back, creating a website — since removed — that showed his daughter wearing boys clothing and sporting a buzz cut that he gave her daughter. It’s worth noting he didn’t give his Laná’s twin brother the same cut.

He claimed that the treatment that Luna would undergo would be irreversible, even though at her age she would only be allowed to socially transition, and any medical intervention would start with reversible puberty blockers. Of course, he also had a GoFundMe, raising more than $42,000 for his court fight.

Initially, Younger’s push to gain custody over Luna failed before a jury in Dallas, but that was before the governor of Texas, as well as Sen. Ted Cruz and other lawmakers, chimed in. Cowed, Judge Kim Cooks, overturned the jury, offering joint custody and likely causing untold harm to Luna. The father will therefore still be allowed to terrorize his daughter, forcing her to live a life in a gender she does not want, and in a way that may unduly harm her.

No amount of gunpowder or colored smoke will reveal a gender. All it can do is reveal what genitals your baby has, based on a fairly grainy picture and the best guess of the technician looking at the image.

Gender isn’t that easy to pin down, and doesn’t care what you see in an ultrasound. For Luna, she did reveal her gender, telling her truth — but her father, like so many glum-faced fathers lumbering awkwardly away from gender reveal results not to their liking — is unwilling to accept it.

Now, the courts will allow him to continue to cause harm to his child for years to prevent her from living her truth. This is a tragedy, and one that reveals far more than any gender. It reveals how much our society is willing to fail kids like Luna to preserve a harmful patriarchal system gone mad. Oh, and one more thing: Jenna Karvunidis, whose pink icing started all this? They’re repudiated the concept, and now celebrate their child’s own self-expression as, “a girl who wears suits.”

Gwen Smith revealed her gender in 1993. You can find her at gwensmith.com

Alex Azar

It was only months ago when the Log Cabin Republicans announced that they were endorsing Donald Trump’s 2020 reelection bid in a Washington Post opinion piece titled something like, “Well, at Least We’re Not in Camps!” And ever since Trump has been going out of his way to treat LCR like he does everyone who has ever believed in him: like garbage. It’s as if he’s daring them to take back their endorsement. (Spoiler alert: they won’t.)

The latest “kick me” signed Trump has taped to the backs of LGBTQ Americans comes courtesy of Trump’s Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar who has proposed a new rule that would scrap protections against discrimination for LGBTQ people from its grant programs.

What does that mean? Well, according to the Washington Post, the federal government spends $7 billion dollars on “child-welfare system, including foster care and adoption programs.”

Under Obama, protections were put in place that said, essentially, “Hey, if you want these sweet federal dollars, you can’t discriminate against people, including LGBTQ people.”

But some so-called “faith based” agencies don’t want to deal with LGBTQ people, especially not when it comes to having LGBTQ people taking care of children. Never mind the fact that having same-sex parents is fine and maybe even better than fine according to Serious Research.

Unfortunately research doesn’t mean much to organizations who believe that God hates... well, you know.

And so, Azar wants to scrap protections for LGBTQ people so he can protect the “religious freedom” to discriminate against people based on sexual orientation and gender identity all while giving these religious groups taxpayer dollars to do it. Cool cool.

Oh, and did you know that November is National Adoption Month? What auspicious timing.

“It is outrageous that the Trump administration would mark the start of National Adoption Month by announcing a rule to further limit the pool of loving homes available to America’s 440,000 foster children,” Julie Kruse, director of federal policy at Family Equality, said in a statement.

Denise Brogan-Kator, chief policy officer at Family Equality, added, “Changing federal non-discrimination rules to allow child-placing agencies to reduce the pool of qualified potential foster and adoptive parents runs counter to the cardinal rule of child welfare: that the best interests of children in care must come first.”

But then, this is the Trump Administration we’re talking about. The administration that tore thousands of families apart at the border with absolutely no plan or intention of reuniting them and who literally put kids in cages for the crime of having brown skin and being the children of immigrants and asylum seekers.

The administration that pulled out of the Paris Climate agreement while children across the country and across the world literally beg adults to stop destroying the Earth so that they might have a chance at a future. The administration that has fought against a woman’s right to reproductive freedom both here and abroad. The administration that thinks public education should be made into a for-profit business to enrich its Education Secretary, Betsy Devos.

Honestly, when has this administration done anything that put children first?

In addition to discrimination when it comes to adoption, the rule also threatens the health care rights and needs of transgender people.

“Stigma and prejudice are fueling a public health crisis among transgender people across the country, one that manifests itself as suicide, addiction, intimate partner violence and HIV,” Mara Keisling, executive director for the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in a statement. “Enabling providers of life-saving services to worsen these crises by rejecting transgender people is a moral crime and a severe abdication of HHS’s mission to preserve public health.”

Democrats were quick to condemn Azar’s decision.

Elizabeth Warren called the move “disgraceful.”

“We must do everything we can to block this rule — and we must pass the Equality Act to ensure that LGBTQ+ people’s rights are explicitly protected by law,” she tweeted.

Kamala Harris also responded to the news.

“Let’s call this out for what it is: taxpayer-funded discrimination,” she wrote in a Tweet. “I’ve spent my career fighting on behalf of LGBTQ+ people. As president, I will sign the Equality Act into law to ensure the federal government has their back.”

It’s worth noting that the Democrat controlled U.S. House passed the Equality Act but it cannot get past the Republican controlled Senate. So vote for Democrats, damn it.

You can share your opposition to the proposed regulation by leaving a comment via Family Equality’s Every Child Deserves a Family Campaign site: everychilddeservesafamily.com/llhs-comment

Will your comment change hearts and minds in the Trump administration? Well, no. After all, having either a heart or a mind automatically disqualifies someone from being part of the administration. But it’s still important to loudly declare that what is happening is not happening in your name. Because history is not going to judge Trump or his administration kindly. So raise some hell.

www.PrideSource.com
OBITUARY

Frederick William Hoffman
May 18, 1951 – Oct. 26, 2019
BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A Baatar industry supporter and former
honorary consul for the Federal
Republic of Germany, Fred Hoffman
died last month after a lengthy battle with
cancer. He was 68.

Hoffman lived for most of his life in
Dearborn. He earned his undergraduate
degree from the University of Michigan-
Dearborn and his law degree from
Michigan State University. He also had
advanced business studies at INSEAD
University and the National Development
Finance Council.

Hoffman’s laundry list of professional
accomplishments is more than impressive.
From 1967-77, he worked as a columnist
and editor for the Dearborn Guide
Newspapers and the Times Herald
publications. Hoffman loved Dearborn
and his law degree from
Michigan State University. He also had
advanced business studies at INSEAD
University and the National Development
Finance Council.

Hoffman served on consul with the
highly respected Clark Hill law firm for
eight years. He was also appointed the first
honorary consul for the Federal Republic
of Germany following the closing of the
Detroit consulate office in 1999. Hoffman
served as honorary consul from 2002-
2018.

Additional appointments, awards and
recognition are too numerous to mention,
but it’s clear that Hoffman was a very busy
man. Hoffman is survived by his husband
of 36 years, Jim Stokes. Funeral services
for Hoffman have already taken place.

------------------------------

Trump HHS Reverses Obama-Era Non-Discrimination Policy

BY LISA KEEN

The Department of Health and Human
Services’ press release announcing a
change in the administration of its
grants had an innocuous-sounding title, one
that said its purpose was to ensure that HHS
regulations do not “impose specific public
policy requirements beyond U.S. statutory
requirements.”

But for many LGBTQ activists, the
announcement was a clear dog whistle,
signaling that the federal government would
do nothing to stop or discourage discrimination
against LGBTQ people.

Sharon McGowan, legal director for Lambda
Legal, said the proposed rule “rolls back
critical protections against discrimination on
the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender
identity and religion. And in doing so, puts
at risk some of the most vulnerable members
of our communities, including LGBT people
who are poor or experiencing homelessness;
LGBT seniors and LGBT youth in out-of-home
 care, including foster children in need of loving
families, people living with HIV, and many
others.”

“Furthermore,” McGowan said, “HHS’s
announcement that it will immediately cease
enforcement of existing non-discrimination
protections, rather than adhering to the
established procedures for changing regulations
such as these, once again demonstrates the
Trump administration’s utter disregard for
the rule of law.”

Mara Keisling, executive director of the
National Center for Transgender Equality,
said the change is a “morally bankrupt and
a severe abdication of HHS’s mission to preserve
public health.”

The news is the latest volley between
the Obama administration and faith-based
organizations in a long-standing conflict with
the LGBTQ community. The conflict has played
out in numerous areas, with many individuals
and groups arguing that they should be able to
discriminate based on sexual orientation and
gender identity because their religious beliefs
compel them to do so. LGBTQ legal activists
counter that anti-LGBTQQ entities are using
religious beliefs as an excuse to discriminate
against them and circumvent state laws and
federal regulations.

The Obama administration sided with
LGBTQ groups and issued regulation
changes that said that federal laws prohibiting
discrimination because of sex also prohibited
discrimination based on sexual orientation
and gender identity. The Obama rule changes
covered HHS and the departments of education
and justice and essentially erased rules adopted
late in the second term of President George W.
Bush that enabled doctors to refuse to treat
an LGBTQ person by citing religious beliefs.

Now, the Trump administration seeks to
undo the Obama rules.

The HHS press release said the Trump
administration had “serious concerns” about
implementation of the regulations under the
“prior administration.” This Trump change
would enforce only “non-discrimination
provisions passed by Congress and signed into
law” and those required by “applicable Supreme
Court decisions.”

Currently, no federal law prohibits
discrimination based on sexual orientation
or gender identity, and the U.S. Supreme
Court has not yet said whether it believes
such discrimination is implicitly covered by
federal laws that do prohibit discrimination
because of “sex.” A ruling is expected in the
near future.

President Trump has already taken the
administration in a statement for moving
forward with the anti-LGBTQQ regulation.

“My administration is working to ensure
that faith-based adoption agencies are able to
help vulnerable children find their forever
families while following their deeply held
beliefs,” Trump said.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Judd
Deere denied the proposed rule was in violation
of Trump’s promise to protect LGBT people.

“The President is in no way undermining
his promise or preventing LGBT people from
adopting. LGBT people can still adopt and
that will not change. The Administration

-------------------------------

Adoption
Continued from p. 5

“...”

“Thanks to President Trump, charities will
be free to care for needy children and operate
according to their religious beliefs and the
reality that children do best in a home with a
married mom and dad,” Perkins said.

An estimated 440,000 children are currently
in the foster care system in the U.S., and
more than 123,000 kids are now available
for adoption.

This article originally appeared in the
Washington Blade and is made available in
partnership with the National LGBT Media
Association.
STD/HIV CLINIC
“The Risk is Not Knowing, Know Your Status! Get Educated! Get Tested!”

Services Provided:
• Risk Assessment Counseling
• Free Condoms
• Rapid HIV Testing/Counseling

Testing and Treatment:
Confidential, Appointment Only, persons 12 and older

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

“We take pride in taking care of our residents”

To schedule an appointment
CALL 586-465-9217 at the time listed below
Monday 10:00 a.m. | Tuesday 9:00 a.m. | Thursday 9:00 a.m.
Staff is available Monday–Friday to answer any questions

RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS
Dedicated to make our community brighter
One Smile At A Time
248-399-4455

Uninsured?
No Problem.
Significant Savings
with our Smile Club

Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)
Proud participants in the Ryan White Program
No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.

Care Credit
MasterCard
VISA

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

#TIME2KNOW
GET TESTED
NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED TESTING

• Rapid HIV
• Gonorrhea
• Chlamydia

CONVENIENT METRO DETROIT LOCATIONS
Matrix MAC Health in Ferndale & Midtown Detroit • Affirmations in Ferndale

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
In his 2018 debut music video “Girly,” singer-songwriter-director John Duff is seen imitating some of music’s biggest pop icons, replicating the shot-by-shot choreography of Madonna’s “Hung Up” video and Mariah Carey’s gesticulations and eyelash-batting in “Heartbreaker.” It was impressive, like Duff had been practicing his whole life. And, well, basically he had been. In the case of Britney Spears’ “Stronger,” he’d been mirroring Spears’ choreo since grade-school summer camp.

For the hip-pop mid-tempo “Rich,” his September follow-up to “Girly,” the 30-year-old performer created a satirical and celebratory commentary on pop culture’s love-hate obsession with the rich and famous, in part by impersonating Kim Kardashian’s internet-breaking, butt-exposed cover shoot. Duff, who graduated with a B.F.A. in musical theater from Syracuse University, also currently stars in “Cubby,” his film debut that its director, Michael Blane, describes as a story about “three different generations of men looking for acceptance and love.”

When I connected with Duff recently, he had just gotten acrylic nails and was feeling...
I know the words to every song. I’m like a social life – so it was just me, by myself. So was the first time I had any semblance of friends until junior year of high school – that allowed to bend a little. I mean, I didn’t have Michael Jackson was the first time I was the classics, so I did Elvis and Frank Sinatra. My parents were very insistent that I stick to just because I could really dance then, but shows, I think I wanted to do Britney Spears

When it came to starting to perform in talent idol” kid, so I had all these things on tape and Thanksgiving special and I was “American video collection, and I had Mariah’s live collections and Michael Jackson’s “HIStory” basalment, and I had Janet Jackson’s video Yah. I spent most of my time in my second grade. And my sister had (Mariah Carey’s) “Fantasy” CD single and I stole it from her.

Who are the other people?

(Laughs.) Just, you know, all the other artists that I’ve kind of been a little bewildered by. For the generation that uses the word “iconic” more than anything, I think we have some of the least iconic imagery that’s existed in pop music in the last couple of years.

Growing up, you were a Janet, Madonna and Mariah fan, and so you do seem to have an appreciation for an era when real artistry flourished.

Well, it’s not just real artistry, it’s also budget. Well, it took seven years before we got Mariah’s “Butterfly” album, where she went the deepest thanking special and I was an “American Idol” kid, so I had all these things on tape and I would just watch and watch and imitate. When it came to starting to perform in talent shows, I think I wanted to do Britney Spears just because I could really dance then, but my parents were very insistent that I stick to the classics, so I did Elvis and Frank Sinatra. Michael Jackson was the first time I was allowed to bend a little. I mean, I didn’t have friends until junior year of high school – that was the first time I had any semblance of a social life – so it was just me, by myself. So I know the words to every song. I’m like a savant.

In 2018, you posted a video of you singing a song you wrote called “Thoughts and Prayers” to YouTube, and I think I was surprised to find out that you can actually sing, only because I don’t expect much from gay Instagram.

Oh yeah. I kind of had fun with that when “Girly” was just coming out by letting people think I was going to do something stupid and then once it came out I think a lot of people wrote it off as a fluke, which is like, go off. You can totally do that. Because I know what I am. With “Rich,” we’d done the video a while back and the song is like – god, my manager’s gonna kill me for saying all of this, but it was never my favorite song, but the imagery made such sense to me. So it was sort of supposed to follow up “Girly” right away, but we were having some issues with the original producers of the song because not everyone in Hollywood is nice. I don’t know if you knew that.

So I’ve heard.

(Laughs.) They’re not all in it for the art of it, that’s for damn sure. And so we had a lot of issues, and it took some time, but I ended up getting to work with Alex Delicata, who’s a great producer and has created songs that are some of my favorite songs, and he really turned that one around. So in terms of production, I love it. Very happy. But I’m really happy for everything that’s to come.

What’s to come? Is there a full album on the way?

At this point I would say that I can genuinely look at my playlist of songs that I’ve created and we have about 30 that I think are good enough to stand in their respective realm. We’re trying to hone in on what exactly the introductory sound is, and “Girly” and “Rich” have kind of set that up. But I think the next moves get a little more specific with who I am and what my inspirations are and what I want to be.

Are you still figuring that out? And as a pop artist, is authenticity important to you?

Well, that’s the thing: I’m a very, very layered human being like everybody else is. I guess I am actually a very deep-feeling and -thinking person, so that’s kind of a hard thing to cover off the bat. I think I’m being very authentic to my ideas, my wit and parts of myself in terms of the next couple of things we’re putting out, and there is sincerity there. But it’ll be a minute before I get to really give you some of the depth of my humanity.

Well, it took seven years before we got Mariah’s “Butterfly” album, where she went the deepest musically.

Sure, yeah, and we know that some of Mariah’s really great, serious, deep works were written long before they came out or...
That I was gay.

What was strange about me?

on my talent whatsoever. Paula Abdul called
selling those records and have no comment
show that's run by the same people who are
was gay. It was super hard for me to go on a
come out with a single, and I don't think he
derivation. I think Sam Smith had just
female's body. This was 2011, so there was no
three seconds of being on stage he asked if I
this was not aired on television, but within
Factor, ' Simon Cowell's show. And of course
mean.

can only speak for myself, I guess, is what I
even know what I mean by that (laughs). I
don't personally think it helps or hurts
promoting you. So being an out gay artist, I
can only speak for myself, I guess, is what I

What does your mom and dad think about the
video for 'Rich'?

My dad told me this: “We like the video.” They
prefer "Girly," though. "Rich" is melodically
cocky and hip-hop-y and their generation
just doesn't understand that at all. Like, swag
doesn't process for them and that's fine.

You've expressed some frustration with the
industry. Is it hard to convince these industry
heads which songs you think should be out at
this current moment in time?

Absolutely. I say it all the time and we know
this is common talk around town: Nobody
knows what is going to work now. Now, 10
years ago? Sure, they knew. Twenty years ago?
They definitely knew. But no one could've
ever predicted (Lil Nas X)'s "Old Town Road"
would've been the biggest hit of all time. So
there's a lot of people whose literal job it is to
try to predict what's gonna happen.

Does being an out gay artist add to the
challenge?

It's really weird. It's weird because we just all
get compared to each other. We're looking
to get on the same public interviews and the
same whatever and that's probably how you
end up getting compared; it's the same people
promoting you. So being an out gay artist, I
don't personally think it helps or hurts me. I
don't know about everybody else. And I don't
even know what I mean by that (laughs). I
can only speak for myself, I guess, is what I
mean.

Have you ever experienced any kind of
homophobia in the industry?

Absolutely. Look, in 2011, I was on "The X
Factor," Simon Cowell's show. And of course
this was not aired on television, but within
three seconds of being on stage he asked if I
would've preferred to have been born into a
female's body. This was 2011, so there was no
representation. I think Sam Smith had just
come out with a single, and I don't think he
was gay. It was super hard for me to go on a
show that's run by the same people who are
selling those records and have no comment
on my talent whatsoever. Paula Abdul called
me “strange.” What was strange about me?
That I was gay.
DETROIT REGIONAL LGBT CHAMBER’S
ON THE MENU: Business and the Brain
BREAKFAST SERIES

FEATURING: JOE KORT, Ph.D
Center for Relationship and Sexual Health

• LEARN HOW HE GREW HIS PRACTICE
• LEARN HOW TO STAY SANE AS YOU START YOUR BUSINESS
• LEARN TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

RSVP: DETROITLGBTCHAMBER.COM/ONTHEMENU

AFFIRMATIONS
THURSDAY, NOV 14TH
7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

VENUE PARTNER
MEDIA PARTNER
CATERING BY

DETROIT REGIONAL LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HELLO, DOLLY!
STARRING
CAROLEE CARMELLO

BROADWAY’S GREATEST MUSICAL

“WOW, WOW, WOW, INDEED.”
ROLLING STONE PETER TRAVERS

ON SALE NOW
NOV 19 - DEC 1 • FISHER THEATRE

Production of

by MICHAEL FRAYN

NOVEMBER 8 – 24, 2019
TICKETS AT STAGECRAFTERS.ORG

NOISES OFF

Stagecrafters
THE BROADWAY THEATRE | ROYAL AIMG, MI
www.PrideSource.com
Cool Cities
Ann Arbor
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD • YOUR MARKET
Pinpoint your ad dollars where they will do the most good . . . Advertise in the next Cool Cities
TO PLACE AN AD CALL 734.293.7200

Ann Arbor Advertisers
Abracadabra Jewelry & Gem Gallery .......................... 1
Anderson, PLLC, Mary K. .... 2
Ann Arbor City Club........... 19
Ann Arbor Civic Theatre..... 3
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra .................................. 4
The Ark ............................................. 5
/aust Bar ....................................... 6

Brookside Veterinary Hospital*
Bassett & Associates.......... 1
Common Language .......... 6
Delux Drapery ............... 1
Dependable Collision Center. *
Esquire Interiors ............ 6
First Unitarian Church of Ann Arbor*......... 9
Gail van Langen Ph.d ........ 9
Greene, LMSW, ACSW, Marge ............... 10
EMO Center .................. 1
Humane Society of Huron Valley .......................... 11
Iglesia Martell Law ............... 11
Jim Toy Resource Center .... 6
Lewis Jewelers ............... 12
Lord of Light Lutheran Church*
Merkel Carpet One .......... 1
Michigan Theater .......... 12
Necto .............. 15

HIV/AIDS Resource Center (Harc) ............... *
People’s Food Coop.......... 16
PFLAG Ann Arbor ............... *
Rock Shoppe .............. 1
Spectrum Center ............. 19
Three Chairs Co .............. 20
Tios Mexican Cafe ......... 1
Trillium Real Estate ......... 6
UMHS Comprehensive*  
Gender Services Program ...
University Musical Society .... 22

* Not shown on map

We value diversity in the City of Ann Arbor, and take pride in being different from the rest.

The City of Ann Arbor is an Equal Opportunity Employer
We are proud of our diverse workforce and our commitment to equal opportunity. We do not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived age, arrest record, color, disability, educational association, familial status, family responsibilities, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, height, HIV status, marital status, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, source of income, veteran status, victim of domestic violence or stalking, or weight in any aspect of our hiring or employment process. The City of Ann Arbor has earned a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s Municipal Equality Index (MEI), which assesses lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer equality in more than 500 cities across the nation.

a2gov.org/jobs

Join Us for This Cult Classic!
HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH
Plays Nov. 8 & 9 at 10 PM
State Theatre 233 S. State St. Downtown Ann Arbor • Buy tickets at stateetheatre2.org/late

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) 528-3681
Fax (734) 528-9593
www.dependablecc.com

We work with all insurance companies!
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
Theatre NOVA Presents Premiere of ‘DJ Whittington’s Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto’

Combining lesbians and avid readers into a single club, The Jim Toy Community Center’s LezRead book club is specially designed for queer women. Meeting once monthly, group members meet to discuss reading material. This month’s book is “The Miseducation of Cameron Post” by Emily Danforth.

“The kids are alright, right? We don’t know. We have to read this book to be sure. Per Goodreads, ‘The Miseducation of Cameron Post is a stunning and unforgettable literary debut about discovering who you are and finding the courage to live life according to your own rules,” write event organizers.

“Cam is soon forced to move in with her conservative aunt Ruth and her well-intentioned but hopelessly old-fashioned grandmother. She knows that from this point on, her life will forever be different. Survival in Miles City, Montana, means blending in and leaving well enough alone (as her grandmother might say), and Cam becomes an expert at both,” organizers wrote. “Then Coley Taylor moves to town. Beautiful, pickup-driving Coley is a perfect cowgirl with the perfect boyfriend to match. She and Cam forge an unexpected and intense friendship — one that seems to leave room for something more to emerge. But just as that starts to seem like a real possibility, ultrareligious Aunt Ruth takes drastic action to ‘fix’ her niece, bringing Cam face-to-face with the cost of denying her true self — even if she’s not exactly sure who that is.”

New members are welcome and encouraged to email kerene.moore@gmail.com to find out more about the club and to join the private Facebook group.
“Hedwig and the Angry Inch” creator John Cameron Mitchell (right) spoke on his life and career, along with his Catholic upbringing, on Friday, Nov. 1 at the Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Ann Arbor. BTL entertainment editor Chris Azzopardi led the discussion. The presentation was hosted by the Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series the night before Mitchell performed his autobiographical show, “The Origin of Love,” at Hill Auditorium. Photo: Doug Coombe
Friday, November 8
LGBT Social Meet Up 6:30 p.m. LGBT social meet up group is a group for all LGBT people who want to meet, have light hearted discussions and social activities some activities. Hazel Park Community Center, 620 West Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com

Saturday, November 9
Queer Conversations 11 a.m. Saturday LGBT Chat is an ongoing social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Coming out, dating, and much more. Come join us every Saturday at 11 a.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 redbellysenegal90@gmail.com

Monday, November 11
LGBT Game Night 6 p.m. LGBT Game Night is an opportunity for all LGBT people and allies to come play a board game, drink coffee, bring your own drinks and socialize with other LGBT individuals. All are welcome. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 redbellysenegal90@gmail.com

Sunday, November 24
National Theatre Live in HD: A Midsummer Night’s Dream 7 p.m. Shakespeare’s most famous romantic comedy, produced by the Bridge Theatre in London, features Gwendoline Christie (“Game of Thrones”), Oliver Chris, David Morrissey, and Hammed Animashaun as Titania, Oberon, Puck and Bottom. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8591. ums.org

Tuesday, November 26
Strand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw 6:30 p.m. Parent Support Group Facilitator – Yma Johnson, yma1968@gmail.com or 734-780-4092. Trans Youth Support Group Facilitator – Joy Cavanaugh, LPC. Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. standwithtrans.org

Sunday, December 1
Big Band Holidays – Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis 4 p.m. The holiday season at UMS kicks off early this year, with a Thanksgiving weekend holiday-themed concert by Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464. ums.org

Thursday, December 5
Pride Night at Thunderbowl! 7 p.m. Meet & Greet First Thursday of every month, unlimited bowling, shoe rental, private room, private bar area, drink specials, biliard room, 250 foot video wall. Thunderbowl Arena, 4200 Allen Road, Ann Arbor. 734-928-4688. thunderbowl.org

Saturday, December 7
Handel’s Messiah 8 p.m. Music director Scott Hanan conducts the UMS Choral Union and the Ann Arbor Symphony in this annual community tradition. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464. ums.org

Tuesday, December 10
Shaka Kanneh-Mason, cello 7:30 p.m. One of the brightest young stars on the classical music scene, Shaka Kanneh-Mason became a household name worldwide in May 2018 after performing at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. 734-764-8572. rackham.umich.edu. ums.org

HAPPENINGS

‘HELLO, DOLLY!’ AT FISHER THEATRE

From Tuesday, Nov. 19, through Sunday, Dec. 1, The Fisher Theatre will present the quadruple Tony Award winner “Hello, Dolly!” NPR has called it “the best show of the year” and it broke box office records for weeks after its Broadway debut. This edition of the musical pays tribute to the original work of director and choreographer Gower Champion. To find out more about the show and to get tickets visit broadwayindetroit.com/shows/hello-dolly

Editor’s Pick

CITY AND COLOUR
NOV. 20 AT CAESARS WINDSOR

Award-winning Canadian artist City and Colour is known for a variety of hits like “Save Your Scissors,” “Sleeping Sickness” and “The Girl.” Now, he’s coming to Caesars Windsor on Nov. 20 to The Colosseum stage. Tickets start at $33.88 Canadian. Find out more online at caesars.com.
When was the first time that you saw “The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert”? When I was in college, a lot of drag cinema hit me all at once — “To Wong Foo,” “Hedwig” and “Priscilla.” I find this movie very touching, but also Australian accents are fucking crazy.

Once you did see it, did it impact or inspire your drag in any way? I believe this movie definitely fed and watered the seed in me that loved ABBA so much! Plus, I love the giant floral headpieces when the girls are performing in the desert for the natives.

What does the film mean to you? This movie will always remind me of being in college and discovering drag by myself at my own pace. Even for a drag superstar like me, it was scary. You have to remember, I spent the first 18 years of my life in the deep country. “Priscilla” is a movie about how the world sees queerness and how drag queens have to navigate around it to survive. That message is timeless.

“Priscilla” was a very groundbreaking film for its time, showing a positive relationship between a father who does drag and his supportive son and wife. Do you think that positive portrayal contributed to its longevity?

I think that “Priscilla” was groundbreaking in the way it humanized a drag queen. Long before “Drag Race” or “To Wong Foo” or “Hedwig,” “Priscilla” showed an artist grappling with his family and drag. It’s very easy to see us as amusements and not human beings.

You’ve talked before about how drag has always played a role in cinema. Now looking back at the film 25 years after its release do you think “Priscilla” opened doors for other filmmakers looking to explore drag and the LGBTQ community?

The impact that a film like “Priscilla” had on culture is immeasurable. Now we see movies like “Mrs. Doubtfire,” “White Chicks,” “Madea” — movies that are drag movies technically. They just aren’t defined as such.

You’ll be introducing the film to the audience and closing it off with a set. What are some of your favorite moments or one-liners?

"Mrs. Doubtfire," "White Chicks," "Madea" — movies that are drag movies technically. They just aren’t defined as such.

You’ll be introducing the film to the audience and closing it off with a set. What are some of your favorite moments or one-liners?

"Hey, I just flew into town and boy am I oppressed by a patriarchy systematically put in place to keep me down!"

Will you be wearing a “Priscilla”-inspired look? It’s a movie theater! I’ll be wearing a dress with a peplum — to catch popcorn!

The event begins at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Chrysler Theatre that is located at 201 Riverside Drive in Windsor, Ontario. To find out more information about the event and to buy tickets visit windsorfilmfestival.com.
Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

‘Mrs. Doubtfire’ comes to Broadway in 2020

Someone, somewhere, is keeping count of all the movies turned into Broadway musicals. We aren’t, obviously, though we see what’s going on, and therefore we will call 2020’s “Mrs. Doubtfire” the official umpteenth film-to-the-boards production Broadway has hosted to date. With early plans for a movie sequel scuttled after the untimely death of Robin Williams, this all-singing, all-dancing version is a way to keep the property alive and remind people of the sweetly strange ’90s family comedy about a man who performs in elaborate professional drag as nanny to his own children in an effort to subvert family court visitation rules. 2013 Tony Award nominee for “Chaplin” Rob McClure is going to take on the title role (he also co-starred in another movie-to-stage adaptation, “Beetlejuice, the Musical”) and all the heavy lifting of prosthetic makeup and padded body-suit costuming that goes with it. Directed by Jerry Zaks, the show begins previews in November kicking off in April 2020 at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre. And call us sentimental, but unlike most of the other movies that have found their way we’re giving it the spiritual green light to fill the stage for the many others that have found themselves suddenly saddled with showtunes, we’re kind of rooting for this one.

Brian Michael Smith gets paid twice

Put this man in the One To Watch category. His name is Brian Michael Smith, and he’s a transgender actor whose name you understandably might not know quite yet. Smith’s been in that dues-paying part of an actor’s life, working his way through occasional recurring roles in series like “Queen Sugar,” where he played a trans police officer. But he’s about to become much more visible, with not one but two new shows waiting in the wings. Smith will be a featured recurring character on the upcoming Showtime series, “L. Word: Generation Q,” where trans character storylines are reported to be a more substantial and thoughtful part of the mix than on the original series. Smith will also be a series regular on Fox’s upcoming “9-1-1: Lone Star.” It’ll be the same premise as the original show – people barely surviving enormous natural and mechanical disasters – only in Texas. That means more guns, probably? Probably. “LW:QG” hits Showtime in December, while “9-1-1: LS” is slated for sometime in 2020.

Jim Parsons brings ‘Equal’ to HBO Max

It’s a producer’s life for Jim Parsons lately, as he and Greg Berlanti (“Love, Simon”) prepare to bring “Equal,” a new LGBTQ-focused docuseries, to HBO Max, the upcoming streaming service set to launch in the spring of 2020. The four-part series will cover highlights of the queer civil rights movement, both the landmark events and the significant, if sometimes unsung, figures who worked to make history. Through a combination of re-enactments and previously unseen archival footage, “Equal” will explore the lives and activism of Mattachine Society founder Harry Hay; Christine Jorgensen, the transgender woman who publicly transitioned in 1951; gay rights and African-American civil rights leader Bayard Rustin; and the lesbian civil rights group Daughters of Bilitis. There’ve been some imperfect – and in some cases, such as the recent feature film “Stonewall,” thoroughly embarrassing – attempts at presenting queer history to contemporary queer audiences. But in between seasons of “The Great British Bake Off” we live in hope for good television of any sort, so if it also happens to be queer then we’ll call it a double-win.

Colin Firth and Stanley Tucci form a queer ‘Supernova’

The road trip movie is a tricky one to pull off in the world of independent cinema. It’s a go-to form and it’s been done to death. But then along comes news of a film in which Colin Firth and Stanley Tucci play a longtime gay couple confronting the uncertainties of aging, and we’re giving it the spiritual green light to fill our hearts. It’s called “Supernova,” the second feature from filmmaker Harry Macqueen, and it’s set in England as a gay couple travel around the country in an RV, visiting friends, family and places from their shared life together. The catch is that Tucci’s character has been diagnosed with early onset dementia, so in many ways it’s a farewell tour. Queer stories on film, though obviously, though we understandably might not know quite yet. Smith’s been in that dues-paying part of an actor’s life, working his way through occasional recurring roles in series like “Queen Sugar,” where he played a trans police officer. But he’s about to become much more visible, with not one but two new shows waiting in the wings. Smith will be a featured recurring character on the upcoming Showtime series, “L. Word: Generation Q,” where trans character storylines are reported to be a more substantial and thoughtful part of the mix than on the original series. Smith will also be a series regular on Fox’s upcoming “9-1-1: Lone Star.” It’ll be the same premise as the original show – people barely surviving enormous natural and mechanical disasters – only in Texas. That means more guns, probably? Probably. “LW:QG” hits Showtime in December, while “9-1-1: LS” is slated for sometime in 2020.

Romeo San Vicente is old enough to be a (still quite handsome) historical figure.
Mistress of Evil

Across
1 Sissy
5 Shoot off a larger branch
10 They may come from Uranus
14 Anti-oxidant berry
15 Model’s asset
16 Request from bended knee
18 Beatles manager Brian’s nickname
19 Trireme propellers
20 She plays Princess Aurora in “Maleficent: Mistress of Evil”
23 Threesome on a phone button
25 Same-sex vow, now
26 Lid for Barrie
27 Pacifier
30 Roll with the punches
32 You can dance with a sailor here
34 Dish in a lab
36 With 40-Across, she plays Queen Ingris in “Maleficent: Mistress of Evil”
39 Cross-dresser’s concern
40 See 36-Across
42 Sticky stuff
43 Taiwanese or Thai
45 Way out
46 Goofed up
49 James Whale portrait star McKellen
50 Way of the theater
52 Cabinet div.
54 Connoisseur Allen and others
56 She plays the title role in “Maleficent: Mistress of Evil”
61 Asian cuisine
62 Biscotti flavoring
63 Gets the bottom line
65 Erection, in slang
66 Gin partner
67 NY Met, for one
68 It may come before 69
69 “___ at time!” (serial polygamy motto)
70 Lair of bears

Down
1 What a guy may shoot
2 Frozen dessert
3 Culprit with a Y chromosome?
4 AZT dose
5 Geert Blanchard’s kind of skating
6 High hit ball in Glenn Burke’s sport
7 Talk show cohost Kelly
8 Really loves
9 Susan’s “Thelma and Louise” partner
10 Second word of a fairy tale
11 Poles for pennants
12 On top of, in poetry
13 Airline to Oslo
21 Soda size, sometimes
22 Philip Johnson contemporary
23 Cost, in slang
24 Susie Bright, to erotica
28 Tough sledding
29 Cocteau’s Peter
31 F-word start, for Socrates?
33 Mapplethorpe’s “Dark ___ Rose”
35 Band that recorded “Unbelievable”
37 Comic actor DeLaria
38 Kevin Bacon in “Footloose”
41 1940 Disney classic
44 Audit
47 More like Cho’s comedy
48 One of Freddie Mercury’s pairs
50 “Oklahoma!”’s ___ Annie
51 Cuba or Aruba
53 Philosopher of Athens
55 Force out
56 “Cat on ___ Tin Roof”
57 Children’s caretaker
58 Bean’s team
59 “Spamalot” writer Eric
60 Forbidden fruit site
61 USA alternative
64 MTF operation

“Maleficent: Mistress of Evil”
23 Threesome on a phone button
25 Same-sex vow, now
26 Lid for Barrie
27 Pacifier
30 Roll with the punches
32 You can dance with a sailor here
34 Dish in a lab
36 With 40-Across, she plays Queen Ingris in “Maleficent: Mistress of Evil”
39 Cross-dresser’s concern
40 See 36-Across
42 Sticky stuff
43 Taiwanese or Thai
45 Way out
46 Goofed up
49 James Whale portrait star McKellen
50 Way of the theater
52 Cabinet div.
54 Connoisseur Allen and others
56 She plays the title role in “Maleficent: Mistress of Evil”
61 Asian cuisine
62 Biscotti flavoring
63 Gets the bottom line
65 Erection, in slang
66 Gin partner
67 NY Met, for one
68 It may come before 69
69 “___ at time!” (serial polygamy motto)
70 Lair of bears

Q Puzzle

Find solution on page 22 and at www.pridesource.com
‘Drawn to Detroit’ Exhibit Friday, Nov. 8 at Blossoming Artists Gallery

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Leah Carroll’s “Drawn to Detroit” exhibit will open this Friday, Nov. 8, at the Blossoming Artists Gallery. The gallery is located in the rear of high-end floral experts Blossoms Midtown store, aptly titled Blossoms Midtown, is described by the store as an art exhibition space dedicated to bringing original, high-quality, affordable artwork to the community. With the new show, Carroll takes a close look at the city of Detroit and its rich architecture.

“Some are abandoned, others revitalized but all sacred,” Carroll said. “As a resident of Detroit, I have only scratched the surface of the ever-changing city with this series of work. The pencil to pen drawings focuses on the intricacies of each structure. They pay homage to the architectural beauties in the heart of the city. The renaissance of Detroit is captivating and endearing.”

“Drawn to Detroit” started out as a class assignment when Carroll was in graduate school at Wayne State University.

“As you can see, it became much more than an assignment,” Carroll said. “The process of creating the freehand drawings became a therapy in between the grind of work and school.

“Drawn to Detroit” is a way to explore the city and give reverence to the landmarks, hot spots, classics, and iconic-must-visit places,” Carroll continued. “Each drawing is created in real time viewing the building and or by a photo taken of the structure in its current state. “Drawn to Detroit” plays off the idea of artwork and how many are drawn from near and far to visit the comeback city and its renaissance.

Queer Fashion Course Draws Students LGBTQ and Straight Alike

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

With a history of designers like Cristóbal Balenciaga, Bob Mackie and Karl Lagerfeld it’s impossible to dispute the LGBTQ community’s impact on the world of modern-day fashion. But as famous as those names are, along with dozens of others like them, it’s startling how little research has been done on the LGBTQ community’s overall involvement in the fashion industry.

Dr. Michael Mamp, a professor of fashion, interior design and merchandising at Central Michigan University, certainly thought so when he put together his “Queer Fashion” course.

“Fashion has always fought a battle of being considered frivolous, but when you consider the history of fashion and really, within my field we refer to it as dress from a scholastic perspective, there’s so much that we can learn from what people have worn and what they’ve chosen to wear over time, ” Mamp said.

Mamp said that he first got the idea for his course in 2013 when he went to the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City for a museum exhibit called “A Queer History of Fashion from the Closet to the Catwalk.”

“And that exhibit explored the relationship between fashion in the queer community and mostly from a couture, very high-end perspective. And when I saw that exhibit and the subsequent catalog that came out from it, my wheels started to turn and I was thinking how could I do something that took ‘A Queer History of Fashion from the Closet to the Catwalk’ where they left off, and maybe still talk about some of those components of high-end fashion. Because I do think people are interested in that,” he said. “But also, how clothing in general has really helped to shape and express queer identity over time.”

That began an intense process of research that traced LGBTQ fashion influences to as far back as the 18th century. Mamp provided an example of Marie Antoinette, who by many is considered a fashion icon for her extravagant gowns and wigs, but who was also lambasted for her choice to wear male-inspired riding jackets and pants.

“We remember her for this made-up phrase of, ‘Let them eat cake,’ but she wore pants. She had a woman paint her portrait,” Mamp said. “And because she wore those garments people accused her of being a lesbian.

“The trajectory of Mamp’s curriculum extends into present-day. He said that students really become engaged when they can see some of the course’s topics represented in their day-to-day experiences like through social media. Mamp gave an example of a student sharing a tweet with the class that observed many male attendees of this year’s New York Fashion Week wearing heels.

“I think the students then feel validated and they’re looking in the zeitgeist for expressions of queer identity through dress and then they bring that to the classroom,” he said. “So, that really creates this dynamic environment where I’m learning to grow from their engagement.”

Vibrant Debate in Class

And with a dynamic environment comes spirited debate. Mamp said that one of the interesting elements of teaching a class that features the styles of various LGBTQ subcultures is that it forces students to reexamine their own relationships to gender identity and its presentation.

“Within our own community we value masculine traits over feminine traits. We tend to shame those that represent a feminine identity over those that represent a masculine identity. So, when you start to talk about those nuances within the LGBTQ+ community the students begin to think about how they express either femininity or masculinity and how that has either been encouraged, discouraged, questioned throughout their own experiences,” Mamp said. “And so, I think it opens the door for conversation across these boundaries of straight versus gay communities.”

Mamp said those who do attend his course come in with “a strong desire and curiosity to learn” but where debates sometimes occur is in the discussion of sex and expressions of sexuality in relation to queer identity.

“And we talk about that in the context of dress and how people express their sexuality or sexual practice through dress. And we also talk about that through queer art, like produced by Robert Mapplethorpe or Leigh Bowery,” Mamp said. “I think it’s probably the first time they’ve had a class where they’re talking about things like that. So that might be a little, for lack of a better word, shocking.”

Mamp said that Bowery’s work can often have that effect because his costumes played heavily with gender presentation in an effort to show it as merely a social construct. However, once the initial shock washes away, Mamp said that students tend to leave the course with positive reviews of what they’ve learned, for which he grateful. He added that he was surprised at the demographics of the course, too, because many students in attendance aren’t LGBTQ themselves and those who are are often transgender men.

“It really spoke to me that we need to, through this course and through other courses, provide spaces and information and curriculum that address needs of trans individuals,” he said.

Fashion’s Historical Impact

Mamp noted that Generation Z — people aged roughly between 4 and 24 — tends not to have a traditionally binary view of gender either, which allows many of his students to be “thirsty and hungry for greater understanding” of not only the subject matter, but how fashion — consciously or not — has impacted their own experience and perspective.

He gave an example of a student sharing a drawing of a drag queen wearing heels.

“Gertrude Stein, Janet Flanner, Marlene Dietrich ... all of them dressed in a mannish way by taking the suit, which is really a symbol of the patriarch, and interpreting it and having it made and fitted for their bodies,” Mamp said. “...But then in 1966 Yves Saint Laurent, a gay man, creates a suit called Le Smoking, which was on the cover of Vogue and was a huge sensation and becomes a fashion juggernaut.”

Despite those positive steps for individual expression, Mamp said that because a lot of fashion trends, particularly in women’s fashion, have been decided by prominent gay fashion designers, sometimes unintended negative effects have resulted.

“I kind of have a love-hate relationship with it. Dior, who was a gay man, post-World War II put women back into these very molded, sculpted, object-on-a-pedestal silhouettes,” he said. “And so, I think that’s why it’s important that we look at how did women individually, people like those that I’ve mentioned, figure out ways of dressing that allowed them to function in a public sphere?”

“So, this course is sort of like a history course, a sociology course, a psychology course, but it’s just told through the lens of fashion with a focus on LGBTQ+ persons,” Mamp continued. “And I’m just really excited and privileged that CMU has been supportive of me offering this as a part of our curriculum.”
JOIN US FOR A NIGHT FILLED WITH FILM-SHORTS, FOOD, AND FUN!

LGBTQ FILM NIGHT
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
5 - 7:30PM

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

Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit
205 N. Main St, Clawson, MI 48017 | 248.399.7741
www.mccdetroit.org

FREE ATTENDED PARKING

Detroit Repertory Theatre
World Premiere
Nov 7 to Dec 29, 2019
CHANNEL CAT
by Joseph Zettelmaier
Directed by Harry Wetzel
On a late night in Mound Bayou, MS, fried okra is served, secrets are revealed, and three lives are changed forever

GEN’L ADM. $20
ALL SEATS - ALL PERFORMANCES ADV. ADM. $17

Tickets & Information 313.868.1347
Online Tickets: DetroitRepTheatre.com

WIFF AND LAVENDER PRESENT
TRIXIE MATTEL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH 8:30PM

RuPaul’s Drag Race All-Stars Champion TRIXIE MATTEL will perform before and after a special 25th anniversary screening of drag cult classic film:
THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT.
Dragtacular Street Party to follow.

WINDSOR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 8:30 PM

- General tickets $50 CAD (taxes & fees incl.)
- VIP tickets (priority seating, meet-n-greet and photo with Trixie, souvenir poster) $150 CAD (taxes & fees incl.)

Visit WINDSORFILMFESTIVAL.COM
We are committed to providing quality health care and to serve our patients without regard to race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion, political preferences, or sexual orientation.

It is our intention not to discriminate, be judgmental, or have bias towards anyone. These are not simply published words, but are practices we strive and train for to do our best each and every day. We must all be respectful and put our commonalities first. Our priority is your good health.

We are here to help you and want each and every one of our patrons to feel comfortable in our patient-centered medical home. It is the essence of equality that defines who we are. Please join us in this endeavor.

**Primary Care • HIV Rapid initiation of Therapy • PrEP • Hormone Affirming Therapy**

**Most Experienced and Knowledgeable**
Established in 1980 as the first Primary Care Medical Clinic in the Detroit area specializing in our LGBTQ community.

**Board Certified in Family Practice & Designated Patient-Centered Medical Home**
by Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Center of Excellence.

**We're a Recipient of the Peter M. Fox Excellence in HIV Credentialing Award**
from the American Academy of HIV Medicine. Also, Dr. Benson was one of the first physicians credentialed and has maintained the AAHIV-S specialist designation since.

**Certified Clinical Research Professional**

**Extensive Network of Sensitive Specialists**
with an ongoing relationship to refer as necessary.

Dr. Benson is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University providing training to our next generation of physicians.

He leads our team of professional and talented Providers:

Dr. Paul Benson, D.O.    Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S    Mark Rosen, PA-C    Leon Bullough, NP-F    Keyuna Nance, MSW