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Oakland County Expands Non-discrimination Policy

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

PONTIAC – The Oakland County Board of Commissioners voted Wednesday evening to update the County’s non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

The newly approved policy states that the county is committed to providing “an equal employment opportunity to all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, genetic information, height, weight, disability, veteran status, familial status, marital status or any other reason, that is unrelated to the person’s ability to perform the duties of a particular job or position, in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.” It also states that no person shall be subjected to discrimination or harassment for those reasons.

The policy “shall apply to all County departments, boards, commissions and employees of Oakland County.”

It also requires that contractors for the county do not discriminate if they are to do business with Oakland County.

The policy only applies to Oakland County, not to private businesses or other governmental bodies.

Commissioner Eileen Kowall of White Lake had the item removed from the consent agenda and remarked that, “We cannot supersede state law, it is unconstitutional and unenforceable for us to do that. … I think we’re exceeding our authority here.”

She and the six other Republicans present for the meeting voted against the policy, which passed 11-7.

Board Chairperson Dave Woodward of Royal Oak said he wished the State of Michigan would amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity, but in the absence of that, “I believe we can expand equality and I am very proud to do that to the extent we can under the law.”

Several Oakland County cities have nondiscrimination policies, including Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Royal Oak, Pleasant Ridge, Lake Orion, Southfield, and Farmington Hills.

The full text of Oakland County’s new policy can be found online at gaybe.am/Iv.

Over 300 Honored at TDOR Remembrance Service in Detroit

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A determined crowd of nearly 80 fought the downtown congestion and masses headed to the televised Christmas tree lighting just down the street at Campus Martius to attend the 19th annual International Transgender Day of Remembrance service at Central United Methodist Church on Friday, Nov. 22. As always, the evening was somber as the names of those lost to fatal transgender violence across the world were read off. This year there were 311 of them, with 24 of them taking place here in the U.S. The Day of Remembrance was first celebrated in 1999 in San Francisco.

“I was volunteering at Affirmations and one of the youth coordinators showed me an article,” Michelle Fox-Phillips, the evening’s emcee, recalled. “… I believe we can expand equality and I am very proud to do that to the extent we can under the law.”

Without much fanfare, the service has continued to grow over the years.

“Every year we invite the media to come, to cover our event,” Fox-Phillips said. “So far, the only one that has come every year is Between The Lines, except two years ago when I think it was Chocolate who was shot and killed the same day, and then the media just descended upon us. Every year that we become more visible there are more and more of us that are being buried.”

In between the reading of the names, comments were shared by Bridget Dawson from the Trans Sistas of Color Project, Fair Michigan Justice Project’s Director of Transgender Outreach Julia Abad, Tiffany Ebony from the Ruth Ellis Center, Ruth Ellis Center Executive Director Jerry Peterson and Central’s Senior Pastor the Rev. Dr. Jill Hardi Zundel.

“Today we are here in remembrance of our family who have passed, a vast majority of them are trans women of color,” Ebony said. “It hurts me to believe that in such a short time we have lost so many dynamic and phenomenal women from acts of violence alone. … When I look into the crowd and I see the faces of other trans women of color, I think to myself, ‘Who are they to me?’ They are family. They are my aunts. They are my sisters. They are my mothers and we are changing the way that we not only see each other but how we see ourselves and that how we show up in spaces and the way that we are changing our history day by day.”

Zundel, the evening’s final speaker, was impassioned. She told the crowd she first attended a Transgender Day of Remembrance service in 2009.

“I listened in horror at how many names were lifted up of those who had died, and at that service at that time they used to share how they had died, and it was devastating to me,” Zundel said. “And here we are 10 years later remembering again hundreds of people who are no longer with us simply because they embraced their true selves and others felt threatened by their light in this world.

“It is 10 years later and we have work to do,” Zundel continued. “I wish we didn’t. I wish we lived in a world where the rigid rules of gender didn’t apply and didn’t matter so much, weren’t enforced with the murderous brutality we bear witness to tonight. … We don’t live in this world yet, which is why we hold this night sacred, which is why we take the time to remember and to grieve lives lost. It is so important that we not let these lives cut short go unnoticed, unmourned, unnamed. It is so important that we not let these deaths remain invisible, that we not let the world be comfortable with people murdered because of their gender identity. These dead are our dead. They are ours, and we are theirs, and we will remember them.”

Prior to the service, Michelle Fox-Phillips presented a plaque to Affirmations Board President Cheryl Czach and Executive Director Dave Garcia that listed the name of all local trans persons murdered since the Day of Remembrance service started in 2001. An identical plaque was also presented to the Ruth Ellis Center. (Photo courtesy of Michelle Fox-Phillips)
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FBI Report Shows Increase in Anti-LGBT Hate Crimes

BY LOU CHIBBARO JR.

The number of hate crime incidents targeting gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in the U.S. in 2018 increased by nearly 6 percent over the previous year and the number of anti-transgender hate crime incidents increased by 41 percent during that same period, according to the FBI’s newly released annual Hate Crime Statistics Report.

The report, which covers 2018, the most recent year for which the FBI has released hate crimes data, shows that participating law enforcement agencies throughout the country reported to the FBI a total of 7,120 hate crime incidents for 2018, 55 fewer than the total reported for 2017.

Under guidelines set by the FBI, the incidents are broken down into six categories of “bias motivation” – Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender and Disability.

The report released by the FBI last week shows that out of 7,036 “single bias incidents” reported in 2018, 57.5 percent were motivated by a race/ethnicity/ancestry bias; 20.2 percent were motivated by a religious bias; 17.0 percent were prompted by sexual orientation bias; 2.4 percent were motivated by gender identity bias; 2.3 percent were motivated by disability bias; and 0.7 percent (47 incidents) were motivated by gender bias.

The 2018 report shows participating law enforcement agencies reported 1,196 sexual orientation related hate crime incidents for that year, an increase of 5.8 percent over the 1,130 incidents related to sexual orientation reported in 2017.

According to the report, there were 168 incidents in 2018 in which a victim was targeted for a hate crime based on their gender identity, an increase by 41.1 percent over the 106 gender identity related incidents in 2017.

In its 2018 report, the FBI says the 1,196 incidents based on sexual orientation included 726 anti-gay male incidents, 129 anti-lesbian incidents, 303 anti-LGBT “mixed group” incidents, 21 anti-bisexual incidents, and 17 anti-heterosexual incidents.

Among the 168 gender identity related incidents, the 2018 report says there were 142 anti-transgender incidents and 26 reported anti-gender non-conforming incidents.

In response to a request from the Washington Blade asking whether President Trump is concerned about the increase in anti-LGBT hate crimes shown in the FBI report, the White House issued a short statement.

“The president has said that hate has no place in America and has condemned racism, bigotry and violence,” the statement says. “This administration is committed to ensuring law enforcement have all the tools they need to investigate and disrupt hate crimes or acts of domestic terrorism against any person or group.”

In its data on hate crime incidents in individual states and D.C., the report shows there were a total of 213 reported hate crime incidents in D.C. in 2018, with 68 targeting the victim based on their sexual orientation and 33 related to the victim’s gender identity.

The FBI report shows there were a total of 143 hate crime incidents reported in Virginia in 2018, with 23 related to the victim’s sexual orientation. The report shows there were no reported hate crime incidents in Virginia related to a victim’s gender identity in 2018.

For Maryland, the FBI report shows a total of 50 hate crime incidents in 2018, with nine related to the victim’s sexual orientation and five related to the victim’s gender identity.

In Delaware, the report shows a total of 16 hate crime incidents in 2018, with two related to sexual orientation and none related to gender identity.

Similar to nearly all 50 states, the 2018 report shows that large numbers of law enforcement agencies in medium to smaller cities and towns in Maryland, Virginia and Delaware did not submit any hate crimes data to the FBI for purposes of its annual hate crimes report. The FBI report places these non-reporting jurisdictions into a category it calls “Hate Crime Zero Data Submitted.”

Among the jurisdictions falling into that category in Delaware was Rehoboth Beach and nearby Lewes, both of which are popular summer resort destinations for LGBT people in the mid-Atlantic region.

Sal Seeley, director of Health and Wellness for the Rehoboth Beach LGBT community center CAMP Rehoboth, said he was not aware of any hate crimes occurring against LGBT people in Rehoboth in recent years. But he said he was surprised that Rehoboth’s LGBT-friendly police department would not have submitted information to the FBI stating whether or not any hate crimes have occurred in the town recently.

Rehoboth Police Chief Keith Banks couldn’t immediately be reached for comment.

“Bias-motivated crimes are a real, frightening problem in the United States, and LGBT people continue to be targeted because of who they are,” said Alphonso David, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the national LGBT advocacy organization based in D.C.

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National LGBT Media Association.
Michigan All Stars: 6 Cities Lead the Way in LGBTQ Equality

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON — At a time when many states have failed to pass LGBTQ-inclusive laws and policies, cities are stepping up to ensure that all citizens are treated equally, according to a report issued last week by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's largest LGBTQ civil rights organization.

In Michigan, six cities earned over 85 points on the 2019 MEI despite hailing from a state without LGBTQ-inclusive statewide non-discrimination laws. Across the country, 59 cities like these set a standard of LGBTQ inclusiveness with exemplary, best-practice policies such as local non-discrimination laws, providing transgender-inclusive health benefits for city employees and offering LGBTQ-inclusive city services.

Ann Arbor, Detroit, East Lansing, Ferndale, Grand Rapids and Lansing earned one of HRC's 59 MEI "All Star" designations. MEI All Stars are cities nationwide that are excelling by advancing LGBTQ equality without relying on state law. This year, Ann Arbor earned a 100, Detroit earned a 100, East Lansing earned a 100, Ferndale earned a 100, Grand Rapids earned a 92 and Lansing earned a 86.

The average score for cities in Michigan is 74 out of 100 points, which falls above the national average of 60.

“These inclusive and welcoming cities are standing up to the unrelenting attacks on the LGBTQ community by the Trump-Pence administration, and sending a clear message that the fair and equal treatment of our community, our families and our neighbors is a true American value,” said HRC President Alphonso David. “This year’s Municipal Equality Index shows that across the country, city leaders are working tirelessly to ensure that their constituents can secure housing, make a living and participate in community life without being discriminated against because of who they are. And the people overwhelmingly agree with these leaders: support for non-discrimination protections to protect LGBTQ people topped 70 percent, which includes a majority of Democrats, Republicans and Independents. These policies are not only the right thing to do, but they are also critical in driving economic success by attracting residents, visitors and businesses that place a high value on inclusivity.”

“HRC’s MEI serves as a roadmap of the progress made in cities across Michigan toward full equality, but also as a reminder of the work still ahead,” said Erin Knott, executive director of Equality Michigan. “Equality Michigan will continue to work with city leaders in communities like Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Traverse City to create lasting, positive change for LGBTQ people.”

This year’s report also includes two new issue briefs for policymakers: Achieving a Healthier, Stronger Workforce through inclusive paid leave and expanding PrEP access to help end the HIV epidemic.

Since the MEI’s debut in 2012, the number of cities earning the highest score has increased by more than eightfold, and today at least 25 million people live in cities that have more comprehensive, transgender-inclusive non-discrimination laws than their state.

Progress on transgender equality has been particularly noteworthy in cities across the U.S. this year, continuing a positive trend that the MEI has tracked — and encouraged — since 2012. Transgender-inclusive health care benefits are offered to employees of 164 municipalities this year — up from 147 in 2018, 111 in 2017 and just five in 2012.

The full report, including detailed scorecards for every city, as well as a searchable database, is available online at hrc.org/mei.
How's Your Sugar Plum Fairy, Mary?

This irreverent PG first appeared in BTL Nov. 2018

I hate to play the gay Grinch who stole Christmas, but there's a movement afoot by the Southern Comfort Baptists to do away with all suspected gay references in Christmas carols and holiday traditions. (Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day are targeted next.)

Unless we act with a united front, and a well-padded backside, “Don we now our GAY apparel” is doomed. “God rest ye, MARY gentlemen” is a goner. Gold, frankincense and myrrh (and patchouli) are out. Mince pie and sugar plum you-know-whats are things of the past.

Rainbow ribbons and wrapping paper are taboo. Red stockings for the chimney will be minus silver belles or D&G designer fur trim. Dancer, Prancer and Cupid are dead ducks. (Substitute: Butch, Bouncer, Bimbo.)

Yes, Christmas may never be its gay old self again. And Mr. Gailey will forever be a delete from “Miracle on 34th Street.” (How gay, by the way, is Kris Kringle? He even looks a bit, well, you know, suspect. And what's all this fascination with kids, anyhow? Has he ever had an authentic FBI security check?)

For readers who are in the dark about the Southern Comfort Baptists, they're a boisterous offshoot of gay-bashing, Disney-boycotting, 15-million-strong Southern Baptists. All Trump religious elves!

The 100 proof Southern Comforters swarm like a plague of biblical locust. And they're two-fisted when it comes to minding other people's business and sampling other people's Texas tea.

Every neighborhood has one or two Southern Comforters livening things up way into the wee- wee Sabbath hours. (I spotted one leaning against a lamppost and singing the doxology to my neighbor's calico pussy just the other morning. The cat has yet to return. Saved or unsaved. Neutered or otherwise.)

Southern Comforters are headquartered in Myopic Flats, Texas, home of the world-famous, butter-dipped, low-cal Gila Burger. (“The burger with a bite to die for!”) They broadcast over radio station TPARTY-AM, and their TV program, “The Church Key Hour,” is syndicated worldwide. Sarah Palin, who over radio station TPARTY-AM, and their TV program, “The Church Key Hour,” is syndicated worldwide. Sarah Palin, who likes peeking through an occasional narrow-minded keyhole, is thinking about converting. Again.

The Southern Comforters perform whatever they call brinkmanship baptism.

“We don't sprinkle. We dunk, count to 10 very slowly and ask God for a miracle.”

They don't smoke weed, boogie down, play bridge, skinny-dip, practice feng shui, eat kosher mayonnaise or play kissy face on the first and last date. Their motto: “One taste of 100-proof heaven goes a long, long way.”

More than likely you've seen a controversial full-page ad the Southern Comforters took out in National Expirer tabloid recently (appearing next to Lady Gaga's candid camera cuties). SANTA: A GAY AGENDA PLOT! Homos put the X in X-Mas!
Access to PrEP is no less a life-saving measure than access to sterile syringes. And though positive steps have been made, it’s vital that the governor take action to make PrEP accessible and available to everyone in need now.

BTL Editorial: World AIDS Day
Continued from p. 9

that AIDS activists did in the ’80s and not something we should do now. As we were dying, the government was busy in underfunded labs looking at poppers and too much semen as the cause of the new epidemic. It was gay men who created safer sex and promoted it. It was gay men and allies who fought back in the streets when the Reagan administration continued to ignore the deaths of Americans from the epidemic, years on. And they chanted, while fighting for access to life saving clinical trials, ‘Nothing about us, without us.’

We owe to their memories to respond with no less urgency to the ongoing HIV crisis in our state. And those who are struggling with the disease need help now. Not tomorrow. Not next year. Now.

Nothing about us, without us. ’

For access to life saving clinical trials, men and allies who fought back in the streets when the Reagan administration continued to ignore the deaths of Americans from the epidemic, years on. And they chanted, while fighting for access to life saving clinical trials, ‘Nothing about us, without us.’

We owe to their memories to respond with no less urgency to the ongoing HIV crisis in our state. And those who are struggling with the disease need help now. Not tomorrow. Not next year. Now.

- If you are on PrEP, advertise it loudly on all your social media including your hook-up apps. Normalize PrEP as an expectation, not an exception.
- If you are HIV-positive, stay in medical care and stay on your medications.
- All of us must stop the tyranny of ‘disease-free’ tag on social media and hook-up apps. With PrEP and treatment as prevention, both positive and negative persons have the tools to stop transmissions. Don’t let others separate our community with this stigmatization.
- Hold fundraisers for your local HIV organization to raise money to specifically assist uninsured and underinsured persons gain access to PrEP.
- Write your lawmakers and your governor.

Parting Glances
Continued from p. 8

Are There “Toys” Under Your Tree? Is Your Sock ‘Hung’ by the Chimney with ‘Care’? Beware! The GAGs are coming.

In case you’re too busy to speed-read the scandal sheets at checkout counters, Santa really got a few below-the-belt punches from these burning bush holy rollers: “It’s bad enough the Gay Agenda Gang (GAG) has shaved TV’s Burt & Ernie and Tinky Winky down our collective throats, but the real Trojan Horse is Old St. Nick himself!

“True. Santa, who wears a leather belt and boots, sports a beard and a big beer belly, is what GAGs call a card-carrying ‘bear.’ His red suit is color-coded to convey a deep-seated message. (Years ago, gay men wore bright red ties. And, those unmentionable hankies!) And while there may be a Mrs. Santa — a ‘beard’ of another kind — what grown man in his right mind breaks bread with elves, second cousins to hobbits, twinks and fairies?

“Be forewarned. Sitting on Santa’s ample knee and telling him you’re naughty or nice, when God knows you’re a loathsome, rotten, stinking sinner, is an invitation to disaster and damnation. Santa, and all he stands for — which includes same-sex marriage — is anti-American, anti-family values, anti-Republican and a GAG plot to boot. Amen.”

PS: The less said about “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” the better. Mary Christmas, P’Gers!

Yuletide Tip: Instead of donating LGBT dollars to the Salvation Army this year, put a note in the little red kettle: “The Salvation Army’s homophobic! No donation from me, my family, my friends. MARY Christmas!”

Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBT community artist (1000 Facebook images). He is a Spirit of Detroit Award recipient and an Affirmations LGBT CENTER Jan Stevenson awardee. Connect with him at Charles@pridesource.com.

Creep Of The Week

Tony Perkins

Is America ready for a gay president? No way say the people who currently support with blind fealty and reverence a president who is a corrupt serial adulterer rapist half-wit.

A president can be many things, but not a homo. That is a bridge too far for the American people!

But some people are starting to freak out a little bit, because there’s been polling that shows Sworn Gay Pete Buttigieg leading in Iowa. Which obviously means he has this whole thing in the bag and also that this whole thing is gay now, as is the bag.

Even if Buttigieg does win the Iowa caucus, that hardly means he’s going to go on to win the nomination. Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan, for example, all lost Iowa but ended up becoming their party’s Numero Uno.

A win in Iowa for a candidate like Buttigieg isn’t insignificant, however. It would bestow some extra credibility on his candidacy that has seemed like a long shot to many. It would also prime the fundraising pump. But it would also be a historic “holy shit, a gay dude just won the Iowa caucus” kind of moment.

Buttigieg’s appeal stems in part from his vocal embrace of his Christian faith, something that has ranked right-wing Christians like Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council, an organization dedicated to dismantling any gains LGBT people have made in the U.S. and preventing any others.

On the Nov. 21 edition of the Family Research Council’s “Washington Watch” podcast, Perkins and David Closson, also of the FRC, claim that Buttigieg can’t possibly be a real Christian.

“[Buttigieg is] actually twisting God’s word to advance a political agenda that is antithetical to biblical Christianity,” Closson says, presumably with a straight face.

I mean, come on. As if the religious right doesn’t conveniently cherry-pick parts of the Bible to support their ideology. They literally HAVE TO DO THAT in order to support Trump.

In a justification for why the right-wing Christians supported Trump, someone on the right said something about Trump being an “imperfect messenger.” According to Vox, evangelicals see Trump as an “unlikely vessel” of someone God has chosen for an important historical purpose, despite not looking like — or having the religious character of — an obvious man of God.

In other words, we don’t care if this man is trash so long as he can bring about the end to Roe v. Wade and gay marriage.

Perkins zeroes in on an interview Buttigieg did with Rolling Stone magazine in which he criticized “people who are avowedly Christian” who “get themselves into bed with a president like [Trump].”

Buttigieg’s appeal stems in part from his vocal embrace of his Christian faith, something that has ranked right-wing Christians like Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council ...

Perkins resends by asking, “Well, what about supporting a man who gets in bed with another man? I think that’s really the issue here when you talk about biblical Christianity. The Bible speaks very clearly about the issue of homosexuality, and ... it’s amazing to me that he would so use Scripture when he is ... openly in a lifestyle that is contrary to the teaching of both the Old and the New Testaments.”

It’s a curious response, notable for the fact that while Trump gets a pass with it comes to all of his sins and transgressions, Buttigieg does not. Because to Perkins being gay is worse than literally anything else. Buttigieg cannot be an “unlikely vessel.” He doesn’t get the benefit of the doubt. Buttigieg professes his faith while Trump couldn’t even give an example of a favorite Bible verse when asked, it is Trump who is considered more Biblical.

Closson says, “The irony of Mayor Pete Buttigieg lecturing Christians on the ethical content of Christianity when, like you just said, this is a man who is married to another man, again, when Scripture is just super clear.”

Ahem. SCRIPTURE IS ALSO CLEAR ABOUT ADULTERY. Not to mention the fact that Trump apparently interpreted the Seven Deadly Sins not as a cautionary list, but an aspirational one.

But please, do go on about how Buttigieg’s happy marriage to his husband Chasten is the deal-breaker here.

Being gay, argues Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, “is the ultimate blasphemy” and that Buttigieg “is making a farce out of Christianity.”

“The media will pretend that a man like Peter Buttigieg kissing his so-called husband is just like a man kissing his wife,” LaBarbera told OneNewsNow. “But the average Joe on the street, the average American, will not believe that. And I do not believe that an openly homosexual, far-left progressive candidate like Pete Buttigieg — I do not think the American public is ready for that.”

And so we’ve come full circle. Actually, scratch that. “Full circle” implies that there’s something orderly and logical to the argument that Trump is a divine gift while Buttigieg is the spawn of the devil. Who was it again making a farce out of Christianity?
**IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY**

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

**MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY**

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

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

**ABOUT BIKTARVY**

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

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

**Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:**
- doxetilide
- rifampin
- any other medicines to treat HIV-1

**BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY**

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

**POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY**

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%). These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

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

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

**HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY**

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

**GET MORE INFORMATION**

- This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.
DOJ Pride Warns Barr of Employee ‘Dismay’ Over Title VII Cases

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The affinity group for LGBTQ employees calls on U.S. Attorney General William Barr to affirm their value. (Blade file photo by Michael Key)

The affinity group for LGBTQ employees at the Justice Department has a warning for U.S. Attorney General William Barr: The Trump administration’s litigation position against protections for LGBTQ workers under federal civil rights law has left employees with “concern, dismay and even distress about the cases.”

In a letter dated Nov. 22 and made public Monday, the leaders of DOJ Pride said they undertook a survey of LGBTQ lawyers and law enforcement officials within the Justice Department and found “every response but one” was negative about the U.S. government arguing against LGBTQ protections.

“We recognize that the department was arguing in favor of a particular interpretation of a federal statute, and that it was not advocating that LGBTQ individuals are undeserving or unworthy of protections against discrimination,” the letter says. “But many of our members did not perceive the department to have made such a distinction. Some reached out to us in alarm, afraid their jobs could be in jeopardy.”

The signers of the letter include DOJ Pride President Jason Lee, a staff attorney for the Justice Department, as well as each of the board members of the organization.

“Various respondents told us they believe that the department does not support its LGBTQ workforce, that the department think LGBTQ people do not need or deserve anti-discrimination protections, that the department will be less able to recruit and retain talented employees, that department employees will be less comfortable coming out at work and the department’s litigation positions set back the department’s mission of promoting justices, fairness and equality,” the letter says.

In October, U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in the cases Zarda v. Altitude Express and Bostock v. Clayton Country against the idea that anti-gay discrimination is a form of sex discrimination, therefore prohibited under Title VII of the Civil Rights of 1964, and — defending massive case law — argued against the idea that anti-trans discrimination is a form of sex discrimination in the case of Harris Funeral Homes v. EEOC.

It remains to be seen what the Supreme Court will rule. U.S. Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch indicated he’s at least considering the idea Title VII is LGBTQ-inclusive, making LGBTQ legal advocates cautiously optimistic about the litigation.

DOJ Pride calls on Barr to reassure employees, no matter the outcome of the cases, the Justice Department’s Equal Employment Opportunity policy will prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination. Also, the LGBT affinity group calls on Barr to reiterate LGBTQ employees and job applicants are welcome.

Further, DOJ Pride calls on Barr to “call for a legislative fix in the event that the Supreme Court adopts the department’s interpretation of Title VII.”

That would be a tall order to fill for a Cabinet member within the Trump administration. President Trump has come out against the Equality Act, which would accomplish that goal.

DOJ Pride also calls for other changes unrelated to the Title VII, such as returning its annual Pride celebration to the Great Hall and adding LGBTQ employees to the department’s leadership positions.

The missive may not fall on deaf ears. As the letter points out, Barr issued EEO policy assuring non-discrimination for LGBTQ employees in February, met with DOJ Pride leaders in June in recognition of Pride Month and subsequently issued a Pride Month statement affirming the value of LGBTQ employees.

At the same time, Barr has stood up for religious freedom at the expense of LGBTQ rights, lamenting the lack of religious exemptions to the LGBTQ curricula several states, including California and Illinois, have adopted within their school system.

The Washington Blade has placed a request in with the Justice Department seeking comment on the letter.

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

Canadian Diplomats Highlight Country’s LGBTQ Rights Record

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

Two Canadian diplomats in the U.S. earlier this month highlighted their country’s efforts to promote LGBTQ rights.

“We are very much aligned in terms of strongly supporting the rights of LGBTQ persons, both at home and abroad,” said Martin Loken, minister of political affairs at the Canadian Embassy in D.C., on Nov. 14 during a reception that was part of the LGBTQ Victory Fund’s annual International LGBTQ Leaders Conference.

“Respect for all human rights is a central tenet of Canada’s domestic and foreign policy,” added Loken.

Loken spoke three weeks after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau won reelection. A picture of Trudeau in brownface that emerged in September sparked outrage and seriously tarnished his reputation ahead of the Oct. 21 election that saw his Liberal Party lose its majority in Parliament.

Trudeau in 2017 formally apologized to those who suffered persecution and discrimination under Canada’s anti-LGBTQ laws and policies. Trudeau in a speech he delivered in the Canadian House of Commons also said the government agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit filed by those who were forced to leave the Canadian military and civil service because of their sexual orientation.

A law that added gender identity to Canada’s non-discrimination and hate crimes law took effect in 2017. Canada the following year joined the Global Equality Fund, a public-private partnership the U.S. launched in order to promote LGBTQ rights around the world.

Trudeau is among the world leaders who have publicly condemned the anti-LGBTQ crackdown in Chechnya.

Refugees and asylum seekers in recent years have increasingly sought refuge in Canada. Randall Garrison, an openly gay member of the leftist New Democratic Party who represents portions of Vancouver Island in British Colombia in the House of Commons, is among those who have said the Canadian government needs to do more to protect refugees and asylum seekers, regardless of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

“While recognizing that countries are at different stages, Canada continues to advocate to eliminate laws and policies that discriminate against persons based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics and to combat all acts of violence targeted towards LGBTQ persons,” said Loken.

Canadian Ambassador to the Organization of American States Hugh Adsett at the Nov. 14 reception noted his country is a founding member of the OAS LGBTI Core Group, which seeks to promote LGBTQ rights in the Americas.

“Canada is proud to be part of this collaborative effort to support the rights of LGBTI persons in the Americas,” Adsett said.

Adsett also said Canada has been working closely with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and other OAS-affiliated entities “to advance our collective responsibility to protect LGBTQ2 persons against human rights violations.”
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Let's be clear: the response to the HIV epidemic today has shifted dramatically since it was first identified as a crisis in 1981 and a viral epidemic in 1984. The crisis has gone from usually fatal, to, today, a chronic manageable disease. It also means that people living with HIV are living nearly the same lifespan as people without the virus. However, it's also true that stigma continues to hamper efforts to end the epidemic, to ensure access to prevention services for at-risk people, and access to medical care and medications for those with the disease.

And Michigan is not an outlier in the evolving perceptions of the epidemic either. In our state, as has happened nationally, there have been good changes, bad changes and downright ugly ones, too. Here's a breakdown of those items from 2019.

The Ugly

The HIV epidemic continues to disproportionately impact people of color, particularly transgender people of color and same-gender-loving men of color, and this is clearly shown in Michigan's statistical trends represented in the Michigan Statewide HIV Surveillance Reports from 2019, 2018 and 2017. In 2017, men who have sex with men represented the most newly diagnosed cases with 448 diagnosed, along with 19 men who have sex with men and inject drugs. In 2016, those rates were 449 and 22 respectively.

The numbers also show a racial disparity in both who is at risk for and who is being diagnosed with HIV. Fifty-nine percent of those diagnosed with HIV in 2017 were black. This is up from 58 percent in 2016. Of the men diagnosed with HIV, 44 percent were black and six percent were Latino.

The transgender community is also over-represented in the diagnoses in Michigan. Twenty-two transgender individuals were represented in the diagnoses in Michigan.

The In-Between

Michigan has been burdened by an onerous felony law applicable only to persons living with HIV since 1988. But earlier this year, legislation signed into law at the end of January by former Gov. Rick Snyder, changed the law.

Previously, Michigan law required disclosure of an HIV-positive status for any sexual penetration, ‘however slight.’ Courts had rejected medical defenses that a person who was virally suppressed posed no risk to a sexual partner, despite federal and state government reports. This resulted in many prison sentences for people who were HIV-positive and virally suppressed because they failed to tell their sexual partners, rather than because they posed a real and quantifiable threat to the other person.

That law is gone. In its place are four new criminal laws, three of which explicitly require a prosecutor to prove a person intended to cause harm to another person via their sexual activity. Courts had rejected medical defenses that a person who was HIV-positive and virally suppressed because they failed to tell their sexual partners, rather than because they posed a real and quantifiable threat to the other person.

Collectively, the number of people living with HIV in Michigan is 16,218 — this number differs from diagnosed persons because a person could move to Michigan after a diagnosis in another state.

Of those in the state who are diagnosed, 82 percent are in care, and of those in care, 89 percent have attained viral suppression. Though there is no cure for HIV, viral suppression means a person has an undetectable viral load. That means the virus’s capacity to cause harm to the infected person is restricted. This also serves as a prevention method, because in this state the virus cannot be transmitted.

The vast majority of people living with HIV are in Metro Detroit. In total, that’s 10,384 persons living in an area that includes Lapeer, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties. Wayne County and the city of Detroit represent 6,895 of those cases. Eighty-one percent of those living with HIV are in medical care in the Metro Detroit area, while 87 percent of those in care in the region are virally suppressed.

The numbers also show that rural counties in Michigan continue to struggle to help people living with HIV get access to HIV medical care. Berrien County has a 71 percent rate of people in care, up from 58 percent in 2016; Monroe County has 70 percent of people in care, down from 76 percent in 2016; Sanilac county has 59 percent of people in care, down from 71 percent in 2016; and Mecosta county has 64 percent of people in care, up from 50 percent in 2016. All of these statistics are dramatically lower than the state average of in-care percentages, which is over 80 percent.

Both sets of numbers point to dramatic social and racial barriers to accessing care in Michigan and raise serious concerns about the ability of the state to meet the federal and state goals of getting 90 percent of people living with HIV diagnosed, 90 percent of those diagnosed in medical care and 90 percent of those in care virally suppressed.

So here’s the good news in the numbers: There was a 1 percent increase in the number of people in care from 2016. However, there was no change in the percent of people in care with an undetectable viral load.

See HIV in Michigan, continued on p. 16
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the old law could still face prosecution and 15 years in prison if allegations are brought. In September, Kent County presented a clear case of this. Keisha, an HIV-positive transgender woman of color, was arrested on criminal charges for failing to disclose related to an incident that happened four years ago. Prosecutors said they were determined to pursue the charges, despite the change in the law and Keisha having had an undetectable viral load. The charges were dismissed when the other person involved didn’t show up for a preliminary hearing.

Unfortunately, even with the progress of the new laws, they contain a catchall misdemeanor with which people can be charged if they engage in sexual activity with “reckless disregard.” That phrase is not defined, which leaves a loophole that could still be exploited negatively and resulting not only in more HIV-related cases in the criminal justice system but the outing of people’s HIV status.
The Good

With Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in office, the state systems are beginning to shift. Just two weeks ago, Whitmer, state health officials and advocates held a press conference to announce new initiatives to address Michigan’s ongoing opioid crisis.

The new plans include more access to treatment, a public relations campaign to reduce stigma for those seeking care for opioid addiction and increased syringe access programming in the state.

That last one, syringe access, specifically follows calls Whitmer made two years ago to address the potential for a massive HIV outbreak in northern Michigan related to contaminated syringes. At the time, Whitmer was in a heated primary campaign for Governor, and she “demanded [Snyder] free up state dollars to address a potential HIV outbreak among people who use drugs in 11 mostly rural northern Michigan counties,” Between the Lines reported exclusively in November of 2017.

Those remarks were made after state officials revealed that 11 counties in Northern lower Michigan were in the top five percent of counties in the U.S. at risk for an intravenous drug use outbreak of the virus.
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Positive Thoughts: Trans Power
Organizer of First National Trans Visibility March on DC Urges Action by HIV Advocates

BY ORIOL R. GUTIERREZ JR.

Marissa Miller was the lead organizer of the first National Trans Visibility March on Washington, D.C., which took place Saturday, Sept. 28, in the nation’s capital. Thousands attended the march down Pennsylvania Avenue, which was preceded by a rally at Freedom Plaza.

Miller is currently the CEO of TransSolutions Consulting, a global resource center that advocates for safety and universal health access for transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary people across the country. For more than a decade, she has worked in public health with a focus on HIV.

As a black transgender woman living with HIV, Miller has both personal and professional experience with the virus. She has worked with such groups as Howard Brown Health, AIDS United, Positively Trans and the Transgender Law Center.

Most recently, Miller was a program coordinator in the leadership division of the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC). She stepped away from that role just before the 2019 March on DC to focus on planning the 2020 march.

How did the idea for the trans march originate?
In 2018, the Positive Women’s Network—USA had its third National Leadership Summit in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. There was tension between some cisgender women and some trans women. It got rowdy, and it kind of scared me because I’d never been in a setting where people were fighting for the same cause were so able to let words separate us.

As a result, Lynn Morrison, a trans advocate from Atlanta, suggested during the summit that we needed a trans march. About six months after that, Dejanay Stanton, a trans woman from Chicago, was killed. She died three days before she was supposed to start a class that me and my business partner, Tatyna Moaton, who has a consulting business in Chicago, were conducting. We were going to mentor 10 Black trans women from the sex industry.

Out of emotion — very disappointed at the system and at myself for not getting to Dejanay a little bit sooner — I posted on Facebook that we should have a trans march in 2019. The idea caught fire with tons of likes and shares.

Why was 2019 the time for the march?
The Trump administration has made it abundantly clear that trans, gender non-conforming and non-binary people are not included in their narrative of who we are as a country.

They’ve made it difficult for trans people to access medical care. They’ve begun making it possible for folks to tell us that we can’t have jobs or access businesses and other services because we’re not really protected under the law. We wanted to let them know that we have a right to exist. They are trying to erase us, so increasing the visibility of trans people right now was important. If they were not going to count us in the U.S. census, then at least they were going to count us in the streets.

Tell us about the rally and the march.
We originally wanted the march to take place on National Trans Visibility Day, which is March 31. As a result of underestimating the costs — as well as having the original date coincide with April Fool’s Day — we delayed. In the end, postponing the march helped us raise additional funds and bring in support to make it the best event that we could.

People from across the country attended both the rally and the march. Our opening reception was hosted the night before in D.C. by the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, where we honored 16 advocates at our Torch Awards. One of the people we honored was actress and activist Angelica Ross (from “Pose” on FX) for the work that she’s done as founder and CEO of TransTech Social Enterprises over the past decade, including sponsoring our virtual march. She wanted the trans march to reach everybody, so the virtual march made that possible.

The day before the march, we held workshops for march participants at our official hotel. Subjects ranged from financial equity and social media to health and wellness. They were designed to support participants in their advocacy. The rally motivated the participants to get energized for taking our call to action to the streets. In addition to several musical performances, Angelica Ross and Lynn Morrison were among the many amazing speakers.

The march itself saw thousands of participants walk down Pennsylvania Avenue, right past the Trump Hotel, all the way up to the Capitol Building.

Both at the rally and at the end of the march, you urged participants to get involved with the 2020 march. Why?
The 2019 march was a great start for our trans advocacy, but since 2020 is a crucial election year, the next march will be even more important. Our community partners — such as Rock the Vote, Human Rights Campaign and GLAAD — as well as our trans march ambassadors nationwide will be spreading the word about the importance of voting in 2020. Get out the vote efforts will be happening from now through 2020, up to and including election day. The details of the next march haven’t been finalized, but we are confident it will take place in September 2020.

In addition to the next march, please tell us about your other efforts.
I left NMAC to focus on the next march, but I am working on more projects. There is just so much work to do when it comes to trans advocacy in general. One of those projects is working as a consultant to TransTech Social Enterprises. I’ll be assisting Angelica Ross to build their conference.

I’m also working with TransTech to develop a safety device. For transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary people, the issue of safety is a primary concern. We’re going to pilot the device in 10 major U.S. cities. We talk about HIV prevention and adherence to treatment for the virus. We know that equity and opportunity are part of the formula for ending the HIV epidemic by 2030. However, if we’re not safe, or don’t feel safe, all the other discussions become secondary.

The device is not an app on a smart phone. It is a separate device that can be carried or worn discreetly. When activated, which will be as simple as pressing a button, someone the device owner preprogrammed into it will be notified that their friend needs assistance. One of the things that we realized from having conversations about the device is that we didn’t want it to police the people who were using it. So that is why we envision it as a buddy plan. All the hate crimes and murders affecting not only the trans community but also the LGBT community at large have made prioritizing safety a must.

You tested HIV-positive in 1990. As a long-term survivor, please share your insights on living with the virus.
After I tested positive in the prison system, I just laid in my cell. At that time, I didn’t have a whole lot of information about HIV, and I certainly didn’t think that I would be celebrating my 50th birthday in 2020. I thought that I would be dead before I was 30. Some of the cis-masculine individuals that I had in my life back then were always connected to HIV. They pushed me to be better. They pushed me to embrace living with HIV and to not let the virus tear me up. Their encouragement led to my being put in positions of decision-making at the table. In turn, that allowed me to have broader conversations about transgender people and HIV. From my perspective, leadership was never about others following me. Leadership was always about me taking people on a journey with me. My advice to folks living with HIV is to keep living. Stay at the table—and if there is no table, create a table.

Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr. is the editor-in-chief of POZ magazine. Find him on Twitter @oriolgutierrez. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, The Body and Q Syndicate, the LGBT Wire service. Visit their websites — hivplusmag.com, positivelyaware.com, poz.com and thebody.com—for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.
Michigan Author’s ‘Blood Criminals’ Book Talks Modern Toll of HIV

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

When HIV hit America in the ‘80s it decimated LGBTQ communities and forever changed the course of national sex education. But what happened to the people who survived the epidemic? And what happens to people who are diagnosed today? In his new book, “Blood Criminals: Living with HIV in 21st Century America” ($13 from Weasel Press), author, activist and Between The Lines contributing writer Jonathan Thurston tracks the lives of six people in America as they deal with all the cultural problems associated with HIV/AIDS. Their stories include incomplete sex education; diagnosis without links to care; abuse from criminal and legal systems; dehumanization and suicide “requests” from people online.

“Blood Criminals” is not my story though,” Thurston said. “It’s the culmination of over 100 interviews with doctors, pharmacists, lawyers, law enforcement officers, medical scientists, case managers, people living with HIV and people who’ve lost others to HIV. In this book, I track six people as they go from early sex education to their diagnosis, treatment, stigma and dating life. While I use these six major narratives as points of departure, I move on to show the structural issues each of these people are engaging with rather than lingering on these six lives.”

Thurston, who is open about being HIV-positive since 2016, studies English at Michigan State University.

“As my HIV helped to inspire the creation of this journalistic expose, I am very excited to see this book being released for World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 this year,” Thurston said. “A major part of my reason for writing and researching this book comes from a lack of serious journalistic work in 21st century on HIV. Everyone knows Randy Shilts’ book ‘And the Band Played On’ tracking the issues related to HIV in the ‘80s. But no one has shown the cultural issues of HIV in the 2010s. No one has discussed in book form the exorbitant costs of the medications, the daily requests from others to kill yourself because of your disease or the prisons that will beat you into submission because they know you are subhuman. Not until now. “In these pages, I show nurses in biohazard suits, people locked away for not disclosing their status — even if they did — and the loss of those the medical system failed,” Thurston continued. “When you have HIV, you lose personhood. When you have HIV, you are labeled a biohazard.”

While this is Thurston’s first book on HIV, it is not his first foray into writing or activism. Earlier this year he released a TED Talk called Being Positive. And, in addition to his work for BTL, Thurston was an editor for Lansing’s City Pulse. He has also given numerous talks about HIV at Vanderbilt University’s Out in Front conference.

To find out more about the book or purchase a copy visit gaybe.am/St.
Thriving Beyond the Red Ribbon

Sunday, Dec. 1, marks the annual World AIDS Day, an internationally recognized day that is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS crisis that was caused by the spread of HIV. It’s also a day designed to remember those whose lives were lost due to the disease. On Monday, Dec. 2, Detroit’s World AIDS Day Community Committee presents Thriving Beyond the Red Ribbon at The Eastern.

“World AIDS Day, the first-ever global health day designated on Dec. 1 every year since 1988, is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness,” write event organizers. “World AIDS Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV.”

This year’s event sponsors include Gilead, Community Health Awareness Group, Crown Specialty Pharmacy, Corktown Health Center and more. This free event includes breakfast, lunch, raffles and more, along with information about combatting HIV and AIDS in the community.

The Eastern is located at 3434 Russell St., Suite No. 501, Detroit. To preregister visit eventbrite.com.

Events
Continued from p. 17

Dec. 4
World AIDS Day Reception
5 to 9 p.m.
Join the board of directors and staff at Unified-HIV Health and Beyond to settle into their new location.
3968 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit
gaybe.am/BZ

Dec. 5
World AIDS Day - Film Screening and Panel
6 to 8 p.m.
Join Spectrum Center’s programming board, Unified and SNPhA to recognize World AIDS Day with a screening of “A Day With(out) Art.”

Dec. 7
Red Ribbon Brunch
11 a.m.
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Thirteen minutes with Jamie Lee Curtis was not quite enough time to find out why, even though it was “very important to me” to investigate the sexuality of one of her characters, she’s never considered the sexuality of her most enduring, Laurie Strode. I’m still curious. I still want to know. Jamie, if you’re out there, if you’re reading this, call me.

The day we spoke, Curtis, in signature no-nonsense mode, was fully immersed in a whirl of action at the media junket for her new whodunit film “Knives Out,” which left precious time for contemplative states, Laurie Strode gay talk and cheeseburgers.

Eventually, however, I’ve got Jamie Lee Curtis thinking about that time she decided to make a character gay and no one ever really knew. Minutes into our twisty chat, Curtis, best known for roles in “A Fish Called Wanda,” “Trading Places” and some movie called “Halloween,” is reflecting on a role she seems very proud of: her portrayal of the school principal in a film she says “no one saw” called “Spare Parts.” Based on a true story, the 2015 film centers on a group of Latino students who win first place over the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the 2004 MATE ROV robotics competition. Those who didn’t see it, and perhaps even those who did, missed what Curtis calls a “subtle reference” to her character’s late wife, who she says is pictured in a photograph in her character’s office. “I very specifically wanted the backstory – that you will never know – that she moved to that place because of her wife and her wife died,” Curtis says.

Knowing that the actress used her ally powers to queer one of her characters, I’m curious if Curtis delved similarly into Laurie Strode, who is stalked by madman Michael Myers in...
“Halloween,” both the original and its recent 2018 sequel — asking you to forget all “Halloween” sequels in between. Released in 1978, the horror film jump-started her career; exploring the effects of lingering trauma in the latest installment lured Curtis back to fictional Haddonfield, Illinois, where the story takes place (Curtis will return for two more entries in the undying saga, “Halloween Kills,” due in 2020, and “Halloween Ends,” set for 2021).

I point out that one Tumblr page I discovered recently is called “Laurie Strode is gay!!!” (The site even features Pride Laurie Strode icons, with a cartoon Laurie in front of a rainbow backdrop.) Curtis tells me she hasn’t considered Laurie’s sexual identity at all. “No, no,” she says, firmly. Quickly moving on, she leads the conversation into a discussion about the sexuality of public figures, including her own. “I don’t think it’s anybody’s business what people’s sexuality is, to be perfectly honest,” she says. “I find it like a reverse discrimination.”

Going beyond the scope of the question, she explains that, “People’s private lives are their private lives and whether I’ve ever kissed a girl – have not – is irrelevant to whatever advocacy I participate in.” Curtis thinks it’s “sort of destructive cocktail party fodder what people’s sexuality is,” but that ultimately it’s “nobody’s business, it doesn’t matter” — unless, she insists, “you legislate anti-gay legislation but are gay. I fully accept outing those people for the hypocrisy.”

Though not gay herself, Curtis has been a longtime LGBTQ ally since the AIDS epidemic hit close to home, claiming the lives of her good gay friend Rick Frank, whom she starred with in the early ’90s ABC sitcom “Anything But Love,” and his husband George Lowe, who both succumbed to complications from the virus and, she says, died one year apart.

You don’t have to have your own experience in order to feel compassion and the need for justice and equality. In the LGBTQ world, certainly I have friends and family, but I don’t have to have the direct experience in order to feel the compassion that I truly feel for acceptance and equality in all areas.

“Rick became, honestly, one of my best friends,” she says, warmly. “That experience with both Rick and George was a galvanizing moment for me, and I have tried to honor him more than anything with trying to keep that focus.”

Though her compassion for the LGBTQ community stems from Rick and George, Curtis’s ties to it go back even further, thanks to the passel of gay friends and colleagues surrounding her legendary mother, “Psycho” actress Janet Leigh (Curtis’s also-legendary father, Tony Curtis, star of early-drag romp “Some Like It Hot” and featured in “The Celluloid Closet,” was also noted for having close friendships with gay men).

“Her make-up artist was gay, the playwright that she did a play with was a great friend of our family who was gay,” she says. “I did not know any gay kids growing up, but I was propositioned in school once by a girl. I was at boarding school and I remember I rejected her advance and, you know, that didn’t go well. She made a point of making that an issue for me at school a little bit.”

But even as a straight woman, who has been married to “Best in Show” filmmaker Christopher Guest since 1984, “You don’t have to have your own experience in order to feel compassion and the need for justice and equality. In the LGBTQ world, certainly I have friends and family, but I don’t have to have the direct experience in order to feel the compassion that I truly feel for acceptance and equality in all areas.”

She has acted accordingly, participating in a variety of LGBTQ causes and projects. In 2012, alongside Brad Pitt and Martin Sheen, Curtis portrayed Sandy Stier, one of two women who went to the Supreme Court to defeat Prop 8.
in Dustin Lance Black’s play “8.” Four years later, in 2016, Curtis was one of many stars who shared stories of the people killed in the Orlando Pulse nightclub shooting for a Human Rights Campaign-produced video. And earlier this year, Curtis appeared in another video for the HRC’s launch of the Americans for the Equality Act public awareness and advertising campaign.

Her LGBTQ advocacy will soon translate to screen, as Curtis has purchased the rights to author Sara Cunningham’s self-published memoir “How We Sleep at Night.” The book tells the journey of Cunningham, a Christian mother, as she learns to accept her gay son. Cunningham is now the executive director of “Free Mom Hugs,” a non-profit offering LGBTQ outreach and support to LGBTQ youth, an organization she founded. As for the movie: “We’re in the final script,” Curtis told me, otherwise tight-lipped, “and then hopefully we will be making it next year.”

On TV, she’s also defended the LGBTQ population with her bare fist. Her role as Dean Cathy Munsch in Ryan Murphy’s “Scream Queens” featured the actress in a politically charged moment, her character beating up an attacker dressed in a Justice Antonin Scalia mask. While Curtis throws a steady stream of punches at his face, she gives him a piece of her mind, insisting with fiery conviction that, “The homosexual lifestyle is not destructive to the fabric of American society!”

Gay icons of the world, Mama Jamie has her eyes on you.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBTQ wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Cher, Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. His work has also appeared in The New York Times, Vanity Fair, GQ and Billboard.
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We’re making the holidays merry and bright! Reindeer visits, movie screenings, live concerts & much more!
Hear Me Out: 6 Best Songs By Women in 2019

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

‘Bring My Flowers Now,’ Tanya Tucker

Country music legend Tanya Tucker’s elegiac coda from her first album in 10 years, “Bring My Flowers Now” off “While I’m Livin,” is a frank reflection of leaving this life, its imagery handled with a gentle hand in the song’s music video. The video features Tucker riding atop a horse, two young girls flanking her and releasing flowers petals to the streets. They stop at one point, wave goodbye. On her journey, Tucker passes a smiling preacher and a man saying goodbye. On her journey, Tucker rides a horse, two young girls flanking her and releasing flower petals to the streets. They stop at one point, wave goodbye. On her journey, Tucker rides a horse, two young girls flanking her and releasing flower petals to the streets. They stop at one point, wave goodbye. On her journey, Tucker rides a horse, two young girls flanking her and releasing flower petals to the streets. They stop at one point, wave goodbye. On her journey, Tucker rides a horse, two young girls flanking her and releasing flower petals to the streets. They stop at one point, wave goodbye. On her journey, Tucker rides a horse, two young girls flanking her and releasing flower petals to the streets. They stop at one point, wave goodbye.

Then Tucker is on her way. The video is one of the year’s best, its simplicity the perfect match for the small, heartbreakingly specific details in Tucker and Carlile’s plaintive lyrics about Tucker’s life and its message of living for those you love now. "Don’t spend time, tears, or money on my ol’ breathless body. If your heart is in them flowers, bring ‘em on," she achingly sings. The years on Tucker’s voice are as life-affirming as the song itself. And these – plus its recent Grammy nomination for Song of the Year – are her flowers. Lovingly, Carlile has brought them to her.

‘Track Record,’ Miranda Lambert

Even Miranda Lambert knows she’s been a little busy with the boys. She mocks her floozy image with dry wit on “Track Record” from her new album “Wildcard,” owning it and treating it as a shoulder-shrugging fact of her life rather than a rueful self-analysis. I’m obsessed with what might be the Pun of the Year, as Lambert pokes fun at her ways with men, noting that her past is “as checkered as the floor at the diner on Main Street.” She even makes time for a casual dig, namelessly calling out past exes, the “user” and the “loser.” Sonically, there are traces of The War on Drugs in “Track Record,” matching the indie rock band’s signature sound with its hypnotic ‘70s-rock-style torrent of glistening guitars and chugging drums. When Lambert sings, "Girls like me don't mean it but we don't know better, I got a track record," you really do have to wonder: Is this the Grindr anthem we’ve all been waiting for?

‘Love You For Free,’ Cynthia Erivo

If church every day was Cynthia Erivo singing “Love You For Free,” my hands would be folded and I’d be at that pew right now. The Broadway star’s sparse, inviting almost prayer voice are as life-affirming as the song itself. And these – plus its recent Grammy nomination for Song of the Year – are her flowers. Lovingly, Carlile has brought them to her.

‘Cornelia Street,’ Taylor Swift

The lyrical cornerstone of Taylor Swift’s “Lover” album, “Cornelia Street” shares some DNA with tender story-song “All Too Well,” off her 2012 “Red” release. Both summon images with the striking vividness of a photograph. The latter happens to be one of Swift’s best written songs – and now so is “Cornelia Street.” The sole writer of the song, Swift is confronting the fear of potential romantic loss, setting the scene over gentle, rolling synths like a movie whose image shifts aspect ratios. She’s riding in the backseat with her man, Londoner Joe Alwyn, drunk in love, maybe, but definitely drunk on “something stronger than the drinks in the bar” She’s afraid of losing him. This is serious. The song rolls on like the car she’s singing about, accelerating at the chorus, a flood of sound pouring in; there are car-door and wiper-blade sound effects tucked into Jack Antonoff’s production, which also includes a heartfelt piano break. “Cornelia Street” is like going back to a good book. You discover something new and wonderful every time.

‘Bible and a .44,’ Trisha Yearwood

Trisha Yearwood turns words on a page into country-music magic, but the singer is at her best when those words tell a story as rich as the one CMA Best New Artist Ashley McBryde wrote for “Bible and a .44.” Yearwood’s finest moment on her latest album, “Every Girl,” is this weepy, which illustrates the lessons a father has passed down to his child. Made personal by the death of Yearwood’s own dad in 2005, the singer fondly remembers what he looked like (“hair as white as a cottonfield”) and what he taught her (to be perceptive, to love the Lord, to “take what you’ve got and do the best you can”). The guitar softening to a whisper, she reflects on seeing him strumming “this thing,” which “he left it to me like he said he would.” Before the final chorus, Yearwood reminds us, her warm, no-frills vocals accompanied by Patty Loveless’s soulful harmonies and ad-libs, of how certain things become our most prized possessions: “And if you ask me why it sounds so good, it’s ‘cause I’m holdin’ onto more than strings and wood.”

‘Higher Love,’ Whitney Houston and Kygo

When Whitney Houston’s unreleased cover of Steve Winwood’s 1986 hit “Higher Love” was released during June Pride Month, I made my gay friends listen to it any way I could. Of note was the time this past summer when I flung open my car doors and cranked this one up, the song’s divinity thumping in a public parking lot. Not only did my closest friends hear, but so did many lucky passersby. I was doing them a favor that day because Whitney’s never-before-released-in-America cover, originally recorded during her “I’m Your Baby Tonight” sessions and reimagined as a club banger thanks to Norwegian DJ Kygo, is gay dance heaven. She sounds incredible, and Kygo enlivens the song at every turn, taking it beyond its very ‘80s origins and into timeless soul-revival territory. This is exactly the Whitney I want to remember.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Cher, Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. Reach him at chris@pridesource.com.
‘Golden Girls Christmas’ a Fun Holiday Hit

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Unauthorized drag parodies of “The Golden Girls” have become something of a boom market in recent years. Right now, various versions are in production in major cities across the country and even Off-Broadway. Metro Detroit’s own version, “A Very Drag Golden Girls Christmas,” is at The Ringwald in Ferndale through Dec. 16.

I was first introduced to the “Golden Girls” drag parody phenomenon this summer on a visit to Chicago. There I saw “The Golden Girls: The Lost Episodes” in the Mary’s Attic theater above Hamburger Mary’s. That production featured two completely new episodes of the show written by David Cerda – who starred in the production as Dorothy – and based on the original characters and premise.

In the Ringwald production, Dyan Bailey and Christopher Kamm have taken favorite lines from easily 100 episodes and reworked them into a script with the overarching themes from three episodes – the only two Christmas episodes in the seven seasons of “The Golden Girls” and the one where Sophia marries her old friend Max. The show even features ensemble appearances by some of the show’s favorite guest characters including Stanley Zbornak, Aunt Angela, Uncle Angelo, Max, Coco the chef, flamboyant wedding planning Mark, author Barbara Thorndyke and nagging neighbor Carol Weston.

If it all sounds a little convoluted perhaps that’s because at times it is, but if you’re a real “Golden Girls” lover you’ll be delighted by the familiarity of your favorite episodes reworked into a big bowl of “Golden Girls” soup. Laughter rang out frequently throughout the small Ringwald, and the audience I saw the show with on Sunday evening was enthusiastic in their praise.

The cast — Andy Fillmore as Dorothy, Christopher Kamm as Sophia, Richard Payton as Blanche and Brandy Joe Plambeck as Rose — is all strong. But I’d be remiss if I didn’t single out Payton. Payton had Blanche’s sizzling sensuality and Southern drawl down perfectly and was just a little more animated than the others. However, every cast member was very true to character, and the guest appearances were rib ticklers.

I should probably, for the sake of transparency, let you know that “The Golden Girls” is my favorite sitcom of all time. If it’s yours, too, you’ll want to check this fun production out. It’s clever, witty and even just a little bit naughty. And it’s a fun way to revisit the beloved show and be taken back to a seemingly simpler time in television and life.

For more information on “A Very Golden Girls Christmas” or to purchase tickets, visit theringwald.com.

REVIEW

A Very Golden Girls Christmas
The Ringwald
Now through Dec. 16 (Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays at 8 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m.)
Editor’s Pick

XAVIER OMAR ST. ANDREW’S HALL ON DEC. 11

Formerly known as SPZRKT (pronounced Spazzy Rocket), Xavier Omar’s soulful blend of R&B and hip-hop beats got the attention of producer Sango and the Soulection collective two years ago and brought him into the public eye. Now, catch him at The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-545-5545. ther ingwald.com.

Sunday, December 1

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. Free. For parent support group information contact facilitator Kim Tolley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. standwithtrans.org.

Big Band Holidays – Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis 4 p.m. The holiday season at UMS kicks off extra 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.

Catholic Weekly Liturgy for LGBTQI Community 6 p.m. Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at The School at Marygrove. 8425 W. McNichols, Detroit. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org. dignitydetroit.org. dignitydetroit74@yahoo.com.

Monday, December 2

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. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Tuesday, December 3

The School at Marygrove, 8425 W. McNichols, Detroit. dignitydetroit74@yahoo.com. dignitydetroit.org.

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the community. For trans youth support group information, contact facilitator Socorro Sevilla, MSW: socorro@hilltopcounseling.org. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org. hilltopcounseling.org.

Wednesday, December 4

LGBT Chat is an on going social discussion group for LGBT people who want to meet and much more. Hazel Park Community Center, 620 West Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

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, billiard room, 250-foot video wall. Thunderbowl Arena, 4200 Allen Road, Allen Park. 313-928-4688. thunderbowl.org.

Friday, December 6

Michigan Tobacco-free Coalition for People Living with HIV (MITCH+) 10 a.m. A new community-led organization comprising community stakeholders, including People Living With HIV (PLWH) and people who use tobacco products. Forest Community Health Center, 2316 S Cedar, Lansing. 517-887-4557. cwheeler@ingham.org. ingham.org.

Monday, December 9

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County 6:30 p.m. Macomb Teen/Youth Support Group. All youth are welcome to attend this free group. Come and meet other trans* youth and teens and support each other through your journeys. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700. chippeawaileyschools.org.

Tuesday, December 10

Foster Care and Adoption Orientation 6 p.m. Join us for an informational orientation to learn how you can become
Editor’s Pick

TIFFANY AT ULTIMATE ‘80S PARTY AT ST. ANDREW’S HALL

On Friday, Dec. 13, fans of all things ‘80s should gear up to celebrate the highlights of that era with pop icon Tiffany. Doors open at 8 p.m. for this all-ages show. Find out more online at saintandrewsdetroit.com.
S pending time with family stuffing your face is grand – until it isn’t. Ditch the drama this holiday season and eat out for a happier holiday.

1. It’s hard to overeat

I’ve never been one to pile my plate high with turkey and sides. I’m one of _those_ who can’t have his food touch lest you want me to gag while you’re happily masticating. But I have housed an entire sweet potato pie in one sitting because it was first time tasting it – and Oh. My. God. That’s not my norm though. Considering my aversion to neighboring foodstuffs co-mingling, I can fit about three items on my plate, maybe have a second helping of turkey, and call it an afternoon.

It’s hard to overeat at a holiday meal at a nice restaurant, too. Usually there’s a preset menu that includes the holiday staples, and when it’s gone it’s gone. Of course, all bets are off if you’re setting up shop at a holiday buffet. I’ve done that a couple times and required a handcart to carry me out.

2. It’s something different

If you always spend your holiday dinner at the same house, switch it up this year. Changing a routine every now and again is refreshing, and dining out for Thanksgiving or Christmas is an easy way to do it. Plenty of chain and local restaurants are open for dinner on those days, either with special seasonal menus or their regular fare.

3. It’s far less expensive – if you’re the one who usually cooks

I haven’t spent less than $200 on a Thanksgiving meal that I’ve prepared for family and friends in the past. Mains, sides and their respective (and exhaustive) list of ingredients, plus drinks (soft and hard), ice and desserts will set you back. Guests usually will bring dishes of their own, but you can never count on that, so it’s best to be prepared. There are a fair amount of leftovers, but that’s just a parting gift I like to offer. Good to have new plastic containers around that guests can take home and never return because you know they’re not going to anyway.

4. Everybody acts like normal people in public – hopefully

Racists grandpas, criticizing moms, creepy uncles and badass cousins can turn docile family dinners into a WWE smack down, but people tend to mind their behavior when seated at a restaurant. Your uppity sister and brother-in-law will probably let their kids run wild, but that’s nothing a sweeping foot can’t solve.

5. There’s no cleanup

Washing a kitchen full of dirty dishes after a holiday meal is a chore, even when you have help. Skip that step and tip the restaurant bussers instead. They deserve a kickback the same as your server, and your kitchen gets to stay fully intact.

6. Everybody departs after dinner – and you’re free at last

Guests linger after a family dinner, but even if you get along with them it can be an annoyance when all you want to do is open your parts, have a fart and nap on the couch. That dream can come true for your this year. Pay the restaurant bill, say your goodbyes and go your separate ways until the next family reunion or funeral.

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 spends his time writing from the beach with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels.
Friendsgiving at Lansing’s Salus Center

BY BTL STAFF

The Salus Center is an LGBTQ community center based in Lansing that focuses on centering queer voices and providing a safe space for them as well. On Sunday, Dec. 1, the center will be holding its own Friendsgiving celebration in honor of “community, friendship and gratitude.” Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share.

“Please bring a complete ingredient list for dishes you bring to pass, including spices used. This will help folks with dietary restrictions make informed choices! Current known dietary restrictions to be aware of: peppercorn allergy, vegan, gluten allergy, peanuts,” organizers wrote. “This space is wheelchair accessible, has an all-gender restroom on site, and children are welcome.”

The day’s schedule starts at 3 p.m.:
3 - 3:30 p.m. Appetizers, Games, & Mingling’s
3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Sharing a Meal and Creating our Ancestor Wall
5:30 - 6 p.m. Clearing Up and Closing
6 - 7 p.m. Facilitated Group Discussion

Visit the Salus Center’s Facebook page to sign up to bring food and pre-register. The Salus Center is located at 408 S. Washington Square in Lansing.

Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist Signs First Bill as Acting Governor, Makes Michigan History

BY BTL STAFF

LAN Sing - Lt. Gov. Gilchrist, in his role as acting governor, signed House Bill 4044, which passed with strong bipartisan support. With the bill signing, Lt. Governor Gilchrist becomes the first black lieutenant governor to sign a bill into law in our state’s history.

“As the first black lieutenant governor to sign a bill into law, today’s historic action symbolizes the opportunity that exists when we create a space for more participation from a more diverse set of voices and experiences,” Gilchrist said. “Gov. Whitmer and I built the most diverse administration in our state’s history because we believe that our practices, policies and proposals should reflect and enable Michiganders from all backgrounds to be successful.”

The signed legislation will reverse the lifelong ban on felons who submit applications for insurance producer licenses by allowing the Department of Insurance and Financial Services to issue those licenses to individuals who have not been convicted of a felony in the last 10 years.

While many applicants with prior felonies will be granted an insurance producer license, the new law will still provide exemptions for people with violence-, fiduciary- or financially related crimes.

Under current law, the State of Michigan does not grant insurance licenses to individuals with felony convictions. As a result, the State denied 61 applications due to prior felony convictions in 2018.

Lt. Governor Gilchrist is serving as the acting governor due to Gov. Whitmer’s overseas business trip to Israel to strengthen relationships and build business ties with startups and mobility companies. House Bill 4044, sponsored by State Rep. Michele Hoitenga, will take immediate effect.
Find over 300 Non-Profit Listings Serving Michigan’s LGBTQ Online @ pridesource.com

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

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

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

Matrix MAC Health
429 Livernois St.
Ferndale, MI 48220
888-226-6366
248-545-1435
http://www.matrixhuman.services.org/programs/matrix-mac-health/

Macomb County STD Clinic
27690 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093
586-465-8440
http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDCHIV/AIDS/CounselingTesting

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA)
196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.
Pontiac, MI 48343
248-209-2647
www.olhsa.org

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service (ACCESS)
Sterling Heights Center
4301 East 14 Mile Rd.
Sterling Hts., MI 48310
586-722-6036
www.accesscommunity.org

Advocacy
Equality Michigan
19641 W. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI 48232
313-537-7000
equalitymi.org
Facebook.com/equalitymichigan

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

U-M Ann Arbor
Spectrum Center
734-763-4149
http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center
GSC@oakland.edu
www.oakland.edu/gsc
248-370-4336

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

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center
ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp
Wayne State JIGSAW
Facebook.com/groups/ WayneStateJIGSAW
www.suitsandthecity.org

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

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

LGBT Detroit
Detroit
www.lgbtdetroit.org
www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit
1-800-DET-LGBT

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

Fair Michigan
PO Box 6136
Plymouth, MI 48170
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300
fairmichigan.org
Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016

Know Your Rights Project
Outlaws U-M student group
outlawslegal@gmail.com
734-995-9867

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

Political
The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party
Facebook.com/TheLGBT-CaucusoftheMDP
Stonewall for Revolution
www.facebook.com/stonewall4resolution

Professional Groups
Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 32446
Detroit, MI 48232
1-800-DET-LGBT

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

Transgender
FtM Detroit
https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/
ftmdetroit@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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- Hormone Affirming Therapy for HIV positive and negative transgender individuals
- Evening Clinic Hours Monday-Thursday, most Saturdays, and Same Day Appointments
- Full-time Patient Navigator/Advocate Social Worker on site
- Most Insurances accepted
- Ryan White Provider
- Medcart Pharmacy on Premises
- Group Medical Appointments (available soon!)
- Tele-Medical Visits (available soon!)

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:

Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S
Mark Rosen, PA-C
Leon Bullough, NP-C
Keyuna Nance, MSW