Keeping The Art Alive

Gallery Director Remembers Late Owners

I just never believe anyone when they say they're straight.

– Ezra Miller

Fall Home Guide
Gay Couple Fights Deportation
Voter Action Town Hall Talks Nov. Elections
Two green thumbs up.

The 2012 Forester is your wheelbarrow, garden shed, and greenhouse all rolled into one. Built in a zero landfill plant, it comes with Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive standard and has won more awards than any other small SUV. Just a few reasons why it's both gardener- and Mother Nature-approved. Love? It's what makes it Subaru, a Subaru.

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

All Subaru vehicles are built in a zero landfill plant

*Claim based on cumulative awards won since 1997 from Car & Driver's Brightest Bulbs, ARLS Festival of Value Awards, and Polk Polk Automotive Loyalty Awards. Subarus, Forester, Outback, Tribeca, Legacy, Impreza, WRX, STI, and SUBARU BOXER are registered trademarks.

23100 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220
248.547.8850 • www.hodgessubaru.com

HOURS: OPEN SATURDAYS 10-2 AND ENDED HOURS TILL 1 PM MONDAYS & THURSDAYS

scan to save number to phone

10/6-7

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet
Tom Moshbrucker, artistic director

Saturday, October 6, 1 pm
(One-Hour Family Performance)
Saturday, October 6, 8 pm
Sunday, October 7, 2 pm

Power Center

Features Norbert De La Cruz's Square None, Jiri Kylian's Stamping Ground, and Jorma Elo's Over Glow. Opening Night Post-performance Q&A.

Sponsored by MCMullen; Tom and Debby McMullen;
Media Partners: Metro Times and Between the Lines

10/4

Ensemble Basiani from the Republic of Georgia
Thursday, October 4, 7:30 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

UMS is pleased to introduce the highly praised all-male choral/folk music ensemble Basiani from the Republic of Georgia. The extraordinary program performed by Basiani is representative of Georgia's musical heritage and comprises samples from almost every geographical region of the Republic.

Media Partner: WRCJ 90.9 FM

10/10

Jerusalem String Quartet
Wednesday, October 10, 7:30 pm
Rackham Auditorium

Program
Shostakovich: Quartet No. 7 in F-sharp minor, Op. 108
Beethoven: Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 18, No. 6
Shostakovich: Quartet No. 3 in F Major, Op. 73

Supported by Linda and Maurice Binkow Philanthropic Trust; Presented with support from Herbert E. and Doris Sloan Endowment Fund; Media Partners: WGTE 91.3 FM and Detroit Jewish News

Tickets on Sale Now
For more information, visit www.ums.org or call 734.764.2538.

www.PrideSource.com
Between The Lines Progressive Voters’ Guide Website Launches

Last week BTL launched the web edition of a progressive voters’ guide titled MiVoterGuide.com, designed to aggregate endorsements from progressive organizations representing LGBTQ equality, women’s rights, labor, and the environment. BTL encourages readers to find out who’s endorsing whom and to vote Nov. 6! Find out more at MiVoterGuide.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVER STORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 Keeping the art alive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 West Wing cast promotes BTL voter guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Horizons Project’s ‘Who’s That Girl’ campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Nine gay-related cases seek review by U.S. Supreme Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Memories of MCC lead to 40th anniversary dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPINION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Reflecting on ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ repeal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Parting Glances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Creep Of The Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Keeping the art alive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 The not-so Bible Belt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 The Perks of Being Ezra Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 Music makes the people come together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 Hear Me Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 Happenings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REAR VIEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 Puzzle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Classifieds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 Cocktail Chatter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 Horoscopes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voter Action Town Hall Video


Desperate Housewives

The stakes are at an all-time high as each of the women cope with their guilt in the aftermath of last season’s shocking murder and cover-up. Complete your collection with “Desperate Housewives: The Eighth and Final Season”. Enter online at www.Pridesource.com/TicketContest.html.

Stop by Hungry4Equality’s display in Affirmations’ front window Sept. 28 and visit BTL Publisher Susan Horowitz. For more information on Hungry4Equality, go to www.Hungry4Equality.com.
You are not alone. You can survive HIV. Learn about getting free treatment and support at Michigan.gov/SurviveHIV
I won’t starve today. I won’t even really be hungry. But I am starved to have the conversation about perspective and other words like equality, democracy, freedom, civility, society.

- Julie Marcos & Jared Volz

Unfortunately, I’ve been one of those people who has been fired because my boss found out I was gay. It really sucks that even if someone had advocated for me during that time, it wouldn’t have mattered. How sad that the ability to do your job has actually nothing to do with ability. Since when did the fact that I’m gay have anything to do with how well I follow directions?

- David Worth

My daughter Megh has always been my inspiration. She has shown me what strength, tenacity and courage looks like. I went to Megh and Karianne’s wedding and I have never in my life seen such a peaceful and passionate love as I did that day. I am striking today for my daughter and her wife. I will always be here as an ally of the LGBT community. I will stand up for equality, proud and courageous, just like my daughter.

- Kathleen Nickerson

A straight man or woman does not have to worry about being fired due to their sexual orientation. This is inequality - period. I hope people realize this when it comes time for people to vote.

- Mark Green

By now, the hype and excitement surrounding this campaign has died down. This is when it is most important to stand up and stay strong. We need to make sure people see us, relate to us and know who we are.

- Deb Holbrook

Striking for equality started off with me wanting to contribute in a small way and bringing awareness of the importance of making the right choices in this year’s upcoming elections. After my experience of sitting in the Affirmations “fishbowl” this past Saturday and having 24 hours of my day focused on the strike it turned from an awareness initiative to being very personal for me.

- Zip Johnson

There are way more serious things going on in this world that need addressing, yet they still want to target us. The LGBT community deserves the same rights as everyone else.

- April McLeod
Torn Apart, Gay Couple Fights Deportation

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

DETROIT - If Tim Hunter had his way, he would marry Hugo Gallardo Petatan and save him from being deported. “He is very funny, very charming, very good looking, excellent cook. And he’s very sociable. He can strike up a conversation with anyone,” said the Ypsilanti man.

Now he is doing everything he can to save the 24-year-old Mexican citizen from being sent back to a country that doesn’t feel like home.

Petatan was 17 years old when his parents made it safely to North Carolina and sent for him and his older brother. In America, Petatan worked in restaurants to help his family survive, and he reveled in a passion for cooking that he could not have explored in his homeland.

“He is such a great cook, but in Mexico that was considered woman’s work so boys weren’t allowed in the kitchen. It made him get picked on for being a sissy,” Hunter said.

Petatan said that growing up, his classmates would make fun of him and hit him because he did not like girls. There is another memory as well. “Some other neighborhood boys attacked me and burned my penis,” he said. He said he was twelve or thirteen when it happened.

Hunter confirms that there is a scar. “He told me it was from a branding instrument or a hot wire,” he said.

The young man had kept his sexuality hidden in his youth, but whether prompted by the spirit of American freedom or just by nature of growing up, Petatan finally came out to his father.

“It was hard for my father. It was really hurtful. My father believes I would be better off dead than to be a homosexual. I told him I would change, and that I would like girls. But it was wrong. I told him I couldn’t change and that it was a mistake to say that I could change. He is a discrete person and did not like it,” Petatan said. “I left home because it was best for my father, so he would not be so hurt.”

Petatan moved in with friends and began dating men. In June 2011, he met Hunter online.

“Tim is really good to me,” Petatan said. “He takes care of me and is affectionate, and helps me to do right things like not to drink.” In July, Petatan moved in with his newfound partner.

About five weeks later, on October 7, 2011, Petatan left a gay bar in Ann Arbor at closing time, admittedly intoxicated. A man riding by on a bicycle accused him of indecent exposure and inappropriate touching after a police officer questioned if everything was okay. Petatan was arrested and, according to Hunter, had an attorney who did not speak Spanish and did not have much time to dedicate to the case. Hunter also said the accuser showed up only for one pretrial meeting, looked uncomfortable, and failed to come to any of the subsequent court dates. Petatan’s charge was reduced to misdemeanor indecent exposure and he was given time served, and handed over to ICE (Immigrations and Customs Enforcement) to be detained and deported.

And now he waits. The past six months he has been held in a large, dome-covered room in Detroit where up to 160 detainees are stacked in bunks three high and confined to their bunks much of the day.

When interviewed he was only able to speak for half an hour, in a long common room divided by a clear wall with telephones to talk into. He checked over his shoulders regularly, especially when asked about more personal matters.

“If there were other people here who spoke Spanish, I wouldn’t be saying these things,” he said through an interpreter. He also said that there are others being detained who are struggling to hide their sexuality as well.

When Hunter visits he holds back emotions and affection, particularly if others are around. He said it “breaks his heart” not to be able to give him a hug through the glass.

But Hunter isn’t sitting idly by. He fought to get Petatan another lawyer, this one specializing in LGBT deportation cases. The new lawyer had gotten Petatan a stay, meaning that he can remain in detention until a case for asylum can be heard.

Karen Zwick of Hartland Alliance in Chicago is now representing Petatan. She plans to argue that Petatan should be granted political asylum because in Mexico he would face discrimination, hate and violence. “It is a hard case to make because in Mexico there have been some legislative reforms. Mexico City has granted gay marriage. However, it is still the second most violent place in Latin America for gay people. There are stories of men who are brutally castrated and decapitated. So despite some efforts of the Mexican government it still remains very homophobic on the ground.”

She noted that some difficulty exists because the case has already been heard and mistakes had been made due to miscommunication. “Fundamentally, make sure people know immigration hearings are very serious and you need to speak to someone who is familiar with LGBT cases. If you’re pulled over immediately seek help,” she cautioned other gay and transgender individuals who may face deportation.

ICE deportates approximately 300,000 people each year, and their sexual orientation is not tracked.

If sent back to Mexico, Petatan said he will move to a place where there are other gay people and he will try to work in a restaurant. He would like to try and come back to the United States, but if he is deported he must wait a minimum of ten years before applying to return legally. He said he knows that Hunter would not like living in Mexico and that it would be hard for him. Hunter says he’d like to find a way for both of them to move to Canada and get married, although neither has the resources to move.

In hopes of persuading ICE to let Petatan stay in the country, Hunter is holding a rally in front of the ICE building on 335 Mt. Elliot, Detroit on Oct. 3 at noon. A previous rally attracted a dozen people.

AIDS Walk Michigan: Detroit Raises $20k

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT – On a sunny, cool Saturday morning, AIDS Walk Michigan – Detroit walkers strutted along behind the awesome and energetic Cass Tech High School Marching Band. The band, in their snappy green and white uniforms, played a fully choreographed show that got the 300 walkers and spectators jammin’ along. They were sharp, musically solid and a joy to watch.

After all the dancing and marching, AIDS Partnership Michigan Executive Director announced that $20,000 was raised by the event with the Blue Cross Blue Shield team pledging the most at $6,000. The monies raised will be evenly divided between participating agencies APM, Community Health Awareness Group, the Detroit Department of Health & Wellness Promotion, the Horizon Project of Wayne State University and the Ruth Ellis Center.

The Detroit Walk stepped off on a new route this year, following the path of the newly constructed Dequindre Cut Greenway, a 1.3 mile beautifully landscaped city park running off the Detroit River, parallel to Atwater St.

“This walk means a lot to the participants,” said Murray who heads up AIDS Walk Michigan, the organizing entity for seven AIDS walks across the state over the last two weekends in September. “Some of our walkers are clients at APM, so this is highly personal for them,” said Murray.
Upcoming ‘Sex & Justice’ Conference Looks To Shine Light On Criminalization, Regulation

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

When working towards a more civilized society, sex is one of the topics that tends to get left behind most often. The University of Michigan is trying to change that with the Sex and Justice Conference.

From Oct. 4-6, activists and advocates, legal experts and academics will be coming together to discuss issues surrounding sex and law. The event will consist of several speakers, panels and plenary sessions.

Aside from the wise and edified minds, The Sex and Justice Conference will also provide plenty of amenities, which is the real indicator of a successful conference. U of M’s Rackam Building 4th floor Amphitheater offers lots of comfortable seating and there is catered brunch on Saturday.

The Sex and Justice Conference is being funded in cooperation with several U of M departments and programs. It is free and open to the public, but registration is required at their website sexandjustice2012.com.

Confirmed speakers include Bill Dobbs of Occupy Wall Street, Sienna Baskin of the Sex Workers project at the Urban Justice Center and Amber Hollibaugh of Queers for Economic Justice.

Although the topics of sex and justice are as vast as can be imagined, the Sex and Justice conference will focus on three core issues: criminalization of HIV, sex work, and the ongoing use of sex offender registries in the U.S.

According to Trevor Hoppe, Sex and Justice conference organizer, the event will facilitate, “thinking about how sex becomes the site of regulation and punishment, why that is and what we can do resist and change that.”

Notably missing from the list is the battle for LGBT rights, specifically gay marriage. It wasn’t an oversight, but a conscious effort to give a spotlight to incredibly important — yet lesser discussed — issues. It is also indicative of the changes the LGBT movement has gone through since The Stonewall Riots in 1969.

“The LGBT movement stopped being a place where you could talk about sex and the regulation of sex,” Hoppe said. “I think that’s fine. I’m tired of criticizing the LGBT rights movement for that fact. They have a specific set of issues, namely, these days, marriage. It wasn’t an oversight, but it was, incredibly important — yet lesser discussed — issues. It is also indicative of the changes the LGBT movement has made clear to people, is that there is something specific to sex that’s not just about gays and lesbians. … There are a variety of issues that, I think, face similar kinds of issues and they all deal with how the state thinks about, regulates and controls and punishes, ultimately, sex.”

Although some — even those who are aware of the issues — might think that this conference is unnecessary, Hoppe insists that it is vital to America’s health.

“I think it’s pretty clear that you can’t have a healthy society that is unjust,” he said.

“I think it becomes clear that you can’t really achieve the kinds of goals you would be working for if you were interested in promoting sexual health without addressing the issues of justice, without thinking about justice. Justice is this framework that, I think, is a necessary sort of condition for health to really be achieved.”

Awareness seems to be the main goal of this conference. Sienna Baskin, who will be taking part in a panel on using legal tools to pursue justice on issues surrounding sex, is, like Hoppe, hoping that the conference will open people’s eyes to the reality of sex work.

“I’m hoping that people understand a little bit of the realities that face sex workers,” she said. “The conference is about more than just sex workers... but, I think, the struggles for sex workers aren’t widely understood.”

Bill Dobbs, who works for Occupy Wall Street as a part of their media team, simply hopes that people will become, “inspired to go out and organize around sexual freedom and other issues.”

“The LGBT rights movement roots are in desire and fighting for people’s rights to pleasure, sexual pleasure. Some of that has been forgotten with wedding cakes, picket fences.”

- Activist and presenter William Dobbs

Equality & Progress


Michigan’s Progressive Voter Guide

Enter your Zip Code to Access Your Localized Progressive Nov. 6, 2012 Endorsements Today

BTL Between Lines

A PrideSource Project
Voter Action Town Hall Lays Out Issues for LGBT Citizens

By Crystal A. Proxmire

FERNDALE — Will you go down on the ballot? That’s the main concern of the panelists at the Voter Action Town Hall at Affirmations Sept. 19. The event had representatives from several of the Unity Michigan partners sharing information about the ways the LGBT community could be impacted by the coming elections, including the tendency for people to vote a straight party ticket without looking further for the non-partisan races.

The non-partisan races are at the bottom or on the back of most ballots, and they aren’t included by a straight-party vote. The concept was best encapsulated in the recent West Wing promotion about the democratic crisis that occurs when voters ignore those races. See the West Wing video at www.PrideSourceVotes.com.

Go Down on the Ballot

Michigan is one of 16 states in which Supreme Court Justices are elected by the people in non-partisan elections. The Supreme Court, referred to as the “court of last resort,” renders decisions that can have enormous repercussions for the people of Michigan.

For example, The Michigan Supreme Court in 2010 ruled that it is unconstitutional for public employers, like cities, the state itself and state universities, to extend health insurance to the same-sex partners of their employees. The Justices ruled in a contentious, 4 to 3 decision that extending health benefits violated the anti-marriage constitutional amendment of 2004.

“Michigan has one of the broadest prohibitions of relationship recognition in the country. And we’re the only state where that was manufactured through the court system,” said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU Michigan LGBT Project.

“For many years some of the same people have been at the court who have issued decisions that negatively impacted us,” said Kaplan. “They run and they get re-elected for eight-year terms. That’s a long time to be on the court and to make decisions that can affect everyone in terms of rights and civil rights for many many years to come,” he said.

Court cases on domestic partner benefits and second parent adoptions can set legal precedent. Conservative interpretations of the law in individual cases can be hard to reverse once made, so the power of State Supreme Court Justices is heavy.

The Michigan Supreme Court has three openings, and there are ten individuals running for those positions. On the ballot you will only see their name. But voter guides, such as the one at PrideSource.com, let voters know which parties originally nominated the candidates to be Judges. For example, Shelia Johnson, Bridget Mary McCormack, and Connie Marie Kelley were all nominated by Democrats. The three women running on a slate they call “The Supremes,” and are strongly endorsed by Between The Lines among other progressive organizations. See more on the three candidates at http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=55128.

Six Ballot Initiatives

Robert Nothoff of Michigan Voice explained that voters have six different ballot proposals to vote on.

See Town Hall, page 14

West Wing Cast Promotes BTL’s Progressive Voters’ Guide

Seeks To Reduce Voter Drop-Off In Judicial Elections Such As State Supreme Court

Cast members of the award-winning television series, The West Wing, have come together to film a web video encouraging registered voters to cast votes in the non-partisan section of the General Election ballot Nov. 6.

The video’s final panel directs viewers to Between The Lines’ online Progressive Voters’ Guide at www.MiVoterGuide.com, a comprehensive guide that includes the endorsements of up to 20 progressive political groups in Michigan, including LGBT groups, women’s rights organizations, labor groups and environmental protection organizations. Voters can simply enter their zip code and then see endorsements in all the races that will appear on their ballots, including federal, state, local candidate races and ballot initiatives.

If voters vote “straight ticket” for one party, it will NOT include the non-partisan section of the ballot, which includes judicial candidates like Bridget Mary McCormack who is running for an eight-year term on the Michigan Supreme Court. Bridget Mary McCormack is the older sister of West Wing cast member Mary McCormack, who played National Security Advisor Kate Harper on the popular television series and who is among those featured in the video entitled, “Walk-and-Talk the Vote.”

Among the other cast members featured in the web video are Martin Sheen, Alison Janney, Lily Tomlin, Bradley Whitford, Richard Schiff, Janel Maloney, Joshua Malina and Melissa Fitzgerald.

While members of The West Wing have come together to promote other public service messages like the health benefits of walking, it marks the first time so many of the former cast members have come together on a project of this kind.

The web video storyline begins with National Security Advisory Kate Harper, played by Mary McCormack, announcing the nation is facing a crisis because too many people fail to vote the non-partisan section of their ballot. Using the ‘walk and talk’ trademark feature of the original show, the staff goes to the President, played by Martin Sheen, to argue something must be done because state supreme courts rule on issues that affect millions of Americans.

Michigan statistics confirm that voter drop-off regularly occurs in non-partisan Supreme Court voting. Between 2004 and 2010, the drop-off rate in Supreme Court voting ranged from 24.8 percent to 38.8 percent. In 2010, the drop-off rate was 27.1 percent.

Candidates for the State Supreme Court appear in the non-partisan section of the ballot in Michigan and the following states: Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin.
Reflecting On ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ Repeal

OPINION BY BRIAN STONE

This past week is a reminder that President Obama fights for all Americans. On the first anniversary of the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell,” gay servicemembers like me - and all Americans - have plenty to be grateful for.

In January 2010 I was stationed in Japan, serving in the U.S. Navy. I was celebrating my 23rd birthday with my boyfriend at a restaurant in Tokyo. During one of the best meals of my life, the lights in the restaurant went out. A bright spotlight shone down on me. I was suddenly aware that I was in the center of the restaurant. Every eye was staring at me. Everyone in the restaurant - Japanese and Americans - clapped, sang, and cheered as I blew out a cake covered in sparklers. It was one of the happiest, most romantic evenings of my life. It was also the most terrifying: I waited in numb terror for months to be called into a room and told I was being discharged for simply being gay. It meant that the military valued how well we did our job, not whom we dated. It meant that we no longer have to hide who they are in order to continue to serve in the Navy. But unlike President Obama, Mitt Romney would have kept “don’t ask, don’t tell” in place. Would he also follow through and cut the college grants that President Obama expanded? Would he give millionaires and billionaires a tax cut by raising taxes on the middle class? Would auto jobs in Michigan disappear again because Mitt Romney bets against American workers despite being the son of a Michigan auto man? These are all terrifying questions.

Yet not everyone is as proud of the progress we’ve built. Just this week Mitt Romney wrote off half the country when he said he doesn’t care about the “47 percent” in this country. The majority of those Americans he dismissed are working families, including people serving in our military.

On this anniversary, all Americans have plenty to be proud of and reflect on. But we also have so much more to lose, because progress is never certain but easily reversed if we don’t keep moving forward.

Register to vote at gottavote.com. Organize your friends and fellow veterans.
**Letter: Neubeckers Respond To House Fire Help**

Hello BTL Readers,

A letter of thanks from us had been long overdue! The fire in our home last month was a stressful experience for us. We had insurance on our home, we didn’t lose our personal belongings or the business equipment which was lost along with most of our personal possessions.

We were lucky enough to have our photos and some of our memorabilia recovered but we lost our treasured awards from Affirmations, Triangle Foundation, Pride Awards, PFLAG, and HRC. Although these awards meant so much to us, we take pride in knowing that the recognition they symbolize is not lost and continues to make a difference. We will continue to do that work so that our son, Lee, and his spouse David and their children Braiden and Michael will not face discrimination or hatred because of who they are.

Thank you so much all who expressed their sympathy, sent a card, made a donation, Facebooked, texted, emailed or called (it was impossible to keep up with the messages and emails without a computer). Knowing that so many care for us touches our hearts deeply. We would also like to thank Pride Source Group who shared the news of our fire and helped orchestrate this show of support for us and Level One Bank in Ferndale by setting up a no fee deposit account for the Neubecker Fire Fund.

Many have contributed funds to help us through this rough patch and we are grateful. We promise that once we get back in a home and get the business rolling at full speed again we will find a way to give back to the community the generosity we have received.

With eternal gratitude,
Mike and Jan Neubecker

Editor’s Note:
Donations can be sent to The Neubecker Fire Fund, c/o John McQuiggin, Bank Manager, Level One Bank, 22635 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale, MI 48220. Mike also lost his business in the fire, so they have no source of income for a while. Health insurance alone costs over $2,000 per month, in part because of Jan’s cancer and other health challenges. These two are community heroes - let’s all step up and help them in their time of need. They have always been there for us.

--

**Horizons Project’s ‘Who’s That Girl’ Campaign Seeks To Inform About AIDS And Trans Women**

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – About 50 people showed up Sept. 21 for the launch of Who’s That Girl, a media project presented by the Horizons Project and supported by the Michigan Department of Community Health’s Health Disparities Reduction Minority Health Section. The project, which includes images of four young transgender women, is a marketing effort to change media and societal perceptions of the transgender community.

“The purpose of the campaign is to provide understanding about HIV, especially in the trans community,” said Bre’ Campbell, the project’s coordinator. “A lot of times, when AIDS messages are put out they do not include trans women.”

All of the women featured in the campaign are under the age of 25 and active in the community. Campbell said they illustrate that “regardless of what society thinks about trans women, they are smart, they are successful, they are educated and they are loved.”

The Horizons Project launched the campaign at a reception at Wayne State University’s Student Center. About 50 people attended, and after they ate and had an opportunity to view the images, they were witness to a very informative panel discussion featuring the four women who comprise the campaign.

“If you look at the photos, it shows that even though we are in some ways different, we are still human and can still blend in,” said Sahray Arnold. “Even though we’re not all the same, we’re all the same inside and we’re all of value.”

Mia Cole said she believes society at large is misinformed about trans women and only knows what they see on trash TV.

“Everyone thinks transgender women are what you see on Jerry Springer and that’s not it,” she said. “We don’t walk around in clown makeup and say ‘I’m a trans woman.’”

**PC, As In Polished Correctly**

**Parting Glances**

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

The magic two-way mirror that Alice passed through long ago – recounted by Lewis Carroll in his story of wrong-sided wonderment, “Alice Through The Looking Glass” – sold recently on e-Bay. Alice’s mirror went for five times the Mother Teresa cinnamon scone face; seven times the Elvis Presley’s barber clippings; three times more than Queen Victoria’s sized XXL monogrammed cotton bloomers.

High bidders were Big Apple Tradeoffs, a coalition of gay investors who claimed – perhaps more in jest than actual proof – they were descendants of the Red Queen of “Off with their heads!” fame.

They said their crimson ancestor once owned the mirror, amusing herself by pushing through its transparent surface anyone who annoyed her during Wimbledon croquet matches by cheating with steroid pumped, pink lawn flamingos.

(“It’s much more fun than lopping off heads or banishing the flummoxed creatures into exile,” chortled the Red Queen, one Whitsunday some to the stone deaf Archbishop of Canterbury.)

The mansion on the outskirts of Dale-in-the-Dinkleberry, Lohelin, that housed the mirror for decades, among many other quaint and randomly self-rearranging objet d’arts, was razed two years ago (after a rather notorious drag ball featured a red-faced streaking prince).

Fittingly, Alice’s mirror floated across the Atlantic on the QE II, arriving in harbor without fracture, fanfare, or publicity – the someone who name-tagged himself The Mad Hatter kept pestering returning Olympic Swim Team members to join him for aromatic teas and Alice B. Toklas crumpets.

Investors who met the arriving luxury ship at dockside – waving rainbow flags and blowing tin horns – planned to take the mirror for a festive, and, to be sure, money making unveiling at Fire Island.

It occurred out of the blue (as past tense things do with gay men) that no one had given the mirror a trial run. No one had a clue as to what, if anything, might lie in wait on its other side. (How trustworthy was Carroll who liked to photograph little girls naked?)

Unfortunately, not one of the investors wanted to volunteer. They pondered long and hard, deciding to opt out for Happy Hour, leaving the mirror temporarily unattended. And so it came to pass that a muscle-bound gym buff cruising by got curiouser and curiouser.

Enchanted with what he saw reflected, he looked both ways, then lovingly kissed his suntanned image. And, just as suddenly, he got sucked across. And stuck.

As the investors drank themselves silly, others passed by the mirror. They too quickly found themselves suctioned in. There pondered long and hard, deciding to opt out for Happy Hour, leaving the mirror temporarily unattended. And so it came to pass that a muscle-bound gym buff cruising by got curiouser and curiouser. The mansion on the outskirts of Dale-in-the-Dinkleberry, Lohelin, that housed the mirror for decades, among many other quaint and randomly self-rearranging objet d’arts, was razed two years ago (after a rather notorious drag ball featured a red-faced streaking prince).

Moral: If you fall in love with your own image while passing a two-way mirror while assuming no one’s looking, don’t be surprised if you get sucked into a no-brainer otherside that’s not quite PC. Better still, don’t vote Republican. You won’t escape alive.)

*Charles@pridessource.com*
Bryan Fischer

Perhaps the most historic U.S. Supreme Court session ever for the LGBT community gets underway officially Oct. 1, with a record nine gay-related cases seeking review, all involving same-sex marriage.

Two of the nine cases include high-profile landmark decisions in federal appeals courts - one declaring the California ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional, the other holding the core section of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) to be unconstitutional. Whether the court refuses to hear the appeals or takes them, the result will set up another landmark in the LGBT civil rights struggle.

Seven of the nine cases revolve around challenges to DOMA, one concerns Proposition 8, and the ninth is an attempt by the anti-gay National Organization for Marriage (NOM) to circumvent campaign reporting laws when it spends money to push anti-gay initiatives.

The DOMA seven

Of the seven petitions seeking appeal on DOMA-related challenges, four come from the New England states, two from western states, and one from New York.

The Massachusetts Cases - Three of the four petitions in New England arise from Massachusetts and the First Circuit and involve two cases that have been winding their way through the courts since March 2009. Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) filed one of the lawsuits, while the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office filed the other. Both sought to strike down the core provision of DOMA - Section 3 - that bars the federal government from recognizing same-sex spouses for any federal purpose.

OPM v. Gill and Health and Human Services v. Commonwealth are the preeminent legal challenges to DOMA. Gill was filed by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) in the suits, the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office filed the other. Both sought to strike down the core provision of DOMA - Section 3 - that bars the federal government from recognizing same-sex spouses for any federal purpose.

Golinski v. OPM - Another important DOMA challenge pending before the Supreme Court for this session is Golinski v. OPM, brought by Lambda Legal Defense. It tests DOMA’s ability to deny a gay federal employee the same benefits enjoyed by straight federal employees. The federal employee in this case is attorney Karen Golinski, who is employed as an attorney by the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and sought health insurance coverage for her same-sex spouse. U.S. District Court Judge Jeffrey White, an appointee of President George W. Bush, said the legislative history of DOMA is “replete with expressed animus toward gay men and lesbians,” but he said he was “persuaded that something short of animus may have motivated DOMA’s passage.” White’s February 2012 ruling said Congress failed to justify its disparate treatment of gays and lesbians, whether one used rational or heightened judicial review.

The Ninth Circuit declined to hear GLAD’s appeal, so GLAD took its appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Windsor v. U.S. - The Windsor case, filed by the ACLU, challenges Section 3 of DOMA, but, unlike the previous three cases, Windsor has not gone through a federal appeals court, only the district court.

Judge Barbara Jones of the U.S. District Court for Southern New York ruled June 6 that DOMA violates the U.S. Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection when it requires a same-sex spouse to pay a federal estate tax from which heterosexual spouses are exempt. Because of DOMA, plaintiff Edith Windsor was forced to pay more than $363,000 in estate taxes when her same-sex spouse, Thea Spyer, died in 2009 and left Windsor her estate.

Brewer v. Diaz - This was originally known as Brewer v. Collins and pits a group of gay Arizona state employees against a new state law barring them from signing up their domestic partners and children for family health insurance coverage. A federal judge ruled the state law violated the U.S. Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection. The Ninth Circuit upheld that ruling last year, another victory for Lambda Legal. The state’s Republican Governor Jan Brewer, is petitioning the high court to overturn the ruling.

Pedersen v. OPM - This is GLAD’s second DOMA challenge, essentially a twin to the Gill case in Massachusetts. This one was filed in federal court in Connecticut, with plaintiffs from several Second Circuit states.

The Supreme Court typically grants review when an appeals court declares a federal law unconstitutional. It also frequently grants review when various appeals courts are in conflict over a law’s constitutionality.

The circuit courts have declared DOMA unconstitutional, but there has been no conflict. Both the First Circuit and the Ninth Circuit have said so. A federal district court in the Second Circuit has declared it unconstitutional, but the Second Circuit itself has not yet weighed in.

But the fact that the U.S. House Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group (BLAG) has been aggressively defending DOMA (in 14 separate courts, at latest count) will no doubt weigh heavily on the Supreme Court’s willingness to take up the issue sooner rather than later. A ruling from the high court upholding the law may be the only way to slow the dramatically increasing support for same-sex marriage -in the courts and in public opinion.

The NOM’s second try

NOM v. McKeen appeals a decision rendered by Walter F. McKeen, a member of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. The Commission ruled that political action committees operating in the state had to comply with state election campaign requirements to identify their donors. That includes in campaigns taking sides on statewide ballot initiatives, of which many in recent years have concerned same-sex marriage.

NOM’s challenge of those laws has failed before the U.S. Supreme Court once already.

The Prop 8 climax

Hollingsworth v. Perry (formerly known as Brown v. Perry and Schwarzenegger v. Perry) is one of the most anticipated LGBT cases to reach the U.S. Supreme Court, for the LGBT community and for many others. It is a case that has been drenched with drama since the beginning, when the new organization American Foundation for Equal Rights - against the advice of long-time gay legal activists - hired two of the country’s most prominent attorneys to challenge a voter-passed initiative in California to ban same-sex marriage.

As Ted Olson and David Boies staged their three-week long landmark trial in defense of equal rights for same-sex couples, gay legal activists marshaled behind them. And when, in August 2010, they won a comprehensive victory from U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker (a Republican appointee who, after retirement, acknowledged having a same-sex partner), the momentum throughout the country seemed to begin shifting towards equality.

Then, in another victory, the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled in February 2012 that Proposition 8 was “remarkably similar” to Colorado’s anti-gay Amendment 2, which the Supreme Court had declared unconstitutional. Based on that, said the Ninth Circuit, Proposition 8 must also be declared unconstitutional - a violation of the equal protection guarantees of the U.S. Constitution.
Memories Of MCC Lead To 40th Anniversary Dinner

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The Rev. Nancy Wilson, head of Metropolitan Community Church, a worldwide inclusive Christian denomination, has shepherded over MCC Detroit since early in her career. And now, in celebration of the congregation’s 40th Anniversary, Rev. Wilson is returning for a dinner and dance celebration and to give a special Sunday morning sermon.

The upbeat theme is MoTown Big D and the Original Vandellas will also be performing at the dinner. The celebration will take place at Park Place Dearborn on Sept. 29. Wilson’s sermon will be delivered the next day at MCC Detroit in Ferndale.

Members of MCC Detroit are looking forward to Wilson’s visit, including Board Vice Moderator Jackie Walker, who said she’s proud of all Wilson has accomplished.

“She started out here at MCC Detroit and left to work at the denomination’s offices in L.A. Then she became pastor of the LA church, which we call The Mother Church because that’s where it all got started. She was also pastor in Sarasota, and now she is the head of the Board of Elders, which runs the whole denomination,” said Walker.

“She recalls how Wilson had an impact on her. “When I came out in 1975 I didn’t know a single gay person. I couldn’t find the bars and religion was always important to me. Rev. Wilson made everything easier.”

Walker remained part of MCC through the years, only taking a break when her children were young and she wanted to send them to Sunday school, which was not offered at MCC at the time.

Since MCC Detroit began in Highland Park in 1972, it’s had several locations. Walker explained that in 1977 the church left Highland Park and moved to Central United Methodist. From there, it purchased a building in Birmingham that was later bought by the Original Pancake House and turned into a parking lot. MCC-Detroit next moved to Roseville, and most recently rents space from Drayton Avenue Presbyterian in Ferndale.

One wall of the present sanctuary displays a giant timeline that church members can decorate with photos and memories. It also includes names of members who have been lost to AIDS complications. “That was a hard time for us,” Walker said. “We would go visit people in the hospital to give them communion. So many died.”

The wall also features pictures of the various locations, pastors, events and clergy. Several current members have been attendees for more than 30 years. Now with about 150 members, and attendance at church services averaging about 90 to 110 each week, MCC has what Walker calls “a special flavor.”

“It’s partly because of the people, but also because it’s ecumenical. We have a sense of humor.” She noted “the spiritual feel of the music, from Broadway hits to old African spirituals.” Walker also values the open and affirming atmosphere of the church.

“I feel welcomed here. If I want to put my arms around my partner I can. Plus, it’s a smaller congregation so it has a more intimate feel. It’s a joyous feeling watching friends, partners and new corners lining up to share in taking communion.”

Rev. Jim Lynch is currently shepherding the congregation through the transition from the loss of Rev. Mark Bidwell, who resigned in October 2011 and died in January.

“We never just jump to replacing a pastor, the church always follows a process to make sure the congregation deals with issues of how the previous pastor went. Then the church does some visioning, looking at the mission and what we want in a pastor.” Walker said that the formal pastoral search process should begin around January. “We will look for a pastor who is open to new ideas from all people, who will train lay persons to take leadership positions.”

Walker sees the dinner and dance as a wonderful opportunity for members and previous members of MCC to get together. She notes that the church has come a long way since the 70s, now offering groups and activities for many ages, including a children’s ministry and connection groups which meet once a week like the book group, Bible study and a support group for cancer patients and supporters.

On an international level, MCC is involved in world-wide liberation movements. “One thing that touched my heart recently was speaking with a group of lesbians in India, where they can be killed for being lesbians,” recalls Walker. “They decided to live together and support each other. One or two would go to school and educate the others. We were able to get people to donate money to send them all to school at once. It’s part of our LGBT Christian outreach.”

Information: http://www.mccdetroit.org/.
**Town Hall**

Continued from p. 9

this election, which is the most they have faced since 1973. His organization is a coalition of progressive interests across the country, and the group’s endorsements tend to match those of PrideSourceVotes.com. He explained each ballot initiative for the crowd at the town hall:

**Proposal 1 - Emergency Manager Referendum** - would expand powers for emergency managers and the ability of the Governor to appoint EMs. Nothoff explained that in Michigan, Governor Snyder had been going into communities where the city or the school board was struggling financially and stripping the elected officials of their power, removing their power, and appointing someone of his choosing to be the EM.

“Now we have in this country one of the biggest strengths that we have and that we like to brag around the world about is the democratic process, small ‘d,’ right? That we elect our own people. What this really does is undermine that democratic process…I’m gonna remove the person you all voted for and I’m gonna put someone in who will do a better job.” And that is as anti-democratic as you can get, again small ‘d,’” Nothoff said.

**Proposal 2 - “Protect Our Jobs” Amendment** - would make collective bargaining a right for public and private workers.

Tim Kahanak of Pride at Work has been at Chrysler for 36 years. To him the intersection of LGBT rights and collective bargaining rights makes perfect sense. “I’ve been in the UAW since I was 18,” he said. “I can’t tell you the good that the union has done for me.” He explained how unions in the auto industry in particular have led the way for workplace equality, and how collective bargaining has given him the right for his partner to have the same benefits as a married person could give their spouse.

**Proposal 3 - Renewable Energy Amendment** - would mandate that 25 percent of the state’s electricity come from renewable sources by 2025. Nothoff said Michigan Voice supports a “yes” vote on Proposal 3 because “currently 60 percent of our energy is generated by coal and 100 percent of that coal comes from out of state. So not only does it create renewable energy sources, clean energy, but it also would employ more Michigan workers.”

**Proposal 4 - Home Health Care Amendment** - would give home health care providers limited collective bargaining rights. It would also provide for screening of health care providers and for patients to have a voice in who takes care of them.

**Proposal 5 - Taxation Amendment** - would require any increase in state taxes to be approved by 2/3 majority in the legislature or statewide vote. Nothoff said this is “a very scary one.” He said that “having spent the past eight years in the state of California, I can tell you what this does 30 years down the road. What it does is create a financial crisis in the long term because there’s so much back and forth, but you’re not allowed to raise taxes or find sources of income, and what happens is as a result they’ve cut their vital services we all need. This creates a death by a thousand cuts over time.”

**Proposal 6 - Michigan International Bridge Initiative** - require voters to approve any new bridge or tunnel from the state to Canada.

Michigan Voice supports a “yes” vote on the bridge initiative. Michigan Voice said that nothing short of recognizing the LGBT community would lead to approval of the bridge.

**Get Organized**

The Voter Action Town Hall attracted dozens of LGBT community members, many of whom take part in other voter mobilization activities and other activism.

Johnny Jenkins of Affirmations said that many of the setbacks against LGBT people have been because of an organized opposition. “All of these organizations have been going since the 50s. They are organized and systematic. The LGBT community in Michigan has never been as organized as they are now…Educate your friends, your families and your neighbors about how important this is.”

---

**INFO**

**Equality Voter Guide**

Thirteen years ago, Robert Louis Kidd and Ray Frost Fleming opened a Birmingham landmark: the Robert Kidd Gallery. Partners in business and in life, the pair founded the establishment in 1976, a popular place for home-art furnishings. Also, the oldest. The gallery is the longest running gallery in metro Detroit.

“They spent a fortune turning it into the most handsome gallery in the Midwest. They took pleasure in the gallery and making it blossom,” says Ben Kiehl, 30, director of the gallery for the last four years. “It’s a special spot with amazing timelessness.”

Kidd and Fleming met at the internationally known Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield. They took their weaving skills and put them to good use by opening a yarn shop under the name Robert L. Kidd Associates. At the bottom of the stairwell they installed the Little White Gallery, where they showed tapestries from their weavings among other works created by Cranbrook students and local emerging artists.

As the gallery became more successful than the yarn shop, Kidd and Fleming redesigned the space adding new flooring, walls and furnishings in the 5,000-square-foot two-level gallery.

Kiehl remembers when Fleming used to tell people, “If you’re on vacation and you see a gallery across the street from a hotel, it’s a bad gallery. It’s a boutique gallery.” After the fancy Townsend Hotel ironically established its home across the street from the gallery in 1988, Fleming reminded people that he was there before the hotel, when it was a parking lot.

The well-maintained space has the same vintage character and charm as it did back in the ’80s and ’90s when the who’s-who of the art world frequented the gallery. “They built it with quality in mind and the lasting potential. When they became a gallery, they would host black-tie invitation openings. It was elegant,” Kiehl said.

Ben Kiehl is the director of the Robert Kidd Gallery in Birmingham. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

**Gallery Director Remembers Late Owners**

**BY KATE OPALEWSKI**

**Keeping The Art Alive**

See Robert Kidd Gallery, page 16
cutting-edge and helped establish the reputation of the gallery,” says Kiehl, adding that times have changed, but the gallery still has classy openings often in the form of cocktail parties complete with cheese and wine.

Outside of the gallery, Kidd and Fleming converted one of Marshall Fredericks’ stables into a modern apartment. Yes, that Fredericks – the legendary artist who created the Spirit of Detroit. “They did the same thing when they bought a traditional farmhouse on Maple Road. It was a modernist home: beautiful, all custom. Bob was not afraid to spend money, even if he had to borrow it,” recalls Kiehl.

While Kidd and Fleming were making their mark, Kiehl was earning his Fine Arts major at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. The budding photorealist painter was young but talented and began showing in exhibitions that happened to be sponsored by the Robert Kidd Gallery. “I stood out. I sold readily to different collectors from the area. The level of my work was above-average and was more sophisticated than student work at the time,” says Kiehl, humbly. A professor of his suggested he visit the gallery to speak with Fleming, who noticed his work, which he didn’t have a lot of at the time. Everything was a class assignment.

“Ray was a real character. Outgoing. Bob was shy. Ray really stood out and was very charismatic and charming. Originally from Georgia, he was independent, intelligent and very forward-thinking,” says Kiehl.

Following his visit with Fleming, life took over and Kiehl worked toward finishing school, but sent an announcement to the gallery regarding his thesis exhibition. After the show, Kiehl received a call from Fleming’s assistant director around graduation. “I thought he was calling about my work, but he asked a lot of questions to see if I wanted his job. Before the economy failed in 2005, people were more stable, whimsical and bohemian. Get a real job or be an artist? I decided I’m going to Europe for three months and I don’t know when I’m coming back. He said if I’m still here when you come back, give me a call,” remembers Kiehl. He returned that October, and took over in January. “Ray thought I was a good fit. He talked about the way the art world works. Age doesn’t matter. If they like your work, they will show it. I was able to get a foot in the door precociously,” says Kiehl, who has been with the gallery for a total of seven years. “Ray and I were fast friends. We had tons in common. He was a kindred spirit. In a sense, he was like a surrogate father.”
Kiehl remembers the signature red belt that Fleming wore. “His favorite combination was a bold striped shirt with flat front pants and a bold silver or gray silk jacket.”

Part of the legacy of the gallery, and something that Kiehl absolutely agrees with, is the composition and quality of work. “There is a sense of beauty in the way the work comes together. It’s not about the subject matter. That’s less important than the certain type of soul we look for when selecting work,” he says.

And who you were wasn’t an issue; it came down to the art. “Ray and Bob welcomed diverse designers and people. The only thing that mattered was the quality of the work.” That hasn’t changed. While exhibiting the work of many emerging contemporary artists, the gallery roster is further distinguished by such prominent names as Milton Avery, Harry Bertoia, John Chamberlain, Larry Rivers and Helen Frankenthaler. In addition, the gallery offers services for the acquisitioning and deaccessioning of artwork by significant modern and contemporary artists such as Deborah Butterfield, Hans Hofmann, Alexander Calder, Franz Kline and Richard Diebenkorn.

The only thing that will continue to change is the artwork, which rotates as exhibitions come and go. Some artists have been with the gallery for more than 20 years and some will show their work for the first time there.

“Ray often loved talking about paintings, explaining that the same person who loves realism can also love abstraction. It’s all about balance, color and form. Fleming was not a detail man. That is the opposite of me. He saw the bigger picture, not dwelling on the incredible minutia of details. He opened me up conceptually.”

Fleming passed away in April this year from breathing complications. Kidd preceded Fleming in death when he lost his battle with brain cancer five years ago.

“Having been so close to Ray, I miss him dearly,” says Kiehl. “We were like family. Being at the gallery is a reminder of him. It’s hard, but at the same time, I am so fortunate to have had so many years with Ray. I’ve learned so much. It’s to my greater advantage. Being here keeps him more alive in my mind and there’s an energy about it that hasn’t disappeared.”

For the last four to five years, Kiehl said Fleming called himself semi-retired. “He was behind the curtain handing me the baton whether or not I was aware of it. I was being groomed for the position. Legacy is important to Ray. I have been putting my own signatures in the gallery for the last few years as the gallery is an evolving entity. As the public evolves, so does the gallery and vice versa. My hope is to continue the gallery in keeping with the legacy while honoring the forward-thinking that made the gallery great in the first place.”
BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

For her first-ever visit to Ferndale, Alisha Virani’s friend Liz Salazar picked the Rust Belt as a must-see attraction. The uniquely designed artist haven, which anchors Nine Mile and Woodward, houses a rotating mix of approximately 50 vendors selling clothing, jewelry, furniture and other artistic décor items for your home.

“I love it here,” Salazar says. “I just moved to Ferndale in August and this is one of my favorite places. When my friends from Ann Arbor visit, this is the first place we go.”

Jason Driscoll, creator of Kill Taupe, has been stationed at the Rust Belt off and on since it opened in April 2011 and has been on a long-term lease since last November. The Rust Belt has helped him transition into full-time artisthood.

“I was able to quit my part-time job a year ago,” Driscoll says. “It’s year-round so I don’t have to have a brick and mortar store. I can sit at home in my art cave all week, then come here on the weekend and be like, ‘Here’s all the art I did.’

“It’s weird because it’s such a solitary thing, but I come here and I get a reaction out of people – they smile and they laugh, and that’s a nice way to earn a living.”

Driscoll’s whimsically naughty cartoons, mostly bunnies and bears, use bright colors and bold shapes to evoke humor, and sometimes even deep thought. The painting of the bunny with a flaming torch wanting to “burn Walmart down,” the adorable little critters living in the shadows of smoky industry, or even the bong-smoking bear and his triangular nacho-flavored snacks are all his ideas.

Driscoll has been creating his cartoon society since high school, doodling them in the margins of his notebooks. “I went to college for graphic design, but it was all boring technical stuff. I like doing this. The rabbits and bears are like childhood comforts to me. Growing up in the Bible Belt, I never felt a sense of community. Now I feel like I’m in a community with other artists.”

The Not-So Bible Belt

FALL HOME GUIDE

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

For her first-ever visit to Ferndale, Alisha Virani’s friend Liz Salazar picked the Rust Belt as a must-see attraction. The uniquely designed artist haven, which anchors Nine Mile and Woodward, houses a rotating mix of approximately 50 vendors selling clothing, jewelry, furniture and other artistic décor items for your home.

“I love it here,” Salazar says. “I just moved to Ferndale in August and this is one of my favorite places. When my friends from Ann Arbor visit, this is the first place we go.”

Jason Driscoll, creator of Kill Taupe, has been stationed at the Rust Belt off and on since it opened in April 2011 and has been on a long-term lease since last November. The Rust Belt has helped him transition into full-time artisthood.

“I was able to quit my part-time job a year ago,” Driscoll says. “It’s year-round so I don’t have to have a brick and mortar store. I can sit at home in my art cave all week, then come here on the weekend and be like, ‘Here’s all the art I did.’

“It’s weird because it’s such a solitary thing, but I come here and I get a reaction out of people – they smile and they laugh, and that’s a nice way to earn a living.”

Driscoll’s whimsically naughty cartoons, mostly bunnies and bears, use bright colors and bold shapes to evoke humor, and sometimes even deep thought. The painting of the bunny with a flaming torch wanting to “burn Walmart down,” the adorable little critters living in the shadows of smoky industry, or even the bong-smoking bear and his triangular nacho-flavored snacks are all his ideas.

Driscoll has been creating his cartoon society since high school, doodling them in the margins of his notebooks. “I went to college for graphic design, but it was all boring technical stuff. I like doing this. The rabbits and bears are like childhood comforts to me. Growing up in the Bible Belt, I never felt a sense of community. Now I feel like I’m in a community with other artists.”
10% OFF ANY SERVICE

Comfort Plus, LC
Heating & Cooling

19
September 27, 2012
BTL

www.PrideSource.com

italmoda
The Art of Fine Furniture

32968 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48073
www.italmoda.us | info@italmoda.us | 248.549.1221

unleash your inner designer
at Leon & Lulu

October 16th from 6–8PM
Dan Davis Design Series:
Conquering Color

November 13th from 6–8PM
Dan Davis Design Series:
The Art of Accessorizing

Ready for a re-do? Time to freshen up the house? Don’t miss our free Dan Davis Design Seminars. He and Mary Liz Curtin will give professional advice on working with color and will show how proper choice and placement of art and accessories breath life into a room. See leonandlulu.com for more details.

96 W. 14 Mile Road, Clawson, MI 48017 248-288-3600

www.PrideSource.com
up in Michigan, it was special to see a bunny in the back yard, and I’d always say that one day I would get to see a real-life bear.”

The Rust Belt also offers something a little darker. 13th Floor features the art of Adrian Clark, a self-described “grown-up Goth.”

Sometimes macabre, sometimes steam punk, a little bit Victorian and ideal for Halloween time – that’s 13th Floor’s brand of fantasy art. Detailed wood burnings and creepy collages decorate the walls while trinketed hats and necklaces made of gears, wires, chains and other reclaimed objects give guests an opportunity to wear home a one-of-a-kind creation. There are also deviant-looking dolls, bird cages and odd pieces of furniture for sale.

Don “Daddy” Beverlin helps to sell his sweetie’s eclectic creations and says he’s “amazed” with Clark’s work, and after eight years of living together, his partner’s creativity never gets old. “Our living room looks just like this,” he says of their Hazel Park home. “He’s always changing things, and I am amazed sometimes when I come home and there is something new to see.”

Across the aisle, the bright, nature-inspired works of Divine Iguana bring passersby a place of peace and appreciation. With a pixie-like smile and layers of fabric and lace, the artist Rena Hopkins of Detroit is as much a charm as the necklaces and earrings she has for sale.

And since 2009, Hopkins can officially say that she’s no longer a struggling artist. “I’ve had stuff on consignment in other stores and I’ve done the art fair route, but Rust Belt is better,” she says. Her booth is made of burlap covered walls accented with white holiday lights.

“I’d go to these art fairs and spend eight hours setting up my displays and it would be hit or miss. Here I’m not taking a risk on shows. I do well consistently, and this is my base. My customers know where to find me.”

The art of Divine Iguana is what Hopkins calls “an intersection between magic and science, between the mechanical and the fantastic.” There are a lot of watch parts in her work – gears, numbers and hands, as well as other richly-detailed found objects. “I found a supplier in Switzerland and when the shipment comes I still get excited. I’m easily amused.”

Her advice to other artists is to “make what you love and make the best art you possibly can.”

The Rust Belt is not just about art, though. Royal Oak-based record collector Mike Trabley says he feels right at home with his record and retro clothing booth, Stay Pressed Records, located right inside the back entrance to the market. “I’ve worked in record stores for 10 years,” says Trabley, who worked at Amoeba in L.A., and then took a job in Philly before he landed one in Michigan three years ago.

Trabley had been selling records online, with the Ebay name “Detroit Record Exchange,” and has been in the Rust Belt for seven months.

Stay Pressed has all types of music, with albums and covers in great condition and clothing that has all been dry cleaned and professionally pressed. A listening station with head phones gives customers a chance to hear the album before they buy it.

Just don’t ask him to part with his “shoegaze” collection. “I won’t sell my shoegaze,” he says. “I’m a huge fan of British bands from the ’90s. Ride is my favorite. I couldn’t part with those.”

To learn more about the Rust Belt, which is open Saturdays and Sundays, visit www.rustbeltmarket.com.

---

“It’s weird because it’s such a solitary thing, but I come here and I get a reaction out of people – they smile and they laugh, and that’s a nice way to earn a living.”

- Jason Driscoll
For most people, the only time they step foot in a flower shop is when there’s a wedding, funeral or first date in the near future. Flowers can be more than a pretty but soon forgotten item bought more for their ceremonial purpose than natural splendor. Flowers can also transform any living space with their lively colors, sweet fragrance and natural beauty.

“I have flowers in my home all the time,” says Darin Lenhardt, floral designer for Birmingham floral shop Blossoms. “I mean, if I have anywhere from one person to 30 people coming over, there are flowers in every room. Even when I was doing construction on our new home, there were flowers in all the rooms. They bring such life and energy and happiness. How can you feel sad when you’re looking at something that’s living and so uniquely beautiful?”

It’s hard to argue that flowers aren’t uniquely beautiful. But with a few thousand options available, trying to find the petals that speak to you is a thorny proposition. Perhaps something simple and elegant like Darin’s favorite, the classic white orchid (phalaenopsis cultivar), might be right.

“Phalaenopsis orchids are my favorite flowers in the world,” Lenhardt says. “They’re so simple and clean-looking.”

Although orchids are stunning flowers, there’s more than one bud, bouquet or arrangement that will get the job done. It’s all about finding the look that works for your budget, tastes and needs.

An easy way to get started is checking out the latest trends. For winter, look to cylindrical glass vases and arrangements with multiples of the same flower (mono-floral arrangements). “Maybe three vases down your dining room table with a hydrangea in each,” Lenhardt suggests. “It doesn’t always have to be a super arranged look. Even just the simple four lilies for fragrance next to your bed is a stunning look.”

Their stunning looks can also add a bit of
Your financial needs are unique.

Whether you want to provide for your loved ones, support the organizations that are important to you, or plan for your own comfortable retirement, we can help you plan for your goals. We’ll look at all aspects of your finances, then find solutions that are right for your unique needs. And as your goals and needs change, we’ll be there to adjust your plan and help put your dreams within reach.

Our Advisors. Your Dreams. MORE WITHIN REACH®

Call us today at (248) 827.1230

Ferhadson & Associates
A financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
26777 Central Park Blvd
Suite 300
Southfield, MI 48076
248-827-1230, x216
kevin.t.ferhadson@emqu.com
www.AmeripriseAdvisors.com/
Kevin.T.Ferhadson/

Ameriprise Financial

© 2011 Allstate Insurance Company.

Otha Williams
(248) 626-6300
5640 West Maple Ste. 202
West Bloomfield
othawilliamsagency@allstate.com

Allstate
You’re in good hands.

http://www.pridesource.com/directory.html

Michigan’s LGBT Yellow Pages
in Print or Fully Searchable Online!!!

Over 1000 LGBT Owned and Friendly Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations
texture to the room, also a big trend in floral design.

“I love all foliage arrangements where it’s all different types of greens: ivy, eucalyptus, pods, green dream or green dianthus, which has kind of a moss look to it,” he says. “Where it’s not so much only about fragrance, it’s about texture and feeling.”

Carnations (dianthus caryophyllus) are one flower that will add color and texture to any room. They are also very budget-friendly. While they may not get the same adoration as an orchid, lily or rose, Lenhardt thinks that this is one member of the dianthus genus that may require a second look.

“Sometimes I feel like carnations get a bad rap,” Lenhardt says. “I mean, they’re a beautiful flower, just (depends on) the way that you use them. If you use them in a mono-floral design, you can get an entire bunch of carnations and mound them in a vase to almost make them look like a hydrangea. It’s going to have a longevity; it’s going to be beautiful.”

The trends aren’t all about simple and clean. There’s also meadow bunching or grouping of several different flowers in a wildflower-like display. It’s a trend that’s great as something a bit more organic and natural or daringly colorful.

According to Lenhardt, these “mass groupings of flowers are put together in a way that really brings boldness through the type of flower because you’re going to have four different colors of flowers. It’s really going to be visually pleasing and bold, which is always a good statement.”

Although flowers can do wonders to help any home, knowing what to get in a pinch will go far. Lenhardt offered up some great examples of arrangements for life’s various ups and breakdowns:

When meeting your partner’s parents for the first time, “a mixture of roses and hydrangeas, spray roses and maybe Queen Anne’s lace because they’re a little older and a little bit more traditional. In soft colors like light blue, white, a soft yellow, peach and then always a soft green.”

When breaking up with Taylor Swift, “I would give a meadow look. Right now, I would do all Michigan garden flowers.”

After denting your boyfriend’s car, “I would do mokara orchids and three bold colors like red, orange, yellow or red, orange, purple.”

When asking your parents for money, “Ooh, green and white! It’s the color of money.”

When in doubt, Lenhardt emphatically suggests picking up an arrangement of green and white.

“If you’re ever looking for a fresh bouquet to give to someone, the best color combination is green and white,” he says. “No matter what colors you have in your house, white and green is the freshest look that you can go for.”

Florist Tips
Continued from p. 22
Zoom Special $149
One hour Teeth Whitening

*Must mention this BTL ad - Expires 10/31/12

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

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

26789 Woodward Ave., Ste. 101, Huntington Woods, MI 48070
www.rontwilliamsondds.com

C&N PARTY RENTALS
FREE SITE ESTIMATES FOR FRAME CANOPIES & TENTS!!

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

We have Beautiful Linens for all events and budgets!

(248) 435-3580 ▼ (800) 351-0031 ▼ www.cnparty.com

MEdCART
Pharmacy

248.542.2300
www.medcartpharmacy.com
1964 West 11 Mile Road, Berkley
Between Woodward & Coolidge
BY JOHN QUINN

The Grand Dame of Crime, Agatha Christie, deserves a category in “Trivial Pursuit” (that, my children, was a board game we played before the Internet taught us the real meaning of “trivial”) all her own. At the top of her achievements is her iconic 1952 murder mystery, “The Mousetrap,” which is about to celebrate its 60 anniversary of continuous production in London’s West End. That show has attracted over 10 million patrons. While its limited run will not be seen by that many (a shame, really), “The Mousetrap” is a joyful opening for the Hilberry Theatre’s 50th season.

Dame Agatha is often imitated, but never equaled. One is quick to note that her characters and plot devices are familiar, and an astute theater-seat detective can catch the murderer pretty early in the play. It doesn’t matter one bit: David J. Magidson has crafted a stylish, sophisticated rendition that keeps us on the edge of seats. Our mystery begins at a country house somewhere near post-war London. An ambitious young couple, Mollie and Giles Ralston (Megan Dobbertin and Alec Barbour), have converted the cavernous Monkswell Manor into a guest house. It’s opening day,
and four guests are expected. They include the flighty Christopher Wren (Topher Payne), who, to use a contemporary idiom, seems a little light in the loafers. He’s joined by an officious—and offensive—snob, Mrs. Boyle (Vanessa Sawson), and the staid Major Metcalf (Joshua Blake Rippy). The young and thoroughly modern Miss Casewell (Danielle Cochrane) rounds out the quartet.

As bad luck and reliable plot devices would have it, a raging blizzard has closed the roads! Out of the storm arrives, unannounced, the oily Mr. Mustapha (Edmund Alyn Jones), who’s managed to flip his Rolls in a snowdrift. The tinder is set; all that’s needed is a match. That would be a call from the police that Detective Sergeant Trotter (Christopher Call) is on his way (on snowshoes, of course) with distressing news. Monkswell Manor is linked to a murder in London. He announces that the murderer is in the house, and two more lives are in danger.
Twenty is a young age to have already played two characters that couldn’t be any more different. But Ezra Miller’s done it with parts as Tilda Swinton’s evil son in “We Need to Talk About Kevin” and as Patrick, the lovable outsider with swagger and fearlessness in the film adaptation of the coming-of-age novel “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” – the boy every gay person wishes he could be. Even Miller. (The film opens Sept. 28 at the Main Art Theatre in Royal Oak.)

The young actor talked about not being that kid in high school, breaking label barriers and coming from a “whole queer-ass family” – who dressed him in drag.

What was your high school experience? Were you out then?

Yeah, definitely. But I wasn’t shouting it out. I was unabashedly me. I was always having to leave high school, though, because I started working, so that was pulling me out of school. When I’d come back, there was a certain resentment: “You are no longer one of us. You have betrayed our pack.” And I dropped out of high school when I was 16 years old because, first of all, the form and function of the schooling system never made any sense to me in the context of education, but also there was some ostracizing at play. At that point in my youth experience, I knew that feeling all too well. I immediately realized that I had just turned 16 and that it was best, and technically legal, for me to flee.

How was it playing a character that you wished you could’ve been in school?

I came out of the movie feeling like I had a bunch to learn from the character I just played, and then I came to the unfortunate conclusion that he was a fictional character and he didn’t exist. I mean, to be able to hold your dignity and your pride, and to be able to empower yourself and love yourself in high school, is a feat.

That scene where you stand up for yourself in the lunchroom was probably something that hit close to home.

Yeah. You picture that moment where you effectively fight back, but then of course
Patrick does, in that situation, end up getting held and pummeled and sort of relentlessly beaten on – that’s a reality, too. You can cultivate all of the courage and pride and power to stand up for yourself and still get beat to a pulp. I had that experience a few times. That scene was so important to everyone – to (director) Stephen (Chbosky) but really to (co-star) Johnny (Simmons) and myself. Having experienced things like that in our lives, we were really determined to get some bruises to make that fight brutal, the way that sort of peer-inflicted violence is – just horribly brutal.

You owe your sisters some gratitude for schooling you in drag.

Really, man! I was such a goofily happy kid when we were doing that. It was such, like, a ridiculous dream come true.

You sound like the polar opposite of your character in “We Need to Talk About Kevin.” You were so not Kevin as a child.

Yeah, that’s true. But it’s good to stretch in many different directions. I’m still convinced I can go much darker than anywhere I’ve gone so far, and I’m pretty sure there are greater possibilities. I really feel like I’ve only just scratched a really minute surface.

You develop a small crush on Charlie in “Wallflower.” Have you ever fallen for a straight boy before?

I mean, I just never believe anyone when they say they’re straight.

The media obviously isn’t sure how to interpret your “queer” identity; I’ve seen you called gay by many news outlets. Why do you prefer queer? And what do you think of just abandoning labels all together?

I think queer is that doorway into the L, G, B and T. Queer is the doorway to where we should all be at. In a perfect Garden of Eden world, we are all pretty damn – I don’t know if you say genderless or omni-gendered – but we’re all omnisexual, we’re all balanced and none of us are participating in a binary.

In the movie, Charlie is a troubled loner, but you open your world up to him and affect his life immensely. Who were your queer role models growing up?

My sisters, who were really strong and really empowered and who just were constantly making sure that I felt the love and that I was thinking for myself, but at the same time had my back. They were, for me as a younger person, the only role models I ever needed. My flesh and blood consumed almost my whole frame of perception from when I was a younger child.

So your sisters are queer too?

Yeah. It’s a whole queer-ass family! (Laughs) You know, it’s pretty much the most ridiculously happy and lucky situation a boy like me could ask for. I really thank all sorts of illusive deities for the family that I have every day.

The cast of “The Perks of Being a Wallflower.” Photo: Summit Entertainment

After seeing you as Frank-N-Furter during “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” scene, something tells me this wasn’t your first time doing drag. You were that good.

Thanks, darling! I’ve definitely dabbled from a young age. Those older sisters of mine actually started putting me through drag school when I was, like, 3. I remember running a lemonade stand and I was all made-up: My hair got did, I was in a dress and I remember getting it going so hard even then that people would come up to one of my sisters and say, “I saw you and your sister selling lemonade today.” (Laughs)

Yeah, I’ve definitely served some time in the mighty and honorable school of drag. When I was in middle school – it was combined with a high school, and the theater department was the same and it was the year that high schools were allowed to do “Rent” – I jumped on Angel really fast, so I even got to dance in drag and rock some pumps. So, I’ve definitely had some informative experiences.

You develop a small crush on Charlie in “Wallflower.” Have you ever fallen for a straight boy before?

I think queer is that doorway into the L, G, B and T. Queer is the doorway to where we should all be at. In a perfect Garden of Eden world, we are all pretty damn – I don’t know if you say genderless or omni-gendered – but we’re all omnisexual, we’re all balanced and none of us are participating in a binary. But until that day comes, these labels and these ways that we can identity ourselves to ourselves are all useful, and it’s really important that people figure out how to be inclusive and supportive of each and every one of them. That’s my feeling on it. I’m queer because I think the way society splits the human being in half is kind of tragic, and I think we should all be as open a book as possible when it comes to loving another human.

“Anyone who dares to cultivate the courage to stand up for themselves has immediately already won the battle.”

– Ezra Miller
Music Makes The People Come Together

Sharon Isbin, Miguel Del Aguila Perform Two Michigan Shows

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

For Miguel del Aguila, one of the most rewarding aspects of being a composer is bringing people together with his music.

“You can have your music performed in China or Germany and even if this music may sound exotic to them, they will understand it and they will feel it as if that were their music because that’s the music they are listening to at the moment. Nothing like music illustrates better the fact that even though we all look and act so different, people around the world are all very similar,” says Aguila.

The Michigan Philharmonic welcomes the California-based composer along with America’s leading classical guitarist, Sharon Isbin, for opening night performances on Oct. 5 at the Seligman Performing Arts Center in Beverly Hills and on Oct. 6 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Aguila is in town for the Michigan premiere of his work “The Giant Guitar, inspired by the instrument he loves and grew up with in Montevideo, Uruguay.

“Having lived the first 20 years of my life in South America, I can’t think of a guitar without associating its music to my early memories there. I often view South America as a giant guitar: friendly, sentimental, nostalgic, apparently weak, and yet concealing a great power only suggested by occasional rasgueado chords or historical revolutions, as in the political events of the 1970s,” says Aguila, who lived in Vienna, Austria for 10 years before returning to the U.S. in 1992. The Los Angeles Times critics welcomed him for his CD Salon Buenos Aires and for his Academy with two Latin Grammy nominations.

“Having lived the first 20 years of my life in South America, I can’t think of a guitar without associating its music to my early memories there. I often view South America as a giant guitar: friendly, sentimental, nostalgic, apparently weak, and yet concealing a great power only suggested by occasional rasgueado chords or historical revolutions, as in the political events of the 1970s,” says Aguila, who lived in Vienna, Austria for 10 years before returning to the U.S. in 1992. The Los Angeles Times critics welcomed him for his CD Salon Buenos Aires and for his Academy with two Latin Grammy nominations.

Aguila was recently honored by the Recording Academy with two Latin Grammy nominations for his CD Salon Buenos Aires and for his composition “Clocks.”

“I am very excited about this performance and looking forward to the rehearsals as well,” he says, adding that “The Giant Guitar” title actually refers to the shape of the South American continent, which resembles that of an upside-down guitar.

“The guitar’s open-strings theme is introduced at the beginning of the piece and it slowly takes us through many landscapes and dramatic historical events. One of these events being the ‘Dirty War’ where millions were murdered by militaristic governments all over South America. This is the time I had to emigrate to the U.S. I have never returned to South America since. ‘The Giant Guitar’ is not only a tribute to the instrument and to the people of the continent, but it also denounces and it accuses, or at the very least it reminds us of what tyrants are capable of.”

“I look forward to meeting Miguel del Aguila, hearing his music for the first time, and discovering what a giant guitar for orchestra sounds like,” says multiple Grammy Award winner Sharon Isbin, acclaimed for her extraordinary lyricism, technique and versatility. Special guest Isbin will perform Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo’s Concierto de Aranjuez, written in 1939 to become Rodrigo’s most famous and recognizable work.

“It’s music that truly embodies the passion, yearning and joy of the Spanish soul. When Rodrigo and his wife lost what would have been their first child, he returned each night from visiting his wife at the hospital, not knowing if she would live or die, and consoled himself at the piano by playing the beautiful theme from the second movement Adagio. She recovered and they went on to have many happy decades together. I had the honor of meeting them both in Madrid when I performed the concerto as a winner of the Queen Sofia Competition, and we enjoyed a 20-year friendship,” recalls Isbin.

“I greatly admire Sharon’s musicality and talent and I’m thrilled to share the evening with her music, especially hearing her play one of my most beloved guitar concertos,” says Aguila.

The musical tour concludes with Czech composer Antonin Dvorak’s Symphony No. 7, a dark, mysterious piece journeying through Bohemian dance rhythms and lyrical folk melodies, and ultimately closing with its triumphant finale.

“The Michigan Philharmonic is excited to be expanding their programming and reaching new audiences by performing in great new venues such as Seligman Performing Arts Center and the Carr Center in Detroit,” says Michigan Philharmonic Executive Director Beth Stewart. According to Stewart, the Southeast Michigan professional symphony orchestra featuring Nan Washburn, music director and conductor since 1999, will bring its events into an ever-expanding roster of Michigan communities, including Plymouth, Canton, Birmingham-Bloomfield, the Grosse Pointes, downtown Detroit, and many others.

“I’ve had the pleasure of working with the Michigan Philharmonic and Nan Washburn many years ago when they did my Conga,” says Aguila. “I seldom heard musicians play my music with such enthusiasm and drive. Nan is one of my favorite conductors and I wouldn’t miss this concert for anything.”

INFO

Miguel del Aguila and Sharon Isbin
7:30 p.m. Oct. 5
Seligman Performing Arts Center, Beverly Hills
7:30 Oct. 6
The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton
www.michiganphil.org

Miguel del Aguila performs two Michigan shows Oct. 5 and 6.
GUERRILLA PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Sunday Funday in the D
Brunch at the Fountain Bistro
• Bloody Mary Bar
• Bottomless Mimosas
• Breakfast Buffet
• Live Music
11AM – 2PM

FOUNTAIN BISTRO
AT CAMPUS MARTIUS PARK

Isbin Plays Rodrigo
Friday, October 5, 2012 • 7:30 pm
Seligman Performing Arts Center
Detroit Country Day School
22305 W. Thirteen Mile Road
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
Tickets: $40 / $30 / $20 – (priced by section)

Saturday, October 6, 2012 • 7:30 pm
Village Theater at Cherry Hill
50400 Cherry Hill Road
Canton, MI 48184
Tickets: General $35 / Senior $30 / Student $15
http://www.sharonisbin.com
https://twitter.com/sharonisbin
http://www.facebook.com/SharonIsbin
Hear latest Sony release Sharon Isbin & Friends: Guitar Passions

EVERY SUNDAY 4PM - 7PM
TEA DANCE
AT BOOKIES ROOFTOP

DJ SPINNING ALL NIGHT
$5 LONG ISLANDS
$10 BUCKETS OF CORONA
$5 FROZEN DAQUIERIES

BOOKIES
Bar & Grille
BOOKIESBAR.COM
2208 CASS AVE • DETROIT, MI • 48201 • 313.962.0319

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC
O r c h e s t r a t i n g the Extraordinary!
Nan Washburn, Music Director & Conductor

For tickets and information call 734.451.2112, or visit www.michiganphil.org
Pink’s Defiant Disappointment

Pink, ‘The Truth About Love’
In a world ruled by artificial pop princesses, Pink has always approached her music with real-woman candor, whether she’s slamming horny dudes at the bar or singing a true-life tale about her parents’ divorce. But this hell-raiser act, which extends through her catchy-but-safe seventh album, is turning cocky into caricature. “The Truth About Love” wants so hard to convince the world that Pink, who had a kid not long ago, is still the biggest badass on the block that it spends so much time proving a point when it should be using Pink’s mighty ways as a singer and songwriter to crush the competition. (We know she can.) The potty mouth, the man put-downs (she tells him, cheekily, to blow her) and a duet with another often-misunderstood musician, Eminem – we get it; she’s still a punk. Though Pink at her most “punk” was on the fierce commercial-wuss “Try This,” released nearly 10 years ago, it’s still the biggest badass on the block that it spends so much time proving a point when it should be using Pink’s mighty ways as a singer and songwriter to crush the competition. (We know she can.)

Grade: C+

Barbra Streisand, ‘Release Me’
There’s a predictability to Babs that’s like comfort food: Her rainy-day music tends to require a box of tissue, and she sings with the same passion, precision and power that made the Brooklyn girl a star over 40 years ago. Simply put, there’s no one else like her in this smoke-and-mirrors music industry. Not even Adele possesses the same purity as Babs. “Release Me,” spanning decades as it reaches back into her song catalog for 11 previously unreleased tracks, is a testament to her reign as a vocal luminary who’s not just stood the test of time, but stands taller as the years go by. Simply put, there’s no one else like her in this smoke-and-mirrors music industry. Not even Adele possesses the same purity as Babs.

Grade: B+

Ryan Bingham, ‘Tomorrowland’
Never mind that Ryan Bingham won an Oscar for his fragile folk song “The Weary Kind” from “Crazy Heart”; he’s a new man who’s well, not so weary. At least by the sound of his new DIY disc, where he’s without his signature band and former label. He rocks hard on “Beg for Broken Legs” with his usual gruffness but also a fiery attitude that’s almost inspiring. His heart, however, hasn’t strayed too far. “Never Far Behind” ruminates quite poignantly on the difficulty of moving on from a family member’s suicide. If “Tomorrowland” wasn’t so rooted in yesterday’s rock, that awards mantle could be looking a lot fuller.

Pet Shop Boys, ‘Elysium’
On “Your Early Stuff,” Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe – aka Pet Shop Boys – recall a conversation with a cab driver who thought the U.K. duo was done for, but admired their ’80s work. Since their 11th album tends to drag – its chill-out vibe could really use a few more hits of adrenaline, and the songs aren’t nearly as memorable as their classic stuff – who can blame the guy for wishing they were still in their prime, singing about West End Girls? But the Pet Shop Boys still pull off some splendid moments of loungetronica: “Hold On” is a gospel beauty, and the dry-witted “Ego Music” satires celebrity vanity. Otherwise, though, it’ll have you turning to the early stuff.

Reach Chris Azzopardi via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com.
Hamtramck—a town almost completely surrounded by its much larger neighbor, Detroit—was once home to Southeast Michigan’s Polish community. In 1970, 90 percent of its residents were of Polish ancestry. Today, the bustling ‘burb is now the state’s most internationally diverse city, with large numbers of residents coming from numerous Asian and Middle Eastern countries—all of whom live in very close proximity to a smattering of African-Americans, Latinos and folks with family ties to an assortment of European countries.

It’s also home to the feisty Planet Ant Theatre, which examines the community’s racial, cultural and religious differences with the world premiere of Margaret Edwartowski’s “Hamtown Races.” The result is a near-flawless production.

Edwartowski, long known as one of the reigning queens of Detroit’s improv community, has earned a glowing reputation as an up-and-coming playwright. Beginning with her initial one-act drama “Snowbound” in early 2010, it’s been a pleasure watching her skills and storytelling abilities improve with every new script she writes. Thanks (I suspect) to many years of improv, Edwartowski has developed a keen ear for dialogue and a knack for creating imaginative, yet believable characters—and both are at a peak in “Hamtown Races.”

But of equal importance, Edwartowski proves with this production that she fears nothing and will take the necessary risks to tell the story she wants and needs to tell in the most complete and honest way possible. So if you’re easily offended or live a politically correct life, then take this as a strong hint: “Hamtown Races” may not be for you.

For the rest of us, though, Edwartowski has crafted a warm and heartfelt tale about what can happen when people of significantly different backgrounds mix together at a small Hamtramck restaurant owned by Noor (Amy Probst), a Lebanese immigrant. It’s a clash of cultures, as regular patrons Dobry (Patrick O’Connor Cronin), a Polish immigrant, and Jimmy (Rico Bruce Wade), an African-American on disability, enjoy themselves teasing and taunting Matt (Stephen Blackwell), the white-bread owner of a tee-shirt silk-screening company across the street—and who has an obvious crush on Lola (Britta Peele), Noor’s beautiful daughter.

Storm clouds roll in with the arrival of Noor’s long-estranged husband, Kassim (Mike Eshaq), a rich banker from Lebanon who is displeased to find his wife and daughter working and living in a lower-middle-class neighborhood. Nor is he thrilled to stumble upon Lola and Matt kissing after a night of drinking and partying.

But that’s the least of the problems Noor and her family will face over the next few days.

Edwartowski’s blend of quirky characters and realistic dialogue might lead one to believe she penned much of her script by eavesdropping on Hamtramck citizens as they came and went from any of Hamtramck’s dining establishments—it’s that natural. And they’re vividly brought to life by a director who understood how to both pace the show and allow his actors to fully invest themselves in their characters.

Director Mike McGettigan has long been a favorite of mine because of his unique perspective on comedy and his inventive nature—and he’s at the top of his game. Much more traditional than some of his past work, McGettigan gets high marks for finding the small nuggets in Edwartowski’s script to build off of and have fun with—a brief look, a minor change in a facial expression, a pause in the action—all of which pay off great dividends by allowing us, the audience, to believe we actually are in the restaurant watching the story unfold before us.

His eye for casting, though, is among the show’s greatest assets.

The adorable Probst has a gentle sweetness about her that works quite well as Noor, matched by the innocence Cronin gives to Dobry. (Always an audience favorite, it’s fun to watch Cronin’s comedic mind at work when faced with an opportunity to have some unexpected fun when something goes awry, which happened early in the performance on opening night. I suspect some may not even have noticed it, but that quick, sly grin couldn’t be missed by those of us familiar with his work.)

Blackwell, a tall and lanky actor, always manages to physically and emotionally become whatever character he plays, and his Matt is no different. His total control of his body, face, voice and movements tell you everything you need to know about what this character is thinking at any given moment.

And Peele, still a student studying theater at Wayne State University, acquits herself rather well as the least experienced actress among a team of veteran, top-notch thespians.

Two performances, though, merit special notice.

Missing from Detroit-area stages for far too long has been Eshaq, a filmmaker and actor whose memorable performances include two monologues in “Bogosian V(5): The Christening” at The Abreact in 2009. Once again, his focus and intensity are palpable—and he dominates the stage every time he makes an entrance.

Likely the bravest performance of the night is given by Wade. In this politically correct age, it’s been said that the TV series “All in the Family” would never make it on the air today. Wade’s Jimmy—a black man who sees himself the victim of racism, but fails to acknowledge his own flaws—is a direct descendent of Archie Bunker’s, with strong views and the words to match. While I suspect some in future audiences may be offended by the repeated use of the much feared and dreaded “n word,” I also suspect all of us know and love someone just like Jimmy—and the result is one of the most honest and sincere portraits of a “warts and all” human being to hit the stage in quite some time. (He’s also damn funny!)

Katie Orwig’s set design suggests a familiarity with local Coney Island and Middle Eastern restaurants, although missing from the wall is the required operating license from the local municipality. And Kevin Barron’s lights serve the show well.

While it’s been said many times in recent years that discussions about race and cultural differences are impossible to have when tensions among the various factions are so high—and when politicians use the topics to enflame their bases—Edwartowski’s “Hamtown Races” proves how live theater can help stimulate the conversation through laughter and plenty of food for thought that can be taken home and digested later.

“Hamtown Races” by Margaret Edwartowski features Patrick O’Conner Cronin, Rico Bruce Wade, Amy Probst, Mike Eshaq, Britta Peele and Stephen Blackwell. Photo: SMyers

Hamtramck—a town almost completely surrounded by its much larger neighbor, Detroit—was once home to Southeast Michigan’s Polish community. In 1970, 90 percent of its residents were of Polish ancestry. Today, the bustling ‘burb is now the state’s most internationally diverse city, with large numbers of residents coming from numerous Asian and Middle Eastern countries—all of whom live in very close proximity to a smattering of African-Americans, Latinos and folks with family ties to an assortment of European countries.

It’s also home to the feisty Planet Ant Theatre, which examines the community’s racial, cultural and religious differences with the world premiere of Margaret Edwartowski’s “Hamtown Races.” The result is a near-flawless production.

Edwartowski, long known as one of the reigning queens of Detroit’s improv community, has earned a glowing reputation as an up-and-coming playwright. Beginning with her initial one-act drama “Snowbound” in early 2010, it’s been a pleasure watching her skills and storytelling abilities improve with every new script she writes. Thanks (I suspect) to many years of improv, Edwartowski has developed a keen ear for dialogue and a knack for creating imaginative, yet believable characters—and both are at a peak in “Hamtown Races.”

But of equal importance, Edwartowski proves with this production that she fears nothing and will take the necessary risks to tell the story she wants and needs to tell in the most complete and honest way possible. So if you’re easily offended or live a politically correct life, then take this as a strong hint: “Hamtown Races” may not be for you.

For the rest of us, though, Edwartowski has crafted a warm and heartfelt tale about what can happen when people of significantly different backgrounds mix together at a small Hamtramck restaurant owned by Noor (Amy Probst), a Lebanese immigrant. It’s a clash of cultures, as regular patrons Dobry (Patrick O’Connor Cronin), a Polish immigrant, and Jimmy (Rico Bruce Wade), an African-American on disability, enjoy themselves teasing and taunting Matt (Stephen Blackwell), the white-bread owner of a tee-shirt silk-screening company across the street—and who has an obvious crush on Lola (Britta Peele), Noor’s beautiful daughter.

Storm clouds roll in with the arrival of Noor’s long-estranged husband, Kassim (Mike Eshaq), a rich banker from Lebanon who is displeased to find his wife and daughter working and living in a lower-middle-class neighborhood. Nor is he thrilled to stumble upon Lola and Matt kissing after a night of drinking and partying.

But that’s the least of the problems Noor and her family will face over the next few days.

Edwartowski’s blend of quirky characters and realistic dialogue might lead one to believe she penned much of her script by eavesdropping on Hamtramck citizens as they came and went from any of Hamtramck’s dining establishments—it’s that natural. And they’re vividly brought to life by a director who understood how to both pace the show and allow his actors to fully invest themselves in their characters.

Director Mike McGettigan has long been a favorite of mine because of his unique perspective on comedy and his inventive nature—and he’s at the top of his game. Much more traditional than some of his past work, McGettigan gets high marks for finding the small nuggets in Edwartowski’s script to build off of and have fun with—a brief look, a minor change in a facial expression, a pause in the action—all of which pay off great dividends by allowing us, the audience, to believe we actually are in the restaurant watching the story unfold before us.

His eye for casting, though, is among the show’s greatest assets.

The adorable Probst has a gentle sweetness about her that works quite well as Noor, matched by the innocence Cronin gives to Dobry. (Always an audience favorite, it’s fun to watch Cronin’s comedic mind at work when faced with an opportunity to have some unexpected fun when something goes awry, which happened early in the performance on opening night. I suspect some may not even have noticed it, but that quick, sly grin couldn’t be missed by those of us familiar with his work.)

Blackwell, a tall and lanky actor, always manages to physically and emotionally become whatever character he plays, and his Matt is no different. His total control of his body, face, voice and movements tell you everything you need to know about what this character is thinking at any given moment.

And Peele, still a student studying theater at Wayne State University, acquits herself rather well as the least experienced actress among a team of veteran, top-notch thespians.

Two performances, though, merit special notice.

Missing from Detroit-area stages for far too long has been Eshaq, a filmmaker and actor whose memorable performances include two monologues in “Bogosian V(5): The Christening” at The Abreact in 2009. Once again, his focus and intensity are palpable—and he dominates the stage every time he makes an entrance.

Likely the bravest performance of the night is given by Wade. In this politically correct age, it’s been said that the TV series “All in the Family” would never make it on the air today. Wade’s Jimmy—a black man who sees himself the victim of racism, but fails to acknowledge his own flaws—is a direct descendent of Archie Bunker’s, with strong views and the words to match. While I suspect some in future audiences may be offended by the repeated use of the much feared and dreaded “n word,” I also suspect all of us know and love someone just like Jimmy—and the result is one of the most honest and sincere portraits of a “warts and all” human being to hit the stage in quite some time. (He’s also damn funny!)

Katie Orwig’s set design suggests a familiarity with local Coney Island and Middle Eastern restaurants, although missing from the wall is the required operating license from the local municipality. And Kevin Barron’s lights serve the show well.

While it’s been said many times in recent years that discussions about race and cultural differences are impossible to have when tensions among the various factions are so high—and when politicians use the topics to enflame their bases—Edwartowski’s “Hamtown Races” proves how live theater can help stimulate the conversation through laughter and plenty of food for thought that can be taken home and digested later.

“Hamtown Races” by Margaret Edwartowski features Patrick O’Conner Cronin, Rico Bruce Wade, Amy Probst, Mike Eshaq, Britta Peele and Stephen Blackwell. Photo: SMyers
Pepper Creek Theatre Company opens their 10th anniversary season with "Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson," playing Oct. 4-7 and 11-3 at its new venue, the Miller Performing Arts Center, located at 6025 Curry Lane, just two blocks west of the Miller/Cedar Street intersection in South Lansing.

"Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson" tells the story of America's first political maverick: Andrew Jackson. Jackson kicked British butt, shat the Indians and smoked down the Spaniards all in the name of the United States. Who cares if he didn't have permission? An exhilarating and white-knuckle look at one of our nation's founding rock stars. "Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson" recreates and reinvents the life of "Old Hickory," from his humble beginnings on the Tennessee frontier to his days as our seventh commander-in-chief. It also recreates and reinvents the life of "Old Hickory," from his humble beginnings on the Tennessee frontier to his days as our seventh commander-in-chief. It also

**Friday, Oct. 5**

**50 and Better Friday Group** 7 p.m. Designed for those 50 and better looking for a place to come together to enjoy live entertainment. This night is for those 50 and better looking for a place to come together to enjoy live entertainment.

**Michigan Philharmonic** "Ichiban Plays Rodrigo" Miguel del Álamo's The Giant Guitar, Joaquín Rodrigo's Concierto De Aranjuez, António deVítor's Symphony No. 7. The Village Theatre and Yoko Taro's "Love Theme" on Cherry Hill Road, Canton. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 5. 734-394-5300. MichiganPhil.org

**COMEDY**

**Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase** Tony DeGraaf, A rising young talent, DeGraaf is known for his rhyming innuendos. "I'm not the perfect comedic timing almost certainly gained from his years as a professional stand-up comic. Tickets: $10-12. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 14 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 28-29. 734-996-9030. AAComedy.com

Olympia Entertainment's Jeffery Seifert: America's premier comedians returns to Fox Theatre. Seifert has been hailed for his uncanny ability to joke about the little things in life that relate to audiences everywhere. Tickets: $49-79. Fox Theatre, 2511 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 6. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** Jim Breuer: An American stand-up comedian, actor and radio host. He is most noted for his time as a cast member on Saturday Night Live. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Oct. 5. 287. 248-399-2880. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

**CONCERTS**

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Opening Week: Joshua Bell" Bernstein Divertimento for Orchestra, Overture to Candide, Symphony No. 1, Jeremiah, and Serenade. Tickets: $15, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3717 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 28-30. 313-576-5111. DSO.org


**Michigan Philharmonic** "Ichiban Plays Rodrigo" Miguel del Álamo's The Giant Guitar, Joaquín Rodrigo's Concierto De Aranjuez, António deVítor's Symphony No. 7. The Village Theatre and Yoko Taro's "Love Theme" on Cherry Hill Road, Canton. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 5. 734-394-5300. MichiganPhil.org

**COMEDY**

**Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase** Tony DeGraaf, A rising young talent, DeGraaf is known for his rhyming innuendos. "I'm not the perfect comedic timing almost certainly gained from his years as a professional stand-up comic. Tickets: $10-12. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 14 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 28-29. 734-996-9030. AAComedy.com

Olympia Entertainment's Jeffery Seifert: America's premier comedians returns to Fox Theatre. Seifert has been hailed for his uncanny ability to joke about the little things in life that relate to audiences everywhere. Tickets: $49-79. Fox Theatre, 2511 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 6. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** Jim Breuer: An American stand-up comedian, actor and radio host. He is most noted for his time as a cast member on Saturday Night Live. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Oct. 5. 287. 248-399-2880. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

**CONCERTS**

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Opening Week: Joshua Bell" Bernstein Divertimento for Orchestra, Overture to Candide, Symphony No. 1, Jeremiah, and Serenade. Tickets: $15, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3717 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 28-30. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

**Editor’s Pick**

New York songstress Ingrid Michaelson started out singing mellow, moody, often very funny folk-pop confections like “The Way I Am” (“I’d buy you Rogaine when you start losing all your hair”). Ingrid’s success expanded, and her songs have been all over the soundtracks of hit television series like “Grey’s Anatomy.” “One Tree Hill,” and more. As a composer of pure infectious melody Ingrid is still second to none, but with her fifth album, “Human Again,” she pushed herself harder as both a vocalist and writer.

Ingrid Michaelson performs at 7 p.m. Sept. 30 at the Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are $27-$42. This performance was brought to the Power Center by The Ark. For more information, go to www.TheArk.org

---

**PROFESSIONAL**


A Skull in Conennama Fee; donations accepted. The Abract Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette, #113, Detroit. Through Sep. 29. 313-454-1542. theabreact.com


Barbara Cook $45-$56. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14. 248-661-1900. TheBerman.org


Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net


Oh, Ananse $10 adult, $5 child. PuppetArt at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through Sep. 29. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

Sunday at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net


Thursdays at Go Comedy! A night of original comedies: “50 States of Grey” ($10) and “Impro Rebels” (10 p.m.; $5). Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

Wednesdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

You Make Me Laugh! A Love Song to Gilda Radner $20. The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Sep. 29. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

---

**ART’N’AROUND**

**ART’N’AROUND**


Epiphany Glass “Epiphany Glass Open House” 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. July 5-Nov. 1. 248-745-3786. Epiphanyglass.com


Michigan State University Museum “Echoes of Silent Spring: 50 Years of Environmental Awareness” 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. June 1-Nov. 30. Museum.msu.edu/7-nnode/527


Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit “young @ Heart” 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 7-Jan. 20. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts “Picasso and Matisse” 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 11-Oct. 29. 313-833-7900. DIA.org


University of Michigan Museum of Art “Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries” 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 19-Oct. 5. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art “Benjamin West: General Wolfe and the Art of the Empire” 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 22-Jan. 13. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu


September 27, 2012 | BTL 37
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

Lansing

Be included in our Lansing Cool Cities Pages

Call Ann today: 734-293-7200 x13

Shop Lansing!
Go Spartans!

The road less traveled starts at Williams Subaru.

With road-gripping Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive and 30 MPG*, you won’t run out of adventures in a 2013 Subaru Outback or ways to get there.

Williams Subaru
2845 East Saginaw St., Lansing, MI 48912
517-484-1341 www.williamssubaru.com

*EPA estimated highway fuel economy for 2013 Subaru Outback 2.5 CVT models. Actual mileage may vary. Actual mileage may vary. Subaru, Forester, Outback, Tribeca, Legacy, Impreza, WRX, STI and SUBARU BOXER are registered trademarks.
### LGBT AA MEETINGS

- **Ann Arbor**-
  - **Friday**
  - 7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/Discussion.

- **Bloomfield Hills**-
  - **Thursday**
  - 7:00 pm, Sobriety in The Hills Gay AA, Kirk in The Hills Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd. Closed/Discussion.

- **Detroit**-
  - **Tuesday / Friday**
  - 8:00 pm, Downtown Gay AA, Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 West Fort St. Closed/Discussion (Open 1st Friday of every month).

- **Farmington Hills**-
  - **Monday**
  - 8:00 pm, Suburban West Gay AA, Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halstead (Between 10 & 11 Mile Roads) Closed/Discussion.

- **Ferndale**-
  - **Monday / Wednesday / Friday**
  - 8 p.m., Diversity Wednesday Gay AA, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 540 W. Lewiston @ Livernois. Closed/Discussion.
  - 8 p.m., Go After Your Sobriety Gay AA, Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest. Closed/Discussion.

- **Livonia**-
  - **Friday**
  - 8 p.m., West Side Story’s Gay AA, Providence Medical Center, 7 Mile & Newburgh. Closed/Discussion.

- **Warren**-
  - **Monday**

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

- **Profitable business for sale**
  - Well established Dry Cleaners and Shirt Laundry for sale in Allen Park Michigan. Business includes all equipment, alterations department and commercial accounts. Located on busy Allen Rd with a 40,000 a day traffic count. Owner is retiring so be the first in your community to capture the Dry Cleaning market.
  - Business price is $225,000
  - Real Estate also available
  - Please inquire by email only
  - ALexan911@aol.com

### REAL ESTATE

- **Sweet Home LLC**
  - Assisted Living for Adult Gay Men, includes private rooms, three prepared meals each day, security, linen and personal laundry, WiFi, transportation.
  - Daily rates from $50-$70. Call 1-888-292-1774.

### Massages

- **Group Massage**
  - For Gay and Bisexual Men. Learn some massage techniques and meet others in a safe and caring environment. Tuesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Thursdays at 2 p.m. $10 per session. 209 West Kingsley in downtown Ann Arbor. (734) 662-6282 or email Massage4@aol.com.
  - http://www.trymassage.com

---

To place a classified ad with us, visit PRIDESOURCE.COM/classifieds or call us at 888.615.7003 ext. 22
When we left our hero, he had just ruined yet another dinner party with a rare but deadly combination of bad memory and gracious seasonal taste. I had made dill-infused vodka and served it to a good friend who, I’d forgotten, had auditioned for the role of Dill in the film adaptation of “To Kill a Mockingbird” and, having not gotten the part, has spent the rest of his life in mortal dread of the very word “dill,” let alone the herb it signifies. I mentioned that the dilled vodka was delicious, and I gave instructions on how to make it, but the following weekend’s (shall we say) full-throated reception of the cocktails I made from it was so overwhelmingly positive I’ve actually decided to expand on the recipe and offer one particular suggestion for a cocktail to make with it.

I acknowledge that I’m not the world’s most humble human being; I can be quite a blowhard sometimes. But I must say plainly and simply that dill-infused vodka is by far the best drink I’ve ever made, and it was greeted as such by our housemates last weekend. They polished off practically the whole fifth in less than an hour. I barely had enough to experiment with, and I wanted to create a martini-like cocktail using the infusion as the base. I snatched the bottle right out of Craig’s pudgy fist to get the last ounce before he gulped it down. “Heyyyyy!” he whined.

“Hay is for horses, dear,” I clucked. “How many times must I tell you? What would Princess Grace say if you were at the palace and said ‘hey’ at the dinner table?”

“Oh, why are you such a douchebag?” I said it as though I was a Harvard anthropologist quoting another anthropologist’s study of self-reporting users of vulgarity in Appalachia. “I simply want enough to try a recipe…”

“So what are you calling this masterpiece, Dr. Goebbels?”

“The 57.”

“I live with this,” Dan said to no one in particular. “I’ll bite,” said Chipper. “Why?”

“It’s an homage to the Heinz pickle. The garnish is a cornichon or two. Dill? Pickle? Dill? Pickle? Get it? Heinz 57?”

“We’re so lucky to have you in our lives,” I wish somebody had said. But they all turned and went their separate ways. I downed the tiny 57 and felt just fine.

### The 57

1 fifth Absolut premium vodka
1 bunch dill, washed and dried
dry vermouth to taste

cornichon for garnish

Make the infusion: stick the dill in the vodka, leave it alone for two days, then remove it; this is easy to do if you leave the stems sticking out the top of the bottle and cover it all with plastic wrap. Put the cap back on and stick the bottle in the freezer.

Make the 57s: Just make a vodka martini according to your own taste using the dill infusion and dry vermouth; I like a 4-1 ratio. Rinse a few cornichons under water and dry them on paper towels; drop a few into your finished drinks and serve.
Horoscopes

Listen to your friends, Gemini!

BY JACK FERTIG

Venus is squaring Mars, boosting creative and sexual tensions. Impulse and ego are very strong here, not true love. Commitments to a higher cause can prove dramatic. Promises of love will just explode.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): “All’s fair in love and war,” but there are consequences that go beyond victory. Beware of collateral damage to your reputation and other regrets. Are you really fighting for something worthwhile? Or just needing to assert yourself? Think ahead!

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Cleaning house or digging up family secrets can expose a lot more than you bargained for. Someone, probably your partner, will not be pleased. Jealousy is useless and destructive. Keeping your home together may require a new open-mindedness.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): A winning streak in love and games won’t last long, but enjoy it while it does. Be careful, though. Too much fun could upset your partner, or botch efforts to start something new. Listen to your friends, but don’t trust all of them.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): The need to assert yourself can run you afoul of authority. It may be more strategic in the long run to let a boss steal credit for your innovations. Deserved credit will come your way in time.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): You may indeed have all the answers, but don’t be too eager with them. Let people figure it out for themselves and you might even learn something in the process. Deal with small health problems before they become large ones!

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): You could be in for a raise. Make very nice with people who decide that, but more importantly, make sure your true value is clear to see. Promotions bring bigger challenges. Don’t be intimidated or over-eager. Size up the situation carefully before acting.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Popularity is a double-edged sword. Invitations from your friends can cause friction with your family and mate. If your partner suggests that some of your pals are taking advantage of you, he or she is probably right.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Your efforts to get ahead will be noticed, but that will also highlight your faults and mistakes. Nobody’s perfect. Your best strategy is to ask your boss or another expert for help where you need improvement.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): If you’re looking for a lover, look among your friends. If you have one, get your baby to socialize more with your pals. In love and friendship, think about who you want to be with 12 years from now.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Reality is about to lose those clean definitions you love so dearly. You can gain empathy and foresight, but like any new skill those can be challenging at first. Yes, you are going a little crazy, but that can be a brilliant adventure.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Secrets will be revealed! Keep your mouth shut about others and especially at work! Focus on digging up your own with a counselor or a trusted confidante, and you could free yourself from old fears and anxieties.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): You have lots of opportunities to indulge fleeting passions, but don’t mistake them for love. Life is about to get a bit harder and more serious. You’ll need to define and focus your goals, but that will take time. Don’t make snap decisions now.

Solution to puzzle from page 38

GROG GAY GOLF
OVAL DELEYS AWED
ASHE ONEAL YEAR
UNDERGROUND DOSE NERO
OSCAR ARSON
RAH MICHAEL TIR
CMON LEARN TRIX
COMEDY MOVIE
AROSE ESO ATE UP
RELIEF REGATT
CLARKE DUNCAN
HAT EVERAGE AHA
ETE SEVERAL RAM
RES TRACERY SNA
HIGH REFINANCING CLOSING COSTS STARING YOU IN THE FACE?

STARE AT THIS: AS LOW AS $299.*

Easy Home Refi℠ from Fifth Third Bank is worth looking at. Imagine saving hundreds of dollars every month and closing costs for as low as $299, too. It’s a fixed rate on a fixed term and a .25% discount when you automatically deduct your payment from your Fifth Third checking account.

To learn more about the ideas we have for making borrowing better for everyone, call 866-53LOANS, visit your nearest banking center or go to www.53.com/ehr.

The curious bank.

Fifth Third Bank

*The $299 closing costs are available only with the use of Vista Settlement Services, LLC. Subject to credit review and approval. Offer available on first lien refinances only; loan to value ratio not to exceed 80%. Subject to additional restrictions. Contact a Fifth Third banking center for more information. Rate, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Borrower is responsible for cost of title coverage, which is based on the loan amount if Vista Settlement Services, LLC is not used. Fees associated with the payoff of a prior lien or prepaid interest on the new loan are the responsibility of the borrower and are not included in the $299 closing cost. The taxes for properties in Florida are not part of the $299 closing costs and are required to be paid in addition to the $299 closing costs. In Florida, doc stamp and intangible taxes apply and will generally range from $55 to $2,254. The total cost of these taxes is based upon the loan amount (the highest number is based on $417,000 loan amount). Checking account required to receive .25% discount. $50 minimum deposit required to open new checking account. Fifth Third Bank, Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. ☉