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COMMUNITY

Jim Toy Turns 87, Reflects on a Lifetime of Activism

pg. 9

TRUMPS FIRST 100 DAYS

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pg. 14

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

30 HFHS Launches Collaborative to Enhance Research on Healthcare Needs of SGM Youth

30 CDC Awards Community Health Awareness Group $1.94 Million

30 Come Out from Behind the Badge

TRUMPS FIRST 100 DAYS

pg. 14

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NEXTGen Detroit Pride Celebrates a Year of Service

Young Adult Group with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit Turns One in May

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

It was the brainchild of Sam Dubin. After graduating from Central Michigan University in 2014, Dubin returned home to metro Detroit. He quickly became involved with NEXTGen Detroit, the young adult division of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

“I started getting involved with NEXTGen Detroit simply by going to events and meeting people and learning the fundamentals of the Jewish community back home,” said Dubin. Soon enough, he had joined the board.

“I decided I wanted to apply for the board of directors for NEXTGen;” said Dubin. “I got on and this is my second year on the board.”

Shortly after joining the board, Dubin came out as gay.

“I’m really one that follows whatever passion that I have and try to do something about it,” said Dubin. “I was really oblivious of the LGBT community at that point, specifically the LGBT Jewish community or lack thereof. I have a lot of gay friends who I grew up with, none of which live in Detroit. A lot of gay Jews here haven’t historically found that they’ve had a home in Detroit. I’ve always felt that I have had a home here. So I knew I wanted to do something about that.”

To that end, Dubin set about creating a new branch of NEXTGen Detroit.

“We pitched a broad idea of NEXTGen Detroit Pride,” recalled Dubin. “It didn’t have a name at that point. We just knew that we wanted to reach out to our Jewish LGBT young adults. So that was really the start of the creation of what would soon become NEXTGen Detroit Pride.”

Since the group’s inception a year ago in May, NEXTGen Detroit Pride has produced a bi-monthly series of events in LGBT-friendly areas like Ferndale and Royal Oak including a launch party at Pronto, GAYme Night at MBrew, Painting with a Twist, a post-election forum at Affirmations, a Shabbat dinner and a story slam at Chazzano Coffee.

Response, Dubin said, has been great.

“It’s honestly been astounding,” he said.

“We’re really hitting our goals. Starting this just really broadly, one goal was to create an environment where people felt comfortable coming out – that really hit home for me – then creating an environment for people who were already out. For that demographic we’ve created a community within the Jewish community that’s never existed before. We have so many new faces coming to our events who they have told me they had not felt they had a place in our community up until this point.”

Steven Davis sits on the NEXTGen Detroit Pride planning committee. He, too, is happy with their first year’s progress.

“I am proud of the events that NextGen Detroit Pride has produced so far and am excited at the direction the group is going,” Davis said. “Our initial goal was to put out a calendar of events that brought the community together every other month. In accomplishing our goal, we have done both social and religious programming that has attracted as many as 30 participants at a single event.”

Moving forward, NEXTGen Detroit Pride plans to host a barbecue to celebrate their one-year anniversary. They also plan to have a booth at this year’s Ferndale Pride.

“Not only are we seeing a lot of new faces but we’re seeing a lot of returning faces at our events,” said Dubin. “We’re actually becoming friends outside of the formal NEXTGen Detroit Pride structure. Long-term, what I would love to see happen is let’s say there’s a gay U of M senior and they have to decide between going to Chicago or coming back to Detroit after college. I would love for them to know that NEXTGen Detroit Pride exists.”

For more information about NEXTGen Detroit, visit their website https://jewishdetroit.org/nextgen or their Facebook www.facebook.com/NextGenD

Join the Revolutionary, Unprecedented Convening for Trans Women of Color

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The Trans Sistas of Color Project is seeking sponsors for their first national convening for transgender women of color May 18-22 at the Crowne Plaza Downtown Detroit Riverfront.

“We are looking for partners, collaborators, co-creators and investors who share our vision, its intrinsic value and buy into our mission of uplifting, impacting and influencing the lives and welfare of transgender women,” said Bre’ Campbell, TSOCP’s executive director. “Your partnership and support is vital to the success of The Gathering.”

There are several sponsorship opportunities and levels. Official Partner opportunities range from $500-20,000. TSOCP is also looking for event partners to help produce a total of five events over the long weekend. The events include the #SAYHERNAME #BLACKTRANSLIVESMATTER Welcoming Reception; the Opening Plenary Breakfast; a Health, Safety & Wellness Fair; a Trans Night @ the Movies; the Partners Gathering; Cocktails with Black Women’s Blueprint; the I AM MY SISTA Community Brunch & Closing Plenary; and the DOLLHOUSE annual fundraising benefit showcase featuring some of Detroit’s most fabulous and amazing female illusionist talent.

TSOCP is also looking for event table sponsorships, souvenir booklet ads and donations for a silent auction during the I AM MY SISTA Community Brunch & Closing Plenary.

“I really want to remind people about just being thoughtful in their giving,” said Campbell. “As an organization yes, we need money. But I would be really interested to see people leverage access to their resources to make sure that trans people have all of the things that they need.”

These resources include a variety of things like housing and employment opportunities, hormones, medical and dental care from inclusive providers, clothing vouchers, Bridge cards, bus passes, name changes, gender marker and ID changes, food, access to education, mental health services, HIV prevention and...
treatment, to name a few.

“The Gathering is organized as a rapid response convening to combat the growing levels of transphobia, transmisogny and discrimination embedded in the current administration’s anti-trans, anti-woman, anti-other rhetoric, legislation and policies,” said Campbell, adding that this work began during the 2016 Detroit Trans Community Gathering, which was created as a grassroots organizing, community building and engagement event for, by and around the lived experiences of trans women of color.

“It was designed with the intent to deepen the relationships, connections and sisterhood of trans women of color and, at the same time, develop a pipeline to shared resources, skills and opportunities for our collective and individual liberation and advancement,” Campbell continued. “We aim to gather and bring some of Detroit’s and the nation’s fiercest trans advocates, activists and change makers to Detroit to work toward building a better, safer world for our sisters.”

The theme of The Gathering this year is “Resistance as an Act of Resilience.”

“When I think about trans communities we’ve always been resisting,” Campbell explained. “We’ve been resisting since before Trump and we’re going to continue to resist. I think the idea really came from like honoring the people who have been resisting and making sure that they have access to spaces that can help them further resist.”

President Donald Trump is, in fact, part of the reason that TSOCP expanded The Gathering to make it a national event.

“We weren’t expecting to have the current president that we have,” said Campbell. “So I think for us it was a real priority shift. I don’t know if there’s ever really been a space that was dedicated to black trans women in terms of resisting. That looks different to different people in different spaces. So we wanted to bring trans women from around the country to see how they’re resisting and make sure they have the resources to continue the work that’s important in their communities.”

While some events will be exclusive to trans women of color, others will be open to all.

“During the conference we’re going to split off into two groups, one specifically for trans people who are doing the work and one for allies,” she said, noting that most of the events are open to the public, like the DOLLHOUSE event and the Health, Safety & Wellness Fair.

As the TSOCP continues to pick up steam since forming less than two years ago, Campbell said she hopes The Gathering will put the agency on the national map.

“I’m really excited to invite some of my well respected advocacy friends from across the country to Detroit,” she said. “I think it will create an opportunity for community members from Detroit to meet some well-seasoned activists and build comraderies and exchange some ideas. To be able to hold space with and for trans people, to share resources, ideas, stories – I’m excited about that.”

For more information, to inquire about partnership or submit your partnership information, call 313-537-7000 Ext 107 or email tsocproject@gmail.com.
What is TRUVADA® for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA® is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA® for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA® for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

You must be HIV-negative. You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA® for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.

Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected. If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA® for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA® for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA® for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA® for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.

You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA® for PrEP.

To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:

Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.

Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.

Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.

Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.

Have fewer sex partners.

Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA®. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.

If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.

If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA® alone to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA® by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA®, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA® can cause serious side effects:

Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.

Serious liver problems. Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA® for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA®, your hepatitis B may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA®. Do not stop taking TRUVADA® without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA®, you will need to watch your closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA® is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA® for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA® for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA® to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA® by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA®, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA® for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (Hepsera).

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA® for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA® may also include:

Kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA® for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA® for PrEP.

Bone problems, including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

Changes in body fat, which can happen in people taking TRUVADA® or medicines like TRUVADA®.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA® for PrEP are stomach area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA® for PrEP?

All your health problems. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.

If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRUVADA® can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA® for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA® for PrEP.

Pregnancy Registry: A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.

If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA® can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

All the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA® may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

If you take certain other medicines with TRUVADA® for PrEP your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (Harvoni).

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

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Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA® for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.
Have you heard about **TRUVADA for PrEP™**?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used with **safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You must be **HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

visit [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com)
IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- You must be HIV-1 negative. You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the “How to Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands or feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- Severe liver problems, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:
- Those in the “Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

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

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeeding. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- Take 1 tablet once a day, every day, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You must practice safer sex by using condoms and you must stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- If you need help paying for your medication, visit start.truvada.com for program information.
Jim Toy Turns 87, Reflects on a Lifetime of Activism

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

H is self-edited bio reads that he’s originally from New York. It’s a line that’s partially true at best.

“I was born in New York in Manhattan and my mother died when I was born,” explained longtime gay and civil rights activist Jim Toy.

“So my dad moved us to Ohio to live with my grandparents.”

He lived in Ohio until he graduated from Denison University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1951. Then he moved to France for two years before returning to his birthplace.

“I was a conscientious objector and I had refused to register for the draft,” Toy recalled.

“I had to do a two-year alternative service. So after France I moved back to Manhattan and worked as a clerk in a blood bank.”

In 1957, he came to Detroit at the invitation of an Episcopal priest he had known. He was invited to become the minister of music at St. Joseph’s. Shortly afterward he met a woman and was married.

“After a couple of years we decided I should go to graduate school,” said Toy. “That would have been 1960. I rented a room in Ann Arbor and I would live there during the week and then I would go back to Detroit for the weekend.”

Toy went on to earn a master’s degree in clinical social work from the University of Michigan. He remained married until 1966.

“I was totally in the closet and my communication with my wife consequently was worse than zero,” said Toy. “So Janet and was married.

“I was speaking out against the Vietnam War and suddenly I said, ‘My name is Jim Toy, I’m 40 years old and I’m a gay man.’ What prompted me to do that I cannot say. I had not thought about it in advance. The Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News had reporters there and they wrote up the rally. They mentioned me and that I was gay so I was out of the closet publicly,” said Toy.

The year was 1970. The uprising at the Stonewall Inn in New York – often referred to as the beginning of the modern gay rights movement – had taken place less than 12 months before.

Suddenly out, Toy wasted no time in getting to work on gay rights. He was a founding member of both the Detroit Gay Liberation Front. In 1971, he helped establish the Human Sexuality Office at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The HSO was the first staff office in a U.S. institution of higher learning, and presumably the first of its kind in the world, to respond to sexual-orientation concerns. Toy served as its co-coordinator and gay male advocate from 1971 until 1994.

Upon coming out, it was at the HSO where Keith Orr met Toy for the first time in the early 80s.

“I had access to invaluable programs and attended sessions with a bunch of other gay people, some of my best friends. I was not alone, especially back then when coming out was difficult for everybody...it can still be a challenge for a variety of reasons, some situations more than others...Jim created such an affirming atmosphere,” said Orr, who co-owns the Aut Bar and Common Language Bookstore in Ann Arbor with his longtime partner Martin Contreras.

“Martin and I often refer to him – when we hear younger people who don’t know who he is say, ‘There’s actually a person named Jim Toy’ – that he is our own Harvey Milk,” said Orr. He remembers a few marches down Woodward with only a couple hundred people at the time including Toy, who was known for “getting cheers going.”

Still, Orr said, Toy is “encouraging to everybody. I can’t remember him ever telling somebody, ‘Oh, that’s a bad idea.’ He’s a swing his fist, way to go kind of guy. It’s pretty amazing.”

1971

In 1971, Toy was appointed a founding member of the Diocesan Commission on Homosexuality by Bishop Richard Emrich of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. The following year he co-authored the first official Lesbian Gay Pride Week Proclamation for the Ann Arbor City Council.

1971 was a significant year for Toy. He also founded the Ann Arbor Gay Hotline and would go on to serve as its coordinator and trainer until 1985.

By the mid-80s, the gay rights movement was facing perhaps its greatest threat to date: the AIDS crisis. Toy was active from the start.

“When we first became aware of it three of us social workers got together at a local restaurant and said, ‘What are we going to do about this?’” Toy remembered. “We were all members of the Gay Men’s Health Crisis in Ann Arbor. So we organized an educational effort and we had become aware of what was then called Wellness Networks Detroit. We

6th Annual Jim Toy Birthday Bash

April 28 brings together the LGBTQ community, allies, political leaders and other community notable community members for a night of celebration to honor the Jim Toy Community Center’s namesake. This event - hosted by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, Equality Michigan, Paradigm Research and Engineering, Committee to Elect Evan Pratt, Ann Arbor City Council Member Jack Eaton, Ron and Barbara Kramer, and Jim Toy Community Center Board Member Leigh Greden - celebrates the legendary Jim Toy and his lifetime of advocacy and accomplishments on behalf of the LGBTQ community. The celebration begins at 6:30 p.m. at Bona Sera Restaurant, 200 W. Michigan Ave in Ypsilanti. A suggested donation of $10 is encouraged at the time of arrival. For more information about the event, visit www.jimtoycenter.org/birthday-bash.
Low Down on the Down Low

Parting Glances

I’ve been out of the LGBT lovebird loop-the-loop for so long that it rarely occurs to me that dating can be hazardous to one’s mental and physical well being. Can occasionally require subterfuge, quick costume change, 911 calls. Bedroom fisticuffs.

Even at my age there are lessons to be learned, and I learned a lot from “The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Dating and Sex” (Chronicle Books; $14.95).

Had I had the benefit of this combat manual – written by psychological, behavioral, toxicological, forensic majordomos – in my tossed salad days, my dating life would have been a little more sparky, a lot more pushy, and certainly double-oh-seven!

Come to think of it, I’d recommend this “Worse-Case Scenario” to any ex-gay who – for whatever reason of Adam & Steve rib-kicking, spinal slumping, erogenous ineptitude – is in need of a macho blueprint for opposite-sex seduction and sacking. (A switch in time saves nine – or gets same, if you’re lucky).

Yes, dating is no Sunday school picnic, according to the author warlords: “You’ll find out how to survive dozens of physically and emotionally threatening situations in bars, restaurants, bedrooms, and airplane lavatories. And in the handy appendix, you’ll find excuses you might need, a guide to pickup lines to avoid (“I have Comcast cable TV.”), and body language interpretation chart for encouragement – or for extra protection.”

Selections include: How to Determine If Your Date Is an Axe Murderer [Hint: He’s probably a bed-wetter]; How to Determine Your Date’s Gender [“Look for the Adam’s Apple.”]; How to Fake An Orgasm; How to Have Sex in a Small Space; How to Spot Breast Implants; How to Survive Snoring, and How to Survive if You Have Excessive Gas.

While it’s impossible to post sentries at all trenches, the following may help our hormonally charged privates – straight, gay, bi, trans, and Ex – safely through the dating battlefield until the hoped for Left Behind Rapture rolls around. Let’s start with the Big O: How to Fake Same.

“Moan and cry out, building in volume intensity. You may say your partner’s name over and over. [Bruce! Bruce! Oh, Gawd. Bruce!] Many people, in the thralls of ecstasy, will blurt out sentences or requests that are utterly incomprehensible. [Is there an extra charge for my golden shower?] Arch your back, scrunch your facial muscles, open your mouth wide, and curl your toes.” [This little pig went to market.]

Having airborne sex: “Be ready for turbulence. The safest position involves one partner sitting on the closed toilet seat. Then, in the event of bumpy air, neither partner will be too close to the ceiling, risking a concussion [and an unscheduled stop for hospital admission].”

Dumping a dinner date: “Chew with your mouth open, eat with your fingers, argue with the waiter, close your eyes and pretend to sleep, light matches and drop them on your plate, ignore everything said to you, and/or call someone else on your cell phone [like the fire department].”

Getting caught cheating: “Do not try to be nice or understanding – it will only make things more difficult for your soon-to-be-ex-partner. Be a jerk – it will make it easier for them to move on [and loath you].”

How to Survive Flatulent Overload: “As a last resort, head to the bathroom. Kneel on the floor, bend forward, and stretch your arms out in front of you. Keep your buttocks high in the air, forming a triangle with your upper body and the floor. Release gas.”

Under no circumstance remove your pants. Panties. G-String. Trump/ Pence diaphragm for Jesus. (Sometimes life’s a gas. Ask any Republican.)

Positive Thoughts

Growing Pains

The future of HIV remains hopeful

These are uncertain times we live in. When daily messages of hopelessness and despair fill your newsfeed, there may be a temptation to shut down and tune out, or to return to old, self-destructive behaviors in an effort to cope.

If you just tested positive, you might be thinking it’s the last straw. But I need you to know...you will be OK. You’re going to be OK.

If you’re a long-term survivor of HIV, you’ve come a long way, baby. Don’t give up now. We’ve come too far to be defeated this easily.

Lately, I’ve been reading up on something called post-traumatic growth. Research shows that many people who face trauma, adversity, or other life challenges actually report positive benefits, becoming stronger and having a more meaningful life in the wake of tragedy or a life-altering experience. We’ve seen this played out time and time again in HIV, where people turn their life around, and find meaning in their lives by helping others.

There are numerous instances of life after testing positive that are uplifting and inspiring. Take Magic Johnson, for example. He used his diagnosis to raise awareness about HIV, how it’s transmitted (and more importantly how it’s not transmitted), while providing hope to many of us living with HIV that we can still live a full, happy and healthy life. AIDS activist the Rev. Rae Lewis-Thornton is another inspirational figure, someone who has been living with AIDS since the
With recent reports that the overall rate of new infections are actually falling in the U.S., largely due to Treatment as Prevention (TasP, or undetectable equals uninfected) and the rising use of daily oral PrEP for those who are HIV-negative to remain negative, the future of HIV in this country looks hopeful.

► Berry: Growing Pains

Continued from p. 10

1980s, yet uses her remarkable journey and life story to help inform others, especially youth, about HIV and AIDS.

HIV stigma still remains a stubborn issue, unfortunately. It’s important to understand the many layers of stigma, if we are ever truly going to put a dent in the alarming number of new infections taking place in many of our disadvantaged and disempowered communities.

So whether you just tested positive, or are a long-timer like me, I encourage you to try to take your adversity and mold it into a strength. Taking control of your life and making healthy choices, helping you to become informed about HIV treatment so that you can advocate for your own health, or the health of someone you care about, can be your first step toward a new, more meaningful life.

The HIV treatment landscape continues to evolve. For those who are newly or recently diagnosed, one pill once a day with few or no side effects is pretty much a given these days. But it wasn’t long ago that we had to take handfuls of pills several times a day, with horrible side effects like diarrhea, bone loss, kidney stones or, worse, lots of restrictions and qualifications on when and how to dose our meds.

When all is said and done, though, the future of HIV treatment looks bright, with more effective and more tolerable medications (no more “me-too” drugs); long-acting injectables being studied for treatment and prevention; two-drug single-tablet regimens; and new co-formulations of existing medications, all on the near horizon. Drugs that attack HIV using different targets and new delivery methods could help those with resistance or who are struggling with adherence, but challenges remain. The availability of generics could alter the landscape even further, with new generic single-tablet regimens coming soon to a pharmacy near you, potentially reducing the costs of these expensive medications.

With recent reports that the overall rate of new infections are actually falling in the U.S., largely due to Treatment as Prevention (TasP, or undetectable equals uninfected) and the rising use of daily oral PrEP for those who are HIV-negative to remain negative, the future of HIV in this country looks hopeful. Efforts to increase awareness about the benefits of testing and treatment for HIV, with no stigma attached to being aware of your status – along with the movement to rescind laws in certain states that criminalize HIV transmission, coupled with advances in HIV cure research – will keep us on track to one day eliminate HIV once and for all.


Creep of the Week

Randy Thomasson

Remember when you got your driver’s license and under “Gender” you had to choose Male, Female, or AIDS? Of course you don’t, because three gender options don’t exist on a driver’s license form. Yet. But California might change that. A bill in the works since January would allow a third non-binary gender option for official state documents.

According to the Los Angeles Times, “Lawmakers framed the measure as an expansion of rights for transgender, intersex and other people who do not identify as male or female.” And I know what you’re thinking: “But AIDS isn’t a gender. WTF?” Well, OF COURSE you think that because you’ve been brainwashed.

But Randy Thomasson knows what’s up and he’s crying foul.

Thomasson, the man behind Save California, a Christian website dedicated to alarmist anti-LGBTQ stories that claims to be “pro-family,” had plenty to say about California’s gender code when he was a guest on fellow right-wing screwball Gordon Klingenschmitt’s “Pray In Jesus Name News” program.

 “[This bill] would put in a third option on a driver’s license, non-binary,” says Thomasson. “And what that basically means is not male, not female, something else. But non-binary is a catch-all for any sexual anything.”

Woah. Any sexual ANYTHING? That’s, um, pretty broad. Care to clarify?

“University of California Berkley has on their own website a list of all the possible genders, and we’re talking two, three dozens of these made up genders,” Thomasson continues, “and they haven’t even gotten into those who have relationships with, uh, computers or animals yet. It’s just total anarchy.”

Oh, okay. Thomasson clearly doesn’t understand, and doesn’t care to understand, the difference between gender identity and sexual orientation. Or the difference between a human being and a USB Flash drive, for that matter.

Getting a driver’s license, going into the DMV in California being asked, ‘Well, do you put yourself down as male, female, or non-binary?’ The basic question is telling children there’s more than two genders and that we’ve got to forget about science and chromosomes.”

Oh, NOW you care in science? How convenient. It also takes willful ignorance to think a 15 year old is going to discover non-binary identity for the first time at the DMV and declare that from now on preferred pronouns are “they/them.”

Which leads us to the AIDS option.

“It’s a very dangerous thing,” Thomasson says, “because we have to remember even the Centers for Disease Control … website declares that transsexuality/cross-dressing is the highest transmitter of HIV/AIDS in our land, and it’s even more dangerous than homosexuality.”

Klingenschmitt jumps in to clarify that it’s “not the clothes that you wear that are transmitting this disease, it’s the behavior where you’re swapping blood and other bodily fluids with people who have AIDS.”

“Right,” says Thomasson. But it is right? Does the CDC really warn that “cross-dressers” have higher AIDS rates? No. But the CDC website does have info about increased risk for transgender men and women, which is not the same as cross-dressers. They present a complex series of obstacles trans people face that may lead to increased risk including “stigma, discrimination, social rejection, and exclusion” and “insensitivity to transgender issues by health care providers.” It’s not because they just can’t help but swap boldly fluids because they’re especially deviant or predatory.

But that doesn’t fit the right-wing Christian narrative that AIDS is punishment for sin and that trans people are nothing but beacons of sexual depravity. In other words, trans people aren’t human at all. Quite convenient when your aim is to deny them basic human rights.
Diverse’ Co-chairs Named for LGBT March on Washington

BY LOU CHIBBARO JR., WASHINGTON BLADE

Organizers of a planned LGBT march on Washington scheduled for June 11, which has been named The Equality March for Unity and Pride, released on April 19 the names of 12 of 13 co-chairs of the event but provided few additional details such as how it will be financed or the route of the march.

“The Equality March for Unity and Pride is less than two months away and we are thrilled to host this historic march in our nation’s capital,” a statement released by organizers says.

“Permits are being worked on, sponsors are being engaged, the website is forthcoming, and just this week we selected 12 of 13 National Co-Chairs!” the statement says.

“This national group of diverse leaders in the LGBTQIA+ liberation movements will help shape the mission and vision of the march by elevating voices of those most underserved,” it says.

The statement adds that the diversity represented by the co-chairs would ensure “that in these trying times our communities can come together, march in solidarity, and demand equity, representation, protection of our most vulnerable, and safeguarding the many triumphs our communities have gained in the previous years while working towards championing many more.”

Among those named as co-chairs are Anika Simpson, Ph.D., founding coordinator of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at Morgan State University, one of the nation’s historic black colleges; Ashley Smith, an official with the Capital Pride Alliance and a Human Rights Campaign board member; Catalina Velasquez, a widely recognized LGBT immigrant rights advocate and Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships and Communications for D.C.’s Casa Ruby community services center; and Jose L. Plaza, president of the D.C.-based Latino GLBT History Project.

Also named as one of the co-chairs is David Bruinooe, the New York City LGBT rights advocate who initiated the June 11 march through a Facebook posting in January that quickly drew thousands of messages of support for the idea of an LGBT march on the nation’s capital similar to the women’s march held the day following President Trump’s Inauguration.

The announcement of the names of the co-chairs and assurances that more details of the march would be disclosed soon came at a time when messages have surfaced on social media expressing concern that so few details of the event had been disclosed less than two months before the march was to take place.

Some Facebook postings have asked whether the march would actually happen and whether people who have made airline reservations to come to Washington should cancel them. Others expressed concern that as of this week no money had been raised to help pay for an event of this scale.

“There’s still plenty of time,” said D.C. gay activist Peter Rosenstein, who has been serving as a volunteer on a march planning committee prior to the selection of the co-chairs. “It’s all being worked out. The permits are in the works and the route will be decided on in a few weeks,” he said.

An application for a permit for the march submitted on March 10 to the National Park Service of the National Capital Region by Bruinooe, which the Park Service released to the Washington Blade, calls for two possible routes for the march.

One calls for participants to assemble on the National Mall between 3rd and 7th Streets, N.W. and for participants to disperse at that same location but doesn’t say whether or where the march would travel.

The second proposed route states, “Dupont Circle/assembly at 17th St. (March across Pennsylvania Avenue in front of White House. Disperse on 15th St., N.W.).”

Bruinooe told the Blade the march route is still under discussion among organizers and that he would be consulting with National Park Service officials and D.C. police to determine which areas of the National Mall and other locations will be available and best suited for the planned march.

The march is set to take place on the same day as D.C.’s annual Capital Pride Festival, which takes place on Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. between 3rd St., near the U.S. Capitol, and 7th St. The June 11 march would also take place one day after D.C.’s annual Capital Pride Parade, which usually travels from the Dupont Circle area past the 17th Street, N.W. commercial area to 14th and R St., N.W.

Ryan Bos, executive director of the Capital Pride Alliance, which organizes the Capital Pride events, said the group is cooperating with organizers of the Equality March for Unity and Pride but would not serve as the fiscal agent for the march.

Bos said no one associated with the march has approached Capital Pride Alliance about using the large stage near the Capitol that Capital Pride sets up each year to be used for political speeches associated with the march. March organizers, meanwhile, have not disclosed whether they plan to set up their own stage and sound system for speeches associated with the march.

“We have been discussing how to best represent and acknowledge these unique times and the desire for members of our community to voice their feelings,” Bos told the Blade in an email message. “We want to assist in getting individuals connected to organizations and activities that would allow them to take action,” he said. “In addition, we are discussing how best to represent this narrative on the Concert Stage as well.”

In recent years, Capital Pride has shunted political speeches at the annual festival and has used two separate stages largely for musical entertainment, including performances by nationally known singers.

In the statement released on Wednesday, march organizers point out that the Washington march will be accompanied by numerous “solidarity” marches and events throughout the country and internationally.

“Together we will continue to propel beyond a march but a movement for years to come, resisting and fighting for our communities’ rights, dignity and safety,” the statement says. “So please join us in D.C. or at solidarity events around the world. We welcome all!”

“And stay tuned for more information and details in the days/weeks ahead,” it continues. “We thank all of our supporters for their patience as we put this movement together and look forward to another historic event in Washington, D.C.”

The June 11 march would become the sixth national march on Washington for LGBT equality since the first national “gay” march was held in 1979. Subsequent LGBT marches on Washington took place in 1987, 1993, 2000, and 2009.

Following is the list of national march co-chairs as released in the April 19 statement:

1. Anika Simpson, Ph.D., Founder, Beyond Policy LLC | Founding Coordinator, Women’s and Gender Studies Program at Morgan State University | Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy | Co-Chair, MSU’s Presidential LGBTQ+ Advisory Council | Co-Chair, National Black Justice Coalition’s HBCU LGBTQ+ Equality Initiative Advisory Council | Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

2. Ashley Smith, The Capital Pride Alliance | Human Rights Campaign Foundation | Board Member | Pronouns: He, Him, His

3. Catalina Velasquez, Consult Catalina President | Casa Ruby Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships and Communications | Washington DC Mayor’s Office of Latino Affairs Commissioner | Our Revolution Board Vice Chair | GetEqual Board Co-Chair | Megaphone Strategies Board Member | InclusuV Board Member | Trans United Fund Board Member | United We DREAM’s Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project (QUIP) Advisory Council | Pronouns: She, Her, Hers, Trans Goddess

4. David Brunoone, Founder: The Equality March for Unity & Pride | Pronouns: He, Him, His

5. Elle Hearn, Executive Director of The Marsha P Johnson Institute | Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

6. Jose L. Plaza, President, Latino GLBT History Project | Chair, DC Latino Pride | Executive Board Member, DC New Leaders Council | Pronouns: He, Him, His

7. Lydia X. Z. Brown, Chairperson of the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council | At-large board member of the Autism Women’s Network | Pronouns: They, Them, Theirs

8. Lynnette McFadzen, President, BiNet USA | Producer, The BiCast | Core Organizer | The Bi Brigade | Pronouns: They/Them She/Hers

9. Nicole Murray Ramirez, International Court System, U.S.A., Canada and Mexico | Harvey Milk Foundation | Pronouns: He, Him, His

10. Sean Coleman, Executive Director, Destination Tomorrow | Board Member, Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund (TLDEF) | Pronouns: He, Him, His

11. Sue Doster, Co-President, InterPride | CTO, amBar | Strategic Planning Director, NYCPride | Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

12. Thomas Tonatiuh Lopez The International Indigenous Youth Council | Pronouns: He, Him, His
Clinton Blasts Trump for Actions Against LGBT Rights

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

Hillary Clinton lambasted President Trump on April 20 evening for actions his administration has taken against LGBT rights as the 100-day mark of his time in office approaches, saying gains made by the LGBT community “may not be as a secure as we once expected.”

Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee who has recently emerged from shadows after her loss, made the remarks at The Center for the LGBT community in New York City, which honored her with “The Trailblazer Award” for her work to advance LGBT rights.

During her remarks, Clinton said the LGBT community may have to face the fact that Trump may never lead on LGBT issues given the actions seen this far from his administration.

“We’ve learned something important, that the progress that we fought for, that many of you were on the front lines of, and that we’ve celebrated, and maybe even taken for granted may not be as secure as we once expected,” Clinton said.

Clinton criticized Trump for his rollback of guidance ensuring protections in schools for transgender students, saying her “heart broke” when she learned of it. She also assailed Trump’s proposed rollback of HIV and AIDS research funds in his budget.

“The progress that we’ve seen may seem small, but they matter a great deal if you’re the person affected,” Clinton said. “For example, whether or not you’re counted in the Census. Others carry historic significance, like the future of the Supreme Court.”

With LGBT groups opposing the confirmation of Trump’s nominee Mark Green as Army secretary based on his anti-trans views, Clinton criticized him for being an “outspoken opponent” of LGBT rights.

Amid reports of gay “concentration camps in the Russian semi-autonomous Republic of Chechnya,” Clinton called on the Trump administration to seek more forcefully an end to the alleged human rights abuses.

“Nothing like this has seen in our country that we’re seeing so many reports that we’re seeing clouds gathering on the horizon,” Clinton said. “In recent weeks, we’ve heard terrifying accounts from Chechnya of gay and bisexual men being taken from their homes and families, tortured and even killed. And when government authorities were confronted with these reports, their response was chilling: They said you cannot arrest and repress people who do not exist. The United States government, yes, this government, should demand an end to persecution of innocent people across the world.”

With audience members applauding her criticism of Trump, Clinton urged them to remember their anger during the mid-term elections in 2018.

“I know the election hit a lot of us hard,” Clinton said with a wry smile. “But I can tell you this: Even when it feels tempting to pull the covers over your heads, please keep going. When you feel a little down, a good friend or a loved one says, ‘Quit yelling at the television set,’ just remember, we need to resist, insist, persist and enlist, and make sure our voices and our votes count.”

As secretary of state, Clinton took the lead on making international LGBT rights part of U.S. foreign policy, declaring in a 2011 speech in Geneva “gay rights are human rights.” Clinton has faced criticism for not declaring support for same-sex marriage until 2013, months after she left the Obama administration.

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NYC Activists Protest Gay Arrests in Chechnya

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS, WASHINGTON BLADE

Roughly 60 LGBT rights activists gathered outside the Russian consulate in New York on April 22 to protest the arrest of more than 100 gay men in Chechnya.

RUSA LGBT, a group of LGBT Russian speakers and their supporters, organized the protest that included a memorial. Members of ACT UP New York, Human Rights First, Rise and Resist, the Caribbean Equality Project and Congregation Beit Simchat Torah also took part.

“We are here to support our compatriots, our Russian-speaking LGBT community in Chechnya,” said Lyosha Gorshkov of RUSA LGBT in a press release. “Also we are here to demand human rights for everybody.”

Milk from “RuPaul’s Drag Race” also participated in the protest.

“We can’t just care about what’s happening in our own country, in our own LGBT community,” said Milk in a video that ACT UP New York uploaded to YouTube. “We have to care about the world so this type of brutality doesn’t happen to everybody.”

Novaya Gazeta, an independent Russian newspaper, earlier this month reported Chechen authorities have arrested more than 100 gay men in the semi-autonomous Russian republic in the North Caucasus. The Washington Blade has confirmed additional reports that indicate these men have been sent to secret prisons.

Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov and the Kremlin have repeatedly sought to dismiss the arrests and Novaya Gazeta’s reporting on them.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley and the State Department have both urged the Russian government to investigate the arrests. President Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson have not spoken publicly about them or the secret prisons.

At every turn, we are being ignored, erased and marginalized. On top of this, the Trump Administration continues to fill its ranks with the most virulent anti-LGBT people this country has ever known. It is going to be a very long four years.

By Lisa Keen

The idea of reflecting upon a president’s “first 100 days in office” started with President Franklin Roosevelt. According to The Washington Post, Roosevelt touted his own accomplishments in trying to pull the country out of the economic Great Depression.

Today’s Great Depression is more of a political one. It erupted out of a presidential election that was won by a candidate who had neither the majority of votes from the general electorate or the full support of his adopted political party. And his legitimate victory through the Electoral College is still shrouded by the widely accepted belief that his campaign was aided and abetted by the nation’s long-standing nemesis, Russia.

Nonetheless, April 30 marks President Trump’s 100th day in office. Perhaps in anticipation that the intense media scrutiny at this first mile-marker won’t flatter him, President Trump posted a Twitter message April 21, saying it’s a “ridiculous standard” by which to judge him. And given that 100 days represents less than six percent of his elected 1,461-day term of office, he may be entitled to some sympathy.

But it does seem reasonable to compare what Trump has done concerning LGBT people to what his predecessors did in any period of time, whether it be their first 100 days or their last year.

Like his Republican predecessors, Trump came into the White House showing at least some semblance of personal respect for gays and lesbians. Ronald Reagan had put his name on an op-ed piece opposing an anti-gay initiative in California that would have barred gay teachers. George W. Bush held a meeting with gays, said it made him a “better person,” and welcomed their support in his campaign. And Trump, on several occasions during his campaign, urged the nation to “stand together in solidarity with” the LGBT community.

But like Reagan, Trump’s public comments in support of LGBT people have virtually disappeared since entering the White House. (The one exception was suggesting that his proposed ban on immigrants from some Muslim countries was, in part, to protect LGBT Americans—a suggestion that LGBT Americans did not embrace.)

Like George W. Bush, Trump chose a U.S. Attorney General who is hostile to the rights of LGBT people. And like Reagan and George W. Bush, Trump’s choices for U.S. Supreme Court and other high positions have completely altered the political landscape nationally. Where once that landscape was vibrant with the reality and potential for LGBT civil rights actions that may not have made as big of a splash, but which, taken as a whole, will cause lasting harm to our community. At every turn, we are being ignored, erased and marginalized. On top of this, the Trump Administration continues to fill its ranks with the most virulent anti-LGBT people this country has ever known. It is going to be a very long four years.

A Glass Half-full or Just Empty?

Even Log Cabin Republicans President Gregory Angelo assesses Trump’s record thus far on LGBT matters as “mixed.”

“Trump’s first 100 days in office have been something of a mixed bag in regard to LGBT issues,” said Angelo, “but that was to be expected considering his concurrent outreach to evangelicals and the LGBT voters during his campaign.”
Jim Toy
Continued from p. 9

said we better have something like that in Ann Arbor so we organized. We called ourselves Wellness Networks Washtenaw.

Then Patrick Yankee, according to Toy, who was a leader within the group, said “let’s get real and call ourselves who we are” about what became the HIV/AIDS Resource Center.

“Some of us were apprehensive that people would not write checks to an organization that mentioned AIDS,” Toy continued.

“I understood the hesitation,” said Yankee, the chief development officer at the Corktown Health Center in Detroit.

“Yet I believed our name had to be an honest reflection of our mission. In my view, the original name was fine to begin with, but it seemed to emphasize this sense of secrecy so common at that time. If we did not come out about HIV, who was going to?”

Yankee notes that Toy was involved in every important decision about community-based HIV care and treatment back then.

“I can’t imagine that time without the benefit of Jim’s great knowledge, boundless compassion, and dedication,” he said.

Toy is a founding member of the Washtenaw County LGBT Retirement Center Task Force, PFLAG/Ann Arbor, GLSEN/Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Area, Transgender Advocacy Project, American Friends Service Committee Inclusive Justice Program, Washenaw Faith Action Network,

Ypsilanti Human Rights PAC, Ypsilanti Rainbow Neighbors and the Out Loud Chorus.

In the early 90s, Toy co-founded the Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project, the premier resource center in the Washtenaw County area that exists to provide information, education, social events, and advocacy by and for the LGBT and allied community. And in 2010, WRAP was renamed The Jim Toy Community Center in his honor.

“That came up for a vote and I opposed the motion,” said Toy. “I said if we’re going to name our center after somebody let it be named, for example, for Harvey Milk or Audre Lorde. Don’t name it after me. But I was outvoted. It was a humbling experience.”

Sandi Smith, associate broker and president of Trillium Real Estate in Ann Arbor, served on the WRAP board with Toy, 15 years after they met while Smith was a student at the UM.

“He was the co-founder of the Lesbian and Gay Program office, and I was curious,” she said. “Jim has always quietly and persistently challenged the artificial boundaries of language and gender.”

Today, Toy remains as active as ever. His archives are housed in the James Toy Collection at the U of M’s Bentley Historical Library. The HSO that Toy helped found, now named the Spectrum Center, named its library in Toy’s honor. The Jim Toy Library currently hosts a collection of over 1500 titles and supports LGBT student development.

So how does Toy do it? How does he maintain his enthusiasm and continue to work so hard?

“My secret is I’m stubborn,” he said. “If things were changeable I’d have softened my tone over the decades. I used to run my mouth in an acerbic way. Through the years I’ve realized you get more with honey than vinegar. If things were changeable I would have spoken more benignly than I did way back when. But we are who we are. I’m glad I learned over the years to tone it down.”

And when Toy does slow down and retire, how would he like to be remembered?

“As worker for justice,” said Toy. “As a worker for the human and civil rights for all who did what he could with the support of hundreds of thousands of others.

“I am so grateful to everybody who has helped in this struggle,” said Toy, who was invited to speak at the UM’s annual Lavender Graduation ceremony this week to honor LGBTQ and ally students and to acknowledge their achievements and contributions to the university.

“In my speech I’ll say, ‘We’re climbing the mountain of justice hand in hand’ and we’re going to keep on doing that.’”
Count the Things He Hasn’t Done?

There are other ways to assess President Trump’s first 100 days with regards to LGBT concerns. One could look at the list of actions anti-gay organizations had hoped Trump would take as president but hasn’t, at least not yet.

The Family Research Council had a list of 20 things it wanted Trump to accomplish in his first 100 days. He’s done three: withdrawing the Obama advice letter concerning transgender students and Title IX, taking down a Department of Education webpage that included a list of schools seeking waivers to Title IX, and issuing an executive order making it easier for federal contractors to discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Here are the FRC agenda items Trump did not act on in his first 100 days:

- * that the Trump administration begin enforcing a law that would enable federally funded entities to deny services to others based on religious beliefs and “conscience;”
- * that he rescind a regulation that requires federally funded health institutions not discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity;
- * that he rescind regulations at all agencies which interpret non-discrimination policies based on sex to include sexual orientation and gender identity;*
- * that he undo military regulations drafted in preparation for allowing transgender persons to serve openly; and
- * that he “pressure the [military] service chiefs” to issue “messages” reaffirming the robust religious freedom and free speech rights of chaplains.

The fact that some of these agenda items have not materialized “is a good thing,” said Tafel.

Trump has also taken some actions that right-wing religious conservatives don’t like. He has retained a State Department Senior Foreign Service Officer (Randy Berry) to serve as the department’s Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Persons. He nominated an openly lesbian Air Force colonel (Kristin Goodwin) to be among 36 officers promoted to rank of brigadier general. And Trump appointee Nikki Haley, as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, spoke out in April against reports of abuse and murder of gay men in the Russian Republic of Chechnya.

Haley issued a statement April 17, saying that the reports “cannot be ignored” and that “Chechen authorities must immediately investigate these allegations, hold anyone involved accountable, and take steps to prevent future abuses.”

“We are against all forms of discrimination, including against people based on sexual orientation,” she added.

The Start is Only the Beginning

History will judge President Trump’s LGBT-related actions based on another measure: How he stacks up to his Democratic predecessors. In his first 100 days in office, President Jimmy Carter’s staff held a meeting with LGBT national leaders in the White House to discuss their needs and concerns. Some downplayed the significance of the meeting because it’s not entirely clear how much President Carter supported the meeting, but he didn’t stop it and it was an historic first for any presidential administration.

President Clinton, who eventually ushered in some gains for LGBT people during his two terms, notoriously caved in during those first days of his first term. He relented on an anti-LGBT campaign promise to end the military’s policy of banning gays. He said he believed that gays should be allowed to serve but said he would work with leaders in Congress to come up with a policy. Congress then proceeded to codify a ban, though its name, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” implied gays could serve as long as no one found out they were gay.

Even President Obama, the most pro-LGBT president in U.S. history, had a rough start on LGBT issues. There was considerable grousing within the community about his performance on LGBT matters during his first year in office. According to many, he didn’t move fast enough to take actions that would end long-standing discrimination against LGBT citizens.

But despite that early worry, President Obama was able to boast that he was “the first President to appoint candidates to Senate-confirmed positions in the first 100 days of an Administration.” In March 2009, he nominated John Berry to head the Office of Personnel Management. And in April 2009, he nominated Fred Hochberg to serve as president of the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

President Obama’s administration signed onto a United Nations statement calling for the decriminalization of homosexuality in its first 100 days.

And all three Democratic predecessors had openly gay people advising the administration on LGBT-related matters.

“So far, they haven’t been able to accomplish anything that would require a big payback!” said LaSalvia. “It’s only been 100 days. We have a long time before we can really assess this administration.”
Michigan Opera Theatre Pays Tribute to David DiChiera

Opera Industry Leader Has Fallen Ill, Plans to Retire

It is with heavy hearts that the Michigan Opera Theatre shared the news that their beloved founder and artistic director David DiChiera has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The theater website reads: “David is and has been a driving force in the opera community and the city of Detroit, pushing the art form forward and using it to add culture to the city. David continues to be vitally engaged with our company and we look forward to celebrating his legacy with our season-ending production of David’s opera ‘Cyrano’ and the Grand Salute, a long-planned and uplifting celebration of David’s life work.”

The theater shares a personal letter from DiChiera with the community.

Dear Friends,

Over the past two years I’ve been planning for my formal departure from the opera company and the opera house that I’ve built along with the love and help of so many of you and your fellow opera and dance devotees. For me it has been a true labor of love, one in which I’ve been given back so much more than I’ve given. Saying “so long” is bittersweet to say the least, but the time is right for me to move on.

In recent months I’ve had the pleasure and excitement of watching as plans take shape for the incredible Gala weekend being planned in my honor in May. The weekend will be a wonderful capstone to my career as well as a fitting kickoff for the exciting future of Michigan Opera Theatre. I hope you will be able to share it with me.

Life, of course, is never predictable. As someone once said, we don’t lead our own lives; they lead us. And often they surprise us, as mine has recently done.

I have been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. But I fully intend to be at the May celebration. I don’t want that Gala to be turned into a memorial. I want to be there, to see all my friends and family, to personally thank you for your love and support, and to truly celebrate the future of Michigan Opera Theatre and the City of Detroit with you. The opera house and the opera company will stand for many years as my legacy to Detroit and to opera and, with the exception of my family, they will always be my proudest achievement.

At 82 years I have lived an unbelievably rich and rewarding life and when the time comes I’ll leave it with few regrets. Your friendship is among my greatest treasures. You will always be in my heart and I hope some part of me will always be in yours. I look forward to seeing you at the Gala and to sharing a great evening together.

Sincerely,

David DiChiera

For more about DiChiera, his legacy and the Grand Salute on May 19, visit the Michigan Opera Theatre website [www.michiganopera.org/leadership/david-dichiera].

Michigan Opera Theatre founder and artistic director David DiChiera.
Osbourne Rebel on Being Open to Dating Women, Celebs Who Fake Gay and Mom Sharon Sneaking Her Into a Drag Bar

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Hollywood spitfire and staunch LGBT ally Kelly Osbourne is feeling tense about her first book, “There Is No F*cking Secret: Letters from a Badass Bitch.” After all, “What if I change my opinion by the time it comes out?!” she says, laughing because it’s true.

Then there’s our revealing interview, where the opinionated 32-year-old actress, singer and now author – and daughter of Ozzy and Sharon – let her candid thoughts loose on topics ranging from her sexuality (“everybody’s gay”) to her openness about dating women and her issues with celebrities who feign lesbianism for publicity. And that recent controversy over her statement regarding President Donald Trump? She admits it really got to her. Turns out, even badasses cry sometimes.

Kelly, your book, which covers your personal journey to self-acceptance, could have a positive influence on so many young people trying to find themselves.

Oh, thank you so much! It’s the most vulnerable thing I’ve done in a while, I can’t lie. I’m kind of like, oh my god, I’ve actually done this, because for the first time in my life I wanted to take my power back, and instead of people telling me who I am, I wanted to tell them.
Who are some of your favorite badass bitches?
I mean, Elton goes without sayin’. Just people who’ve made a difference in my life, like Liza Minnelli. I think Lil’ Kim. It’s anyone who just learned to be themselves and take responsibility for who they are.

When were you first aware you had an LGBT following?
I don’t remember a time in my life when I haven’t been submerged in the LGBT community. It’s the only community that, even though I shouldn’t have belonged (laughs), accepted me. It was the only world I ever really felt comfortable in, because, and I say it in my book, I don’t know what it feels like to fit in.

What do you attribute that bond to?
I think my relationship, especially with the drag community and the drag world, became so prevalent at such a young age because of Boy George, of course, and Blitz Kids and that huge movement in the U.K. I think drag queens choose how they want you to see them and they do that knowing that they’re probably going to get a lot of shit for it, and that’s what magic is. That’s like, “Fuck you, this is who I am,” and you can wake up every day and be whoever you want to be. I love that.

When did drag first come into your life?
It’s never not been in my life. I mean, my mom was calling up (a drag club) in San Francisco; I was, like, 11 or 12 and being snuck into a drag bar. It was amazing. And there was a time I went to see Cyndi Lauper on tour when she was playing in the U.K., and she used to have, like, 20 drag queens on tour with her. I was probably about 9 or 10.

You have to understand, my favorite childhood pastime was putting my mom’s lacy underwear and bustier on over my clothes – because I wasn’t allowed to wear them any other way – and going to see “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.” “Rocky Horror Picture Show” is still, to this day, one of my favorite movies of all time. I loved the makeup. If you look really closely at the “Time Warp,” you’ll see where I get all my hair colors from. But yeah, everyone else was watching “Annie,” and I was watching “Rocky Horror Picture Show” and singing about sweet transvestites. (Laughs)

How much of your gay submergence do you credit to your mother?
It’s equally my mom and my dad. In rock ’n roll, you were the outcasts back then and outcasts tend to find each other, especially in London.

How about Boy George – what was his influence
I remember staring at my TV, thinking, “Is it a beautiful woman or a beautiful man? It doesn’t matter.” He was the first person to break down barriers. He single-handedly changed people’s perspective so much. And he’s such a smart man! If you ever sit down and have a conversation with him about his political views and his opinion of the gay community, he says things that are so spot on and so important because he’s lived long enough through good times and bad times to see what things really are. I love talking to him. And he has the most beautiful eyes you’ve ever looked into!

You recently wore a hat emblazoned with the words “I Am Gay.” Were you being literal?
You know my honest opinion? Everybody’s gay. It is a strictly human thing. You can’t put a gender on love.

But I know a guy – several of them, in fact – who insists he’s only into women.
Except he’s letting a guy suck his dick! If you ain’t tried it, you don’t get to tell me what you are.

Are you open to loving a woman?
I’m open to loving anybody. It’s about the person. I don’t think it’s about sexuality at all.

Your mother came out as bisexual last year.
I told her, “Would you be the butch one? Come on, tell me, which one would you be?” Because whether it’s man and man, woman and woman, there’s always a masculine and feminine role. So I’m always like, “Mom, which one would you be?” And she’s like, “Oh, shut up, Kelly!”

But it’s not like I’m trying to be forward-thinking or progressive – it’s just that sexuality is a word I try not to even define the way the world defines it. It’s the person who you are sexually attracted to.

Do you not label your sexuality, then?
My whole rule is, never say never. I’ve never been in a relationship with a woman, but I don’t know that it’s not a possibility. But I also don’t like it when people claim to be gay and then not. There’s this whole generation of young Hollywood girls who can’t find love where they think it’s supposed to be, and then they come out being gay and two weeks later they have a boyfriend. It drives me nuts! I think it takes all the proactive work the LGBT community has done and sets them back. Oh, so now you’re gay? Then two weeks later: “Oh no, that was just a phase.” You don’t get to do that.

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Motor City Pride is now accepting:

Exhibitor Booth Applications: motorcitypride.org

Parade Applications: motorcitypride.org

Volunteers: motorcitypride.org

Motor City Pride is hosting a community meeting to overview our plans for the 2017 festival and to hear your ideas for activities.

This community meeting is also a great place for those looking to get more involved with pride. Join us and learn how to volunteer for the festival.

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
TechTown - Detroit
440 Burroughs Street, Detroit, MI 48202
I’ll tell you who’s the worst with it: young female celebrities. And I’m like, I know you. I’ve known you pretty much since before you used to shit outside of a diaper. You are not gay! But I think outing somebody in that way is just as bad as outing somebody who has not come out of the closet. It’s one of those things I have to keep to myself... and it drives me fucking crazy! I’ve marched till my feet bled for the right of equal love in the gay community, and you’re just gonna step in because it looks cool for you and now tell everybody that you’re a lesbian when you’ve never even seen another puss that’s not yours so you can get attention?

Where are we at with you having a baby with your gay best friend?

Oh, it’s inevitable. (Laughs) That’s just gonna happen. You know, I was so disappointed that I didn’t have a gay sibling. I was disappointed that I wasn’t gay even! Though I do still think that everybody’s gay, but still.

You’ve been to a lot of LGBT events: Pride with your mom, where you shut down protesters; Elton John’s wedding. What’s the most memorable gay event you’ve been a part of?

Oh my god, that’s so hard to pick! I can’t really think of an event that’s not a gay event. When you really think about it, what major party have you ever been to that was put on by a straight person? Because I can’t think of one.

You tell me. I’m not the one going to Elton John’s birthday party.

It was really fun, actually. (Laughs)

Rub it in.

So, my favorite gay Christmas event is anything with Mariah. She just brings out the best in everyone. Everyone’s crying, being emotional.

I love that you consider a Mariah Carey Christmas concert a “gay event.”

It’s totally a gay event – I mean, have you gone?? It’s so much fun. And I love her. I went to Disneyland with Mariah and we had the best time. It was everything you’d imagine going to Disneyland with Mariah would be. A dream come true.

Late last year, while receiving the Trevor Hero Honoree Award at the Trevor Project’s TrevorLIVE Los Angeles 2016 fundraiser on Dec. 4, during part of your speech you said, “We have to give (Trump) a chance. And we do it by spreading love, not hate.” Do you believe we should still give him a chance?

I think we should give... you have to think about it. If we’re being told the truth, which we never really are, people voted for him, and at that time when I said that he hadn’t been inaugurated yet. I’ve had to stop watching TV when it comes to politics. I only watch – I think you can hear it in the back; I watch BBC News so I can get a different perspective, because in different countries they show you different things that you don’t see here. It’s a really scary time that we’re living in, and I’m not gonna pretend that it isn’t.

What scares you most?

The way that people feel totally lost, don’t feel safe. When people don’t feel safe, it manifests and comes out in evil ways. There’s a lot of evil going around right now when we were finally at a place where people were ready to love. Now people are just ready to point fingers, judge and blame.

I don’t get to vote. I’m still going through the process of citizenship in this country – if it goes through, because I don’t know how things are going to change. I do encourage people to vote, but when we went down to downtown L.A. to check out the marches after the election, I asked people, “Who did you vote for?” Nine times out of 10, people said they didn’t vote. I was so confused! Like, why are you here?

But I have to keep to myself right now because I don’t want to enter into this political cannibalism that’s going on where people say stuff and then everyone just eats you alive for your opinion. Every attempt I have made in defending the (LGBT) community I somehow manage to fuck it up and piss everyone off. I cried over the backlash of the Donald Trump thing with my speech, because if you read my whole speech, you’d get what I was saying, but they put that one sentence in there and I cried over the backlash because everything is so confusing and every single day threats are made and until you fully understand what’s going on, it’s like, keep your opinion to yourself.

I’m aware that there’s gonna be a lot more to fight for in our present time. Until I know exactly what it is that I’m fighting for – everything keeps changing and one day this, one day that, and no one can figure out whose side to be on. People can only figure out how to hate, and I refuse to do that.
Ann Arbor’s OUTFest 2017 is searching for local artists for this year’s festival. OUTFest will be held August 4-5 this year with the annual Pride Picnic on Aug. 6. OUTFest boasts two stages for entertainment this year. Interested performers are encouraged to contact OUTFest at entertainment.a2outfest@gmail.com with their artist submissions. Include the following in the email: Name, a short bio, links to a portfolio, soundcloud, mixcloud or video, links to social media, contact information and promo pics. Submissions are due on June 2. Entertainers selected will be notified by June 9.

Visit the OUTFest website at www.jimtoycenter.org/outfest for more information about the celebration.
The Legend of Georgia McBride

It’s a smashing success from The Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale – he’s young, he’s broke, his landlord’s knocking at the door, and he’s just found out his wife is going to have a baby. To make matters even more desperate, Casey is fired from his gig as an Elvis impersonator in a run-down, small-town Florida bar. When the bar owner brings in a B-level drag show to replace his act, Casey finds that he has a whole lot to learn about show business, walking in heels, and himself.

“Yes, there are many laughs. But there also are some very serious and poignant moments that, dare I say, might cause the audience to shed an involuntary tear or two?” writes Encore Michigan. The play, by Matthew Lopez, features Nick Yocum, Vince Kelley, Richard Payton, Meredith Deighton, and Joe Bailey. This performance, directed by Brandy Joe Plambeck runs June 9 - July 2 at Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron St. in Ann Arbor. Showtimes are Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Call 734-635-8450 or email a2theatrenova@gmail.com with questions.

Visit the website www.theatrenova.org for more information.

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THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA McBRIDE

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“YES, THERE ARE MANY LAUGHS. BUT THERE ALSO ARE SOME VERY SERIOUS AND POMRTANT MOMENTS THAT, DARE I SAY, MIGHT CAUSE THE AUDIENCE TO SHED AN INNOLUNTARY TEAR OR TWO?” WRITES ENCORE MICHIGAN. THE PLAY, BY MATTHEW LOPEZ, FEATURES NICK YOCUM, VINCE KELLEY, RICHARD PAYTON, MEREDITH DEIGHTON, AND JOE BAILEY. THIS PERFORMANCE, DIRECTED BY BRANDY JOE PLAMBECK RUNS JUNE 9 - JULY 2 AT THEATRE NOVA, 410 W. HURON ST. IN ANN ARBOR. SHOWTIMES ARE THURSDAY-SATURDAY AT 8 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 2 P.M. CALL 734-635-8450 OR EMAIL A2THEATRENOVA@GMAIL.COM WITH QUESTIONS.

VISIT THE WEBSITE WWW.THEATRENOVA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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April 27, 2017 | BTL 23
DiChiera Grand Salute

Some of the great artists from opera and dance will perform on one stage in salute to the legacy of David DiChiera, an American composer and founding general director of Michigan Opera Theatre. The evening, on May 19, begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by a 6:30 p.m. performance and ends with the Bravo Salute After Party at 9:30 p.m. Tickets range in price from $59-150 for the star-studded tribute to DiChiera at the historic Detroit Opera House on 1526 Broadway St. For more information, visit www.michiganopera.org/opera/grand-salute.

Michigan’s Biggest Vegan Event

Explore a plant-based lifestyle at Michigan’s Biggest Vegan Event, VegFest, from 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on April 30 at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. in Novi. The family-friendly vegan taste fest and expo, presented by VegMichigan, features more than 150 restaurants, vendors and exhibitors offering the latest foods, free samples, products and services that are vegan. The full schedule of events can be found at www.vegmichigan.org/events/vegfest. Admission is $12-15. VegMichigan members are admitted free. Call 877-778-3464 and visit www.vegmichigan.org for more information.
Saturday, May 6
North Central US Network

Sunday, May 7

Benefits/Social Events
Freedom House of Detroit “A Benefit Concert”. Sainte Anne De Detroit Church, 1000 St. Anne St., Detroit. 5 p.m. April 30. www.freedomhousedetroit.org

Project Beautiful - Inside and Out “Rainbow Cabaret” Benefit for the Ruth Ellis Center. President and CEO of GLAAD will speak. Tickets $100. 605 N. St. Antoine St., (Newly renovated club above Bistro 82), 401 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. 6 p.m. April 28. www.eventbrite.com/rainbow-cabaret

Film & Video
Kalamazoo Pride with the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo and A24 Films “Film: Moonlight” Tickets: $5 online or at Outfront office at 340 S. Rose St. The Epic Center, Julliette Theatre, 2nd Floor, 395 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 203, Kalamazoo. 7 p.m. May 3. https://pridemoonlight.eventbrite.com/

Monday, May 8

THEATER
Civic/Community Theater
Marketplace Stories: Folktales from the Arab World. Tickets: $5-$10. Wild Swan Theater and A24 Films “Film: Moonlight” Tickets: $5 online or at Outfront office at 340 S. Rose St. The Epic Center, Julliette Theatre, 2nd Floor, 395 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 203, Kalamazoo. 7 p.m. May 3. https://pridemoonlight.eventbrite.com/

MUSIC & MORE
Gay Stuff
Queer Queens of Comedy “Q3 in Toledo” Starring, Jen Kober, Poppy Champlin and Brooke Cartus. Tickets: $25. Toledo Funny Bone, 6140 Lewis Commons Blvd., Perrysburg, 7 p.m. May 2. www.facebook.com/events/1842584029341548/

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Matrix Human Services programs serve more than 20,000 individuals annually. With more than 34 locations across metro Detroit, Matrix is educating children, supporting families and rebuilding neighborhoods. Dining Out for Life gives essential support to Matrix Human Services’ MAC Health program, offering free HIV/STD counseling, testing, advocacy, education, and support to thousands across metro Detroit annually. Learn more at MatrixHumanaServices.org

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6 Steps to Effectively Confronting a Cheating Partner

BY MIKEY ROX

About 21 percent of American men and 19 percent of American women admit to cheating on their partners, according to polling company YouGov. Not a massive number, but still big enough to raise our brows. So what can we do when we suspect our partner is stepping out with a sidepiece? Before you take that Louisville slugger to both headlights, consider these effective ways to confront the cheater in your life.

1 Prepare Yourself For Immediate Denial

If you’ve ever been cheated on and confronted your partner about it, you already know what the immediate response is: “I’m not cheating on you.” It’s human nature to lie in the face of confrontation, especially if we know we’re wrong and that whatever we did could have serious consequences. So prepare for it. If you know for a fact that your partner hasn’t been faithful, present solid facts. Your partner will change their tune quickly when they know they’ve undeniably been caught in the act – and that’ll give you the upper hand straight out the gate.

2 State Your Case With Evidence

There’s an abundance of life advice floating around out there that warns you against snooping on your partner. Fuck. That. A cheating partner is absolutely your business, and you owe it to yourself to get to the bottom of it so you don’t end up in an emotionally and mentally damaging relationship, or worse, with an STD. Considering the slim-to-none likelihood that your partner will readily admit to cheating, gather your evidence. If that means going through boo’s email and phone, get to it – because all bets are off when your health and future are put at risk. If they’re not respecting your well-being, you shouldn’t feel guilty about not respecting their privacy.

3 Stay Focused and Calm

When you’ve presented your case on your partner’s philandering ways, expect an eruption of emotion. You both may be simultaneously sad and angry – among a host of other emotions – but this problem will not be solved with a screaming match. That’ll be hard to avoid, depending on your personalities, but try to stay in control. If you fly off the handle, you run the risk of hurting yourself even more; your partner may use your emotions against you by calling you unstable or saying hurtful things like, “This is the reason I cheated on you in the first place.” Remember, their feelings will be hurt too – they may even be remorseful – but nobody likes to be cornered; they’ll attack back if you push too hard.

4 Resist the Wounded Puppy Routine

When your partner realizes the mistake they made, there will be an avalanche of I’m sorrys and I love yous. Don’t let that distract you. Brushing this situation under the rug won’t solve anything either. Ask why, where, when, and with whom – if these questions and answers are important to you. This may help you move on – one way or the other.

5 Don’t Allow Yourself to Be Guilted Into Forgiveness

Whether your partner’s cheating was a one-time mistake or a chronic problem, it doesn’t necessarily mean they’re ready to end the relationship. Your relationship offers stability for both of you, and when faced with the reality that it might be over – and he or she could be looking for a new place to live by the end of the day – a guilt trip might ensue. Don’t let that cloud your judgment. You love this person (or did, at least), and they’ll play that emotion for all it’s worth to protect themselves. Stay strong and clear-headed to avoid being steamrolled into submission.

6 Make the Decision That’s Best For You

When the dust has settled, you have a decision to make – do you want to work this out or move on? The relationship doesn’t have to end if your partner cheated, but you also shouldn’t stay in a relationship where you’ve become a doormat. Personally, I have a zero-tolerance policy now – because I’ve stayed in relationships with serious infidelity issues and I can’t get over them no matter how hard I try – but that’s my choice, not yours. Only you know what’s best for you. If that means giving your partner another chance, reconcile that within yourself. If you need to kick the bum to the curb, however, hold your head high and never look back. Your heart will heal, you’ll love again, and you’ll wake up every morning knowing that you don’t have to worry about whose bed your partner may be in today. That’s liberating, to say the least.
Rainbow Flag

Across
1 The Oscars, and others
2 ironically straight singer
3 Queen, to a dealer
40 Building managers
6 “Woe ___!” (Hamlet)
10 Greek war deity
14 City of Lorca’s homeland
15 “The Boys in the Band,” in 1968
16 Ward of _Once and Again_
17 Official dessert of the rainbow flag?
19 Ginsberg’s “Gotcha”
20 One-named designer
21 Pennsylvania city
22 Lake site of a gay and lesbian ski week
23 Official band of the rainbow flag?
26 Heteros, on PlanetOut?
27 Brand for covering your bottom
30 List-maker Schindler
31 Mouth-open-wide sound
33 “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s ___”
34 “Six Feet Under” auto
37 Queen, to a dealer
39 San Francisco’s Nob ___
40 Fourth book of the OT
43 Sixth notes in “Do-Re-Mi”
46 “No” to someone who is “lesbisch”
49 “Fast,” to Leonard Bernstein
51 Follower of James Buchanan, familiarly
53 Official song of the rainbow flag?
55 Fruit desserts
57 Emma Donoghue’s country
58 Colors hair
59 “I’ve had better…”
62 Official beverage of the rainbow flag?
63 Bear overhead
65 “No” to someone who is “lesbisch”
66 Bear overhead
67 Treats meat
68 Marine flyer
69 Rosie Jones supporters
70 Begins, as a Broadway play

Down
11 Official seafood entree of the rainbow flag?
12 She’s George
13 Wise guys
14 City of Lorca’s homeland
15 “The Boys in the Band,” in 1968
16 Ward of _Once and Again_
17 Official dessert of the rainbow flag?
19 Ginsberg’s “Gotcha”
20 One-named designer
21 Pennsylvania city
22 Lake site of a gay and lesbian ski week
23 Official band of the rainbow flag?
26 Heteros, on PlanetOut?
27 Brand for covering your bottom
30 List-maker Schindler
31 Mouth-open-wide sound
33 “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s ___”
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67 Treats meat
68 Marine flyer
69 Rosie Jones supporters
70 Begins, as a Broadway play

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com
Community Connections

HFHS Launches Collaborative to Enhance Research on Healthcare Needs of SGM Youth

By BTL Staff

Detroit – Henry Ford Health System recently launched a collaborative with the Ruth Ellis Center (www.ruthelliscenter.org) in Highland Park, Affirmations (www.goaffirmations.org) in Ferndale, and the Trans Sisters of Color Project (https://equalitymichigan-partners-with-trans-sistas-of-color-project-detroit) in Detroit to enhance research aimed at addressing the specific healthcare needs of sexual and gender minority youth.

Supported by a funding award from the Eugene Washington Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute Engagement Awards program, the Rainbow Collaborative comprises SGM youth patients, families, community stakeholders and researchers in Detroit. The REC, Affirmations and the TSOP will support the Rainbow Collaborative by recruiting participants.

“Sexual and gender minority youth have specific needs that the healthcare community is only beginning to understand. Research has shown correlations between sexual and gender minority status and depression, suicide attempts, bullying, illicit drug use, and increased rates of HIV,” said HFHS pediatrician and Rainbow Collaborative lead Maureen Connolly, M.D.

“Any effort to develop and study interventions aimed at addressing the health needs of sexual and gender minority youth must be grounded in the lived experiences of these young people, and relevant to their health concerns.”

The Rainbow Collaborative provides a forum, which meets on a bi-monthly basis and prioritizes the input of SGM youth. Development of a research agenda will take place in stages, and will be facilitated by SGM youth community leaders to maximize patient and stakeholder input.

The Rainbow Collaborative is part of a portfolio of projects that PCORI has funded to help develop a community of patients and other healthcare stakeholders who have the knowledge, skills and partnerships to participate in and advance patient-centered outcomes research and patient-centered comparative effectiveness research.

“This project was selected for PCORI Engagement Award funding for its commitment to improving the capacity for patients and other stakeholders to engage in patient-centered research and its potential to increase the usefulness and trustworthiness of the research PCORI funds,” said PCORI Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer Jean Slutsky.

“We look forward to following the project’s progress and working with Henry Ford Health System to share the results.”

Upon completion of the project, a community symposium will be held to share results of the developed research agenda. The Rainbow Collaborative will create a strategic plan to disseminate the information further and execute future comparative effectiveness research to benefit the SGM youth population.

To learn more about the Rainbow Collaborative, please contact Dr. Connolly at mconnoll1@hfhs.org. For more information about PCORI’s funding to support engagement efforts, visit www.pcori.org/content/eugene-washington-pcori-engagement-awards.

CDC Awards Community Health Awareness Group $1.94 Million

CHAG’s TAP2 Project Targets Young Transgender Women of Color, Provides HIV Prevention Services

By BTL Staff

Young transgender women of color between the ages of 18-29 will have better access to HIV prevention services through the Community Health Awareness Group’s TAP2 (Transwomen are People Too) Project.

The new project, which kicked off April 17 to coincide with National Transgender HIV Testing Day, is funded by the Center for Disease Control Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. CHAG was awarded as part of a cooperative agreement by the CDC to implement a comprehensive high-impact HIV prevention project for community-based organizations.

The total amount of $1.94 million will help both high-risk negative and HIV-positive individuals with a focus on members at greatest risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV infection over a five-year period.

“This will be a great way for CHAG to expand its TAP2 program. It strengthens CHAG’s commitment to partnering with Detroit’s young transgender women of color to deliver life-saving testing, coordination of care and high-impact prevention services,” said CHAG CEO Cindy Bolden Calhoun.

This aligns, she said, directly with the CDC’s core strategies to “implement comprehensive HIV prevention programs aimed at reducing morbidity, mortality, and related health disparities among those at highest-risk by providing unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.”

It is built around: formalized collaborations with HIV primary care clinics and community-based organizations providing substance abuse treatment, mental health services, housing, and other essential support services necessary to stabilize and maintain HIV-positive individuals in HIV medical care; program promotion, outreach and recruitment utilizing social network strategies, targeted outreach and enhanced social media; targeted HIV testing using rapid testing technologies, along with personalized cognitive counseling for high-risk negatives; comprehensive HIV prevention with HIV-positive persons and high-risk negatives using CDC-approved prevention interventions along with peer navigation and early intervention services and supportive services; and condom distribution for both HIV-positive and high-risk negative persons. These services are provided under the leadership of CHAG’s TAP2 Youth Advisory Board.

TAP2 identifies HIV-positive people earlier, gets them into care sooner, and keeps them in care to help them live healthier lives, which reduces the further spread of the disease. The program results in more HIV, syphilis and hepatitis testing, with more infected individuals becoming aware of their status. More HIV-positive individuals will receive HIV medical care, medication assistance, behavioral interventions and prevention and essential support services. HIV-negative persons will become more aware of their HIV risk, and more HIV-negative persons will obtain prevention and essential support services, and if they are high-risk negatives, they will be referred for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

Founded in 1985, Community Health Awareness Group offers a wide range of services designed to improve the quality of life of Detroit’s African-American community. For more information, visit www.chagdetroit.org/home.html.

Come Out from Behind the Badge

LGBTQ people in law enforcement face pervasive discrimination, according to a Williams Institute study. The November 2013 report updates a 2009 report on discrimination in public employment, which found that over 40 percent of the reported cases of discrimination occurred against law enforcement and corrections department personnel.

Many LGBT police, fire, emergency medical and military personnel are afraid to come out at work. Not only are they working in a conservative field, but it is still legal to be fired for being LGBTQ. It’s with that in mind a support and discussion group was created at Affirmations in Ferndale for LGBTQ people in uniform to socialize with like-minded individuals, share stories and seek support without being judged. LGBTQ in Uniform aims to address the unique challenges LGBTQ people in this community encounter in the workplace and in their personal lives.

The group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 1900 hours at 290 W. Nine Mile Road. LGBTQ in Uniform is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of its members. For more information, visit www.goaffirmations.org.
**PrEP STUDY**

**DISCOVER** is a new clinical study for men who have sex with men and trans women who have sex with men. This study is to evaluate if a once-daily investigational medicine can help reduce the risk of getting HIV infection from sex (“PrEP”, or Pre-exposure Prophylaxis).

**TO BE ELIGIBLE:**
- You must be at least 18 years of age
- You must be HIV negative

If you are accepted into the DISCOVER study, you will receive study-related exams, lab tests, and study medicine at no cost.

For more information, please contact:

Or go to [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) and search NCT number 02642086

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If you are HIV negative, a medicine called PrEP can help keep you that way. When you add PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) to your daily routine and combine it with other preventative measures like using protection and regular HIV testing, it could help you reduce your risk of getting HIV by over 90%. Ask your healthcare provider about PrEP. Learn more at michigan.gov/hivstd.

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**LOVE FREE FROM HIV. {PrEP}**

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**Hello? I've got a question.**

**Talk to a live expert about STDs**

800-872-2437

*The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline. Live weekdays 10 am - 6 pm.*

**FIND A TESTING SITE NEAR YOU.**

**LEARN ABOUT PRP, PEP AND OTHER RISK REDUCTION TOOLS.**

**LOOKING FOR FREE CONDOMS?**

**GET CONNECTED WITH CARE.**

**THINK YOU WERE PUT AT RISK?**

**NEED HEALTH INSURANCE?**

**FIND SUPPORT GROUPS.**

**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?**

**ONLINE CHAT NOW AVAILABLE**

[www.munified.org](http://www.munified.org)

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**THE MICHIGAN HIV/STD HOTLINE IS A PROGRAM OF UNIFIED - HIV HEALTH AND BEYOND**
VERDI: VIVA L’ITALIA
Sunday, May 7 • 4:00 p.m.
Hill Auditorium

Rossini Semiramide Overture
Verdi Opera Choruses from Aïda, Traviata, Nabucco, and Il Trovatore
Tchaikovsky Capriccio Italien
Respighi Pines of Rome

Special Guests:
Carillon Women’s Chorale
Livingston County Chorale Women’s Chorus
Measure for Measure
Livingston County Chorale