Mila Kunis and Kristen Bell Talk Gay Bar Shenanigans, ‘Frozen’ Drag & Waiting to Marry Until Their LGBT Friends Could Too

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Cleve Jones Implores: 'Keep on Fighting!'

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November 2, 2017 | BTL
Jones Implores Freedom House Crowd To ‘Keep On Fighting!’

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT – A sold out crowd was brought to their feet by an inspiring message of hope and perseverance from keynote speaker Cleve Jones at the annual Freedom House Dinner Oct. 26. “There were so many times in my life when I thought it was all over,” said the legendary gay rights activist, co-founder of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, founder of The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt and union leader with UNITE HERE. “But I want you to know that I am 63 years old, I am healthy, I am happy and I am ready to keep on fighting for as long it takes! Bring it on, Trump! Bring it on!”

Jones chronicled a number of times in his life when he believed it was the end of everything, including the horrific moment he found the body of his boss and mentor, Harvey Milk, on Nov. 27, 1978 after he had been gunned down in his office by fellow San Francisco City Supervisor, Dan White. “All I could think to myself was it’s over now. It’s all over now. He was our leader, he was my friend. He was the first in our community to be elected in California. It was all over,” said Jones. “Then the sun went down. And people began to gather on Castro Street - gay and straight, black and brown and white, immigrants and native born and we lit our candles and we marched in silence - 50,000 of us down Market Street. I remember being there amidst all these weeping people standing there in the cold autumn night and knowing that I was wrong. It was not over! It was just beginning.”

Jones said he was honored to support Freedom House Detroit because he knows what it means to not only survive but to thrive when it seems that all the cards are lined up against you.

Freedom House Detroit, a temporary home for survivors of persecution from around the world who are seeking asylum in the United States and Canada, provides critical legal and social services to people and families who have fled from political strife, war and brutal discrimination, including LGBT people who had to run for their lives from anti-LGBT death squads. Residents arrive at Freedom House with little more than the clothes on their backs. Freedom House staffers help them begin rebuilding their new lives in this land so unfamiliar to them.

There are now more displaced persons in the world than at any time since World War II, and the anti-immigrant political sentiment that’s swept across the U.S. and western Europe is exacerbating the suffering of refugees an asylum seekers.

“Do you remember America? We used to call it a nation of immigrants,” said Barbara McQuade, the former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan and current University of Michigan law professor, as she accepted the Voice of Freedom Award. “In these dark days in America I thank God for organizations like Freedom House. It gives me hope that Freedom House can lead us out of the darkness and once again Lady Liberty will shine her light on the Golden Door.”

The Community Partner Award was presented to ProsperUs Detroit, an entrepreneurial training and small business lending program for Detroit residents designed to empower low and moderate income, immigrant and minority individuals and neighborhoods. Hector Hernandez, executive director of ProsperUs, received the award from Nadia Nijimbere and Hamissi Mamba who fled political persecution in Burundi. They now own a new East African restaurant in Detroit. "People sometimes say that immigrants take American jobs,” said Mamba. “But we are creating new jobs here in Detroit.”

INFO

Freedom House Detroit
2630 W Lafayette Blvd, Detroit, MI 48216
313-964-4320
www.freedomhousedetroit.org
Freedom House is unique in its comprehensive approach to assisting those who seek asylum in the United States and Canada. We provide housing, food, clothing, legal aid, medical care, mental health care, English as a Second Language classes, education, job training, recreation, transportation, and offsite housing after asylum is gained.

Clev Jones chronicled a number of times in his life when he believed it was the end of everything, including the horrific moment he found the body of his boss and mentor, Harvey Milk, on Nov. 27, 1978 after he had been gunned down in his office by fellow San Francisco City Supervisor, Dan White.
Walled Lake City Council Candidate Called Out for Hate Speech

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A religious extremist running for city council in Walled Lake is creating controversy on the internet. Dan Lauffer, also known as Carson Lauffer and Carson Daniel, has attacked gays, transgender individuals, women, Muslims, Jews and African Americans in a series of Facebook posts and comments and other social media messages dating back several years.

A greatest hits of Lauffer’s offensive zingers, as reported by the opposition website, www.danlauffer.com, include the following claims:

“Even developmentally disabled people know that transvestites or crossdressers or whatever they call themselves are not quite right in the head;” “Those who understand that most blacks do not act fit to be in a civil society may be correct;” “Reforming an Obama supporter is like trying to pick up a turd by its clean end;” “The homosexual activists devised a wonderful plan to convince the Western world that the church is evil and moral perversion is actually a gift from God. Disney World has a gay pride day. What about an alcoholics day? Pedophile day? How [about] Abortionists day? Bestiality day anyone?” and “Matthew Shepard’s murder was over a drug deal and robbery and had nothing to do with a hate crime against homosexuals. He was a scumbag.”

The opposition website goes on to claim that the candidate, whose campaign manager identified him as a “retired Christian minister with a traditional Biblical view of homosexuality,” was actually forced out of the clergy by Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton, the former episcopal leader of the Illinois area of the United Methodist Church, for “behavior which undermines the ministry of another pastor” while Lauffer was living in Joliet, Illinois.

In Michigan, Lauffer unsuccessfully ran for the Michigan House in the 38th District in 2014. A solidly Republican district, Lauffer lost the election to a less extreme candidate. Despite his bold views, Lauffer’s campaign for city council has received little media attention.

Nathan Triplett, director of public policy and political action for Equality Michigan, said that Lauffer’s views disqualify him from public service.

Nathan Triplett, director of public policy and political action for Equality Michigan, said that Lauffer’s views disqualify him from public service.

Costanzo, Bennett Lublin, Chris Orick, John Owsinek and Robert Robertson.

A group of concerned citizens started a Change.org petition and have collected more than 130 signatures so far.

Information regarding the city of Walled Lake’s November election can be found at http://walledlake.us/index.php/election-voter-information.
What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. 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:

- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP. You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not use TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 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 3 months before taking 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:

- You must continue to use 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:
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:
  - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- 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:
  - Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and start taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

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.
- Also take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

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. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which can lead to liver damage. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

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.
- 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.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV 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, your healthcare provider may recommend you stop taking your other medicines. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

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.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.
We're open, not unprepared.

We know who we are. And we make choices that fit our lives.

TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together 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.

Learn more at 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.

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.
• Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or light-headed, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
• Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
• Bone problems.
Common side effects: 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.
• Have any other medical conditions.
• Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
• Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.
Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:
• Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, 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 FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK
Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
• Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
• Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having 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. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
• Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
• If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.
Oakland University today is recognized as one of the most welcoming and inclusive campuses in the state for LGBTQ individuals. In August, OU earned the no. 1 slot on the 2017 Campus Pride Index, which ranks colleges and universities according to LGBTQ-friendliness.

But backtrack 13-odd years into the campus’s history, and what you’ll find is a university that’s hardly recognizable compared to what you see today. You might say the community was under the radar on campus until 2004, when OU began implementing LGBTQ-friendly training modules for its staff. This was the same year a group of students took it upon themselves to petition for a space on campus geared specifically toward welcoming all identities.

The petition resulted in the creation of the Gender and Sexuality Center in 2005, a space that has helped mold OU into the LGBTQ-friendly establishment it is today. But when the center first began operations, the space was little more than, well, a space.

“When we started out it was just a space for people to hang out,” said Grace Wojcik, Coordinator at the Gender and Sexuality Center. “We didn’t build much long-term programming or work that assessed the needs of the students.”

This didn’t stop the volunteers from laying important groundwork for future work. In 2008, the center established the university’s and state’s first LGBTQ mentoring program. The program facilitates one-on-one mentoring relationships for new LGBT students who seek a smooth transition into college. And in 2009, OU changed the phrasing in its equal opportunity policy to include “gender identity” and “gender expression.”

The center’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GSCatOU/) includes a list of “milestones,” one of them being the addition of Wojcik to the team in 2011. Dubbing the new hire a milestone feels fitting when you consider all the programs implemented since Wojcik started.

In her time as the center coordinator, Wojcik and her team have made strides in raising awareness of the LGBT community through a variety of events. This includes OU’s first Pride Week, the creation of a promotional campaign titled “Out on Campus,” guest speaker events from the likes of Laverne Cox and Ryan Sallans, as well as a continuing series of graduation celebrations designed for LGBT students.

Out of all the programs offered by the center, Wojcik said Lavender Graduation has been her favorite. The event was created to celebrate the achievements of LGBTQ undergraduate seniors, graduate, and medical students.

“It’s become more of a thing people hope to participate in,” Wojcik said. “We ask students where they’re headed in the future and let them give words of advice to folks who are still here. It’s grown tremendously. It’s really being able to celebrate the achievements of students that’s so special.”

Flavia DiStefano is one of the three peer mentors at the GSC. She describes the peer mentor’s role as a sort of guide who helps students navigate both their academic and social life.

“It was important for me to join the program because I wanted to offer the same kind of support and welcoming environment I had been given when I first came to Oakland University,” DiStefano said. “I want the students to be as comfortable and safe as they can be around campus, and I think the GSC mentoring program is a big part of that. It helps the students grow and develop new interests and skills while being themselves.”

The GSC also facilitates OU’s Pride Week every first week of April. This year’s celebration featured the 14th annual drag show, the “Slam for Solidarity” evening of poetry, spoken word and story-telling, as well as a Pride Prom.

Such events and programs helped earn the four-and-a-half star rating out five on the Campus Pride Index, a half-point jump from 2016.

Jo Reger, director of the Women and Gender studies program, said she’s seen OU evolve significantly in its attitude toward the LGBTQ community since she joined the university.

“I came in 2001 and there was one LGBTQ orientated student group – no faculty or staff groups and no Gender and Sexuality Center,” Reger said. “I have seen the university become exponentially more welcoming over time. In part, this was due to students and faculty who were out on campus and allies who worked with them to gain LGBTQ visibility and educate the rest of campus.”

Wojcik said she’s seen more departments and their staff take on additional responsibility in their work for the LGBTQ community, rather than directing all matters toward the GSC. She’s also seen the reputation of the GSC change dramatically over the years, saying the center is now seen as the “go-to resource” on campus.

“What makes us unique is that we received the highest score on the campus pride assessment in Michigan, yet we only have one professional staff member,” Wojcik said. “We don’t have an extraordinary budget, but we build bridges across campus.”

Despite working on a small budget, Wojcik still has big plans for the center down the road. She said she hopes to soon expand OU’s Pride Week celebration into a Pride Month. She’s also looking to grow the GSC’s staff in an effort to heighten the center’s impact on campus.

“The Gender and Sexuality Center may be geared at students but its existence changes the culture of OU for everyone here, including faculty, staff, administrators, LGBTQ individuals and allies,” Reger said. “It is a centerpiece of campus.”

If you’d like to learn more about OU’s Gender and Sexuality Center, please visit Oakland.edu/gsc/ for additional information. Support the GSC Peer Mentoring Program at https://oaklandbookstore.ignitecx.com/GSC2017.
Clinton, Harris Urge HRC Supporters to ‘Rise’ Against Trump

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

It wasn’t the Human Rights Campaign National Dinner that attendees anticipated a year ago. 

Hopes were high that Hillary Clinton would be elected president and lead the way on advancing LGBT rights in the United States and around the world. Instead, Donald Trump is president and LGBT rights supporters are seeking to oppose his administration’s efforts to compromise rights for the LGBT community.

But the atmosphere Oct. 28 at the 21st annual Human Rights Campaign National Dinner was far from depressed. In fact, the dinner’s theme of “rise,” projected on screen during the dinner and blasted in neon colors in the lobby, captured a sense of purpose and urgency given the new challenges facing LGBT people.

Fiery in her remarks before the estimated 3,600 people at the Washington Convention Center in attendance was Clinton, who lambasted Trump for his anti-LGBT policies and urged push back.

“Whether or not we are willing to accept this bigotry and hatred speaks volume about who we are as a country,” Clinton said.

Expressing concern that LGBT rights are “nowhere near as secure as we hoped,” Clinton ran through a litany of Trump administration actions harming LGBT people, including Trump’s announcement via Twitter that transgender people would no longer be able to serve in the U.S. armed forces.

“I was outraged when I read on Twitter of all places that the president wanted to ban transgender people serving in the military,” Clinton said. “You know and he knows transgender people have fought and died for this country. They are serving in uniform with distinction right now. The suggestion that transgender Americans are unfit to serve is insulting and wrong.”

Making a reference to the Masterpiece Cakeshop case before the U.S. Supreme Court, Clinton said “it’s just wrong” in 2017 LGBT people can lose their homes, be evicted from their homes or “if this administration get its way, be denied a wedding cake simply because of who you are or who you love.”

Clinton also decried a U.S. delegation vote “after outcry from the Human Rights Campaign and many others.”

“To think that’s where I live in the White House because they spend a disproportionate amount of their time impeaching me.”

- Hillary Clinton joking about the continued fixation on her in conservative media.

“Exactly what our country voted against: A resolution to condemn the use of the death penalty for consensual same-sex relationships,” Clinton said.

The Trump administration insisted the vote was about the U.S. position on the death penalty in general, not its application to same-sex relations. Clinton said the State Department was “forced to clarify” that vote “after outcry from the Human Rights Campaign and many others.”

“But the fact remains the United States should not be shirking our responsibility to defend the human rights of LGBT people around the globe,” Clinton said.

Clinton also lodged complaints with the Trump administration and the Republican-controlled Congress for non-LGBT issues, criticizing their tax reform package for seeking to finance tax cuts with cuts to entitlement programs.

“Embedded in this horrible, irresponsible, cruel and mean-spirited giveaway to the richest of Americans called tax reform is a $500 billion cut in Medicare and a $1 trillion cut in Medicaid,” Clinton said.

When the audience booed in response, Clinton replied, “That is exactly the appropriate response. And don’t boo, tell the Congress and tell them you will not stand for that.”

Introduced at the dinner as a “she-ro” by lesbian tennis legend Billie Jean King, Clinton was well-received by audience members, who stood for a standing ovation as she took the stage. At one point someone at the rear of the room shouted, “We love you!” prompting Clinton to respond, “It’s mutual.”

Arriving on stage, Clinton said the dinner “feels a bit like a family reunion,” telling attendees at the Human Rights Campaign event, “There is no one I’d rather share my initials with than you.”

Clinton said she’d “have much preferred to come to the dinner tonight from a slightly closer residence.”

“Are you in a hurry to impeach me?” Clinton said, joking about the continued fixation on her in conservative media.

If Clinton represented a look to the past at the dinner and what could have been, another speaker, Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), represented what could be the future.

Introducing her was Proposition 8 plaintiffs Kris Perry and Sandy Stier, whom Harris married in 2013 after the U.S. Supreme Court restored marriage equality to California.

Harris said the Trump administration marks “an inflection point in the history of our country.”

“I believe this is a moment when our country is witnessing an assault on our deepest
values and ideals, where people don’t trust over government, its institutions or leaders,” Harris said.

Harris decried social injustices throughout the country, including people of color being denied the right to vote and undocumented immigrants fearing a knock at the door taking them away, citing examples of anti-LGBT discrimination.

“From the United States Congress to the United States Census, LGBT rights are under attack,” Harris said. “Under attack by a Justice Department that now stands on the side of discrimination instead of equality, under attack by a Senate nominee who thinks homosexuality should be illegal and a judicial nominee who says transgender children are proof of Satan’s plan and under attack by a commander-in-chief who wants to ban transgender troops who are willing to sacrifice their lives to defend our country.”

Harris, who’s become an LGBT favorite among potential 2020 presidential candidates, touted a long history of support for LGBT people, recalling a time in the 1990s working as a district attorney with transgender people, and expressing a sense of solidarity between the Muslim and LGBT communities, Khan told the audience his “LGBTQ family has given us courage to continue the fight.”

Khan also paid tribute to transgender service members and veterans as Trump seeks to keep them out of the U.S. armed forces.

“A majority of America stands with you, supports you and is grateful for your service,” Khan said.

Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, urged attendees to continue the fight.

“They want us to stop paying attention... long enough to implement their bigoted blueprint, but we can’t give in,” he said. “We can’t grow complacent. We can’t back down, and together, we got to hold Donald Trump’s tiny little hands to the fire every single day.”

Outside the convention center, around 100 demonstrators affiliated with No Justice No Pride circled the convention center in protest over the Human Rights Campaign taking contributions from Wells Fargo bank, which the protesters criticized for helping finance private prisons.

Shortly before the dinner began, the protesters blocked the doors of the convention center, forcing attendees to enter at a side entrance. Many of the protesters were wearing makeup making them resemble zombies, which the organization says was intended to represent the horrors of the Wells Fargo contributions.

“Under a blatant white-supremacist administration, those of us who claim to want justice for the LGBT community at large have to be as clear as those who oppose us,” Aaryn Lang, movement building & campaign manager of GetEqual, said in a statement.

“HRC choosing to celebrate Wells Fargo, who finances private prisons and immigration detention centers alike, sends a scary message: that the struggles of immigrants, people of color and low-income communities are not the struggles of LGBT people.”

Protesters shouted as they marched around the convention center, “You can’t corporatize our Pride!” Another chant consisted of “Transphobia! Shut it down! Corporate greed! Shut it down!”

At one point, the protester leading the chant asked, “Who thinks we’re having more fun than the suited-up cis gay men attending this gala?” His fellow protesters cheered in response.

High-profile LGBT people present at the dinner included former Army Secretary Eric Fanning, Maryland gubernatorial candidate Rich Madeleno, Virginia State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria), former Democratic National Committee CEO Jess O’Connell, former U.S. Export-Import CEO Fred Hochberg, D.C. transgender advocate Ruby Corado and Jim Obergefell.

Awarded the Human Rights Campaign National Equality Award was Jeff Bezos. Awarded the Ally for Equality award was Uzo Aduba, famed for her role as “Crazy Eyes” on the Netflix hit “Orange Is the New Black.” Also present was CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Vanita Gupta, former second lady Tipper Gore, Center for American Progress CEO Neera Tanden and U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va.) and Voto Latino President Maria Teresa Kuma.

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Gay Media Association.
At 19, I went to my first gay bar on Halloween: the Silver Slipper, a dyke bar on Grand River, near downtown Detroit. I used borrowed ID, was escorted authoritatively by two stone butch regulars, Speedy and Draino.

Lesbians sat in an upstairs balcony space. Gays and “tourists,” downstairs. Tourists came to gawk at the queers.

Entertainer was porkulent Chi Chi LaTrine, aka Benjamin Ernest Franklin. He wore wide, be-ribboned picture hats, sang songs with lyrics of questionable OB-GYN soundness. (“Douche yourself with kerosene. Light it with a match. You will be the only queen with a blow torch for a snatch.”)

Chi Chi’s comedy routines closed with his trademark insertion of a champagne glass into his ample facial cheeks and mouth. (Sidebar: Franklin had a sociology M.A., and in the early 60s was the first gay person to speak to Wayne State University psych classes.)

With teenagers friends Gary and Richard, I also hit the Scenic Bar in Toledo, Ohio. Soon our little circle – “Claudia,” (Richard) “Margo,” Franklin had a sociology M.A., and in the early 60s was the first gay person to speak to Wayne State University psych classes.)

With teenagers friends Gary and Richard, I also hit the Scenic Bar in Toledo, Ohio. Soon our little circle – “Claudia,” (Richard) “Margo,” Franklin had a sociology M.A., and in the early 60s was the first gay person to speak to Wayne State University psych classes.)

For those who could pass for straight, problems were few – vice cops, crabs, VD, job firing, shock therapy, excommunication, incarceration, media exposes – if you kept your “she this” and “she that” to yourself.

I met Marcus, who took me home, played Maria Callas arias from Verdi’s La Traviata, fed me a wonderful breakfast. It was magic – until I learned to my over-stuffed chagrin that my gourmet cook was yet another crossdresser. Two that summer!

Next came Big Apple week. Our threesome took the New York Central train – playing gin rummy for 6 hours – and booked into the notorious Sloan House Y. It was mid-July. No air conditioning. Heat 90-plus. Sweat soaked outdoors in minutes. So, we slept at day; partied at night.

I had no sooner unpacked my things when the room phone rang. “Hi! I’m Jerry. I saw you in the lobby. Can I take you to dinner?” He left two days later. Ever faithful at 19, I thought of Jerry for 36.5 hours, 36 seconds. (Jerry, who?)

Our trio went to a Greenwich Village downstairs bar, the Sans Souci. “Cry Me a River,” sung by Roberta Sherwood was the jukebox hit. Bar ambiance was intimate and discreet. I met a bona fide actor there: Gunther Wilde. He had a bit part in Midsummer Night’s Dream. (Gunther, who?)

Richard reeled in two good-looking, mid-30s Italians who invited us to Fire Island. We took the train to Babylon – three hours – and a ferry boat to Cherry Grove.

“Truman Capote’s there,” they lied. I experienced a toothache, a sunburn, no sleep, a sore back. (It was worth it.)

In 1956, we had no ‘out’ role models. We suspected certain movie stars. (Tab Hunter, Barbara Stanwyck, newcomer James Dean). All wishful thinking. These Senator McCarthy witch-hunting years were terror for local media recently reported that nearly a quarter of Michigan’s nursing homes have been cited for serious health and safety violations. This coverage garnered attention from Congresswoman Debbie Dingell who expressed outrage of such treatment at facilities that “serve our most vulnerable.” LGBT older adults are particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect given a lack of training among many providers, failure to create and enforce inclusive agency-level caregiving policies, and a resurgence in religious exceptions in anti-discrimination and healthcare law.

Lifetime experiences of discrimination have created unique caregiving experiences for many LGBT older adults that increase their likelihood of living in a nursing home. Many LGBT older adults came of age when homosexuality and gender transgressions were routinely associated with pedophilia. Biological or adopted children was unthinkable for same-sex couples who were unable to disclose their relationship status for fear of harsh repercussions including jail, job loss, eviction, and hospitalization. As such, LGBT older adults are less likely to have children to care for them as they age. Instead, they often rely on families of choice within their same age-cohort, which can dwindle possible caregivers as LGBT older adults age together. Years of accumulated discrimination further render LGBT older adults more vulnerable to health issues, which may contribute to earlier and more frequent nursing home usage.

A survey completed by six LGBT organizations (Justice in Aging, 2015) indicated that many LGBT older adults fear disclosing their sexual orientation and/or gender identity because of negative experiences with service providers and/or fear of discrimination. In this survey, caregivers, older adults, and service providers reported instances where formal caregivers refused to bathe a gay man for sixteen days, prevented a transgender resident from eating, talking, and socializing with other residents, and failed to provide proper medical care such that one resident needed to visit the Emergency Department (Justice in Aging, 2015).
The Trump Administration has threatened to change these federal regulations, and in a recent court filing in Franciscan Alliance v. Burwell, the Trump Administration indicated that it was currently vetting a draft of proposed regulatory changes to Section 1557.

Despite these obstacles, short-term and long-term solutions exist. Long-term care providers can obtain training and policy guidance from organizations like SAGE Metro Detroit to better prepare their staff on how to best serve LGBT older adults. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission could also interpret the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act prohibition on sex to include protections for LGBT people, similar to other state and federal agency interpretations. Last month, the Commission denied the opportunity to issue this clarification, but the Commission could reconsider its decision. State or local policymakers could also pass an LGBT-specific long-term care bill of rights to mirror a law signed by the California governor earlier this month. With increasing attention on nursing home safety and health violations, such efforts could make great strides in better protecting LGBT older adults, a population particularly at-risk for abuse and neglect in nursing homes.

**References**


Angie Perone is the Director of SAGE Metro Detroit and a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Michigan in social work and sociology. She previously served as a civil rights attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, where she oversaw its LGBT Elder Law Project.

#### Creep of the Week

**Donald Trump**

We desperately need to elect Democrats to act as a real check on Trump’s insanity. Because Republicans sure as hell aren’t going to do anything.

When the Trump era is written about in history books, assuming we survive that long, if there are any heroes in this sordid story those heroes will be federal judges.

You may recall that in July Trump Tweeted out that “the United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military,” without even consulting the Defense Department.

And now a judge has told him, “Nope. You don’t get to decree major policy shifts while sitting on the toilet playing with Twitter.” (Note: the judge did not use these exact words.)

On Oct. 30 on Halloween eve (or “Devil’s Night” as we in the Detroit area call it), Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, a district judge in Washington D.C., blocked the Trump administration’s ban on transgender service members. Because of her ruling, the trans troop ban is dead and unless it comes back to life (as many of the Trump administration’s terrible policies tend to do after defeat), “openly trans people could begin joining the military on Jan. 1,” according to NPR.

“This is a complete victory for our plaintiffs and all transgender service members, who are now once again able to serve on equal terms and without the threat of being discharged,” Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said in a statement.

But before you get too excited, let’s not forget who is currently appointing federal judges: Donald Trump. And that does not bode well for our future. The people he is appointing are extreme in the extreme. And these are lifetime appointments. We’re talking decades of right-wing rule. The likelihood of these judges acting as a check on abuse of power by fellow right-wingers? Nil.

Peter Montgomery, a Senior Fellow at People For the American Way, writing for Huffington Post puts it this way, “In the past, when elected or appointed officials have abused the power of their office to impose their religious beliefs on others in ways that harm them, we have counted on the federal courts to uphold constitutional principles. That’s why it is so potentially damaging to have the Senate approve judicial nominees who see the courts, as right-wing activists do, as an instrument for imposing their religious and political views about morality and the Constitution.”

In other words, we’re at the mercy of the U.S. Senate to respect the rule of law enough not to approve these picks. And as you’ll recall, the Senate Majority Leader is Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), the same guy who literally stole a Supreme Court pick from President Obama. In other other words, we’re fucked.

Right now the only thing saving us is Trump’s sheer incompetence.

According to Ian Millhiser of Think Progress, “Trump keeps losing in court because he’s a bumbling goon.”

This, of course, should comfort no one. We desperately need to elect Democrats to act as a real check on Trump’s insanity. Because Republicans sure as hell aren’t going to do anything.

Case in point: Alabama senate candidate Roy Moore has called for Judge Kollar-Kotelly to “be impeached by the House of Representatives for unlawful usurpation of power.” This coming from a guy who used to be the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court but was given the boot when he refused to remove a ten commandments monument.

Moore is perhaps the most extreme candidate currently running, but he’s hardly an outlier with today’s Republican party.

Just another in a long list of why voting matters. Elections have far reaching consequences, and we don’t even know how long the reach of Trump will be, but we know he will grab as much power as he can, along with other words that begin with P that he has no business touching.

Voting is literally self-defense in Trump’s America. So go kick some ass.
Key LGBTQ Supporters File Amicus Briefs in Masterpiece Cakeshop SCOTUS Case

BY DREW HOWARD

National business leaders, Congress members and civil rights leaders have raised their voice in support of a same-sex couple who was denied service by a Colorado bakery due to their sexuality.

The ACLU held a teleconference Monday highlighting supporters of the same-sex couple who have filed amicus briefs with the Supreme Court in the Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission case. The list includes more than 35 national business leaders, hundreds of celebrity chefs and restaurateurs, more than 200 members of Congress, leading legal scholars, and the nation’s leading LGBT advocacy organizations, among others.

Among the speakers on Monday’s conference call was University of Pennsylvania Law School Professor Tobias Wolff, who argued that anti-discrimination laws are not a violation of free speech.

“Anti-discrimination laws applied to businesses in commercial marketplace have never been found to violate the First Amendment,” Wolff said. “When objecting businesses say they don’t want to serve people like that [Craig and Mullins], the Supreme Court says you can hold those beliefs. However, when you sell commercial goods you are not engaged in your own acts of expression.”

In 2012, Charlie Craig and Dave Mullins visited Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, Colorado to purchase a cake for their wedding reception. The bakery’s owner denied service to the men after discovering they were a couple, saying he only made cakes for heterosexual weddings. The bakery was found to have violated Colorado law after Craig and Mullins filed a complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. The baker’s argument that he has a constitutional right to discriminate against homosexual couples based on religious and free speech grounds was rejected by the Colorado state courts. The case will be brought to the Supreme Court on Dec. 5 where it will hear oral arguments.

Many of Monday’s speakers echoed the idea that this case is about much more than just a cake or a wedding. Iman Jodeh, executive director of Meet the Middle East (Denver), said that an outcome allowing businesses to refuse service to a gay couple could open the doors to even more discrimination.

“It’s becoming increasingly easy to replace the bakery with grocery stores, schools, restaurants or any other public service or space, or to replace our gay couple with muslims or jews or DACA students,” Jodeh said. “The list goes on, and the reality is that this must stop.”

Sarah Warbelow, legal director of the Human Rights Campaign said, “The key message here is businesses that are open to the public should be open to everyone, and should not discriminate based on an individual’s identity. While it takes incredible amounts of talent, skill and artistry to prepare food including wedding cakes, it doesn’t mean businesses can discriminate. These should be available to anyone able to purchase.”

Civil rights leader and Congressman John Lewis also spoke during the teleconference, comparing the struggles of the LGBT community to that of African Americans during the Civil Rights Movement.

“We still have a distance to go,” Lewis said. “No American should have to endure the humiliation Craig and Mullins experienced. The world is changing - we cannot and must not and will not roll back.”

John Paul Schnapper-Casteras, special counsel for appellate and Supreme Court advocacy with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, references the Piggie Park case from the ‘60s when a restaurant owner tried to deny service to three African Americans due to religious beliefs.

“We’ve been here before. Cases like Piggie Park are stories of progress that should guide the Supreme Court. The wisdom of that court’s ruling was accepted and helped moved the country forward, and the same should apply here.”

Craig and Mullins will be represented in court by the ACLU when oral arguments will be heard on Dec. 5.

DOJ Seeks Time to Argue for Anti-Gay Baker

Monday’s teleconference follows a decision by the U.S. Justice Department under U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions to seek a time slot of 10 minutes before the U.S. Supreme Court to argue on behalf of a Colorado baker who wishes to refuse the sale of make wedding cakes for same-sex couples.

The Washington Blade reports the U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco filed the two-page request Oct. 25 before the Supreme Court, which says the Justice Department “has a substantial interest” in the case because the U.S. government has an interest in “the preservation of federal constitutional rights of free expression.”

Judge Opens New Path to Challenge Mississippi Anti-LGBT Law

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

In the aftermath of a higher court overturning his decision, a federal judge who ruled against a Mississippi “religious freedom” law enabling sweeping anti-LGBT law has opened up to a new path for a legal challenge to the statute.

U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves, an Obama appointee, issued the order Friday in the case against Mississippi’s HB 1523 filed by the Campaign for Southern Equality and two same-sex couples in the state.

The order lifts a stay in the case, allowing up to five written interrogatories to identify which of the 82 clerk’s offices in Mississippi have sought to recuse themselves from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples under the law and the process by which they intend to handle those recusals.

Additionally, the order grants the state until Nov. 13, or a time until the parties may agree, to respond or object to the written interrogatories.

If a Mississippi clerk was found to have recused themselves from issuing marriage licenses or if any such recusal impaired the ability of a same-sex couple to obtain a marriage license, that could form the basis for a new challenge to HB 1523.

The law, signed by Gov. Phil Bryant last year, allows state government employees who facilitate marriages the option to opt out of issuing licenses to same-sex couples, but the person must issue prior written notice to the state government and a clerk’s office must not delay the issuance of licenses.

But the law isn’t limited to clerks. It prohibits the state from taking action against religious organizations that decline employment, housing or services to same-sex couples; families who’ve adopted a foster child and wish to act in opposition to same-sex marriage and individuals who offer wedding services and decline to facilitate a same-sex wedding.

Additionally, the law allows individuals working in medical services to decline a transgender person’s request for gender reassignment surgery.

Reeves last year issued a preliminary injunction enforcing the “religious freedom” law on the basis that it violated the Establishment Clause, which prohibits the government from aligning itself with a particular religion. In this case, Reeves determined HB 1523 endorsed one particular religious view on LGBT people, thus was unconstitutional.

But a three-judge panel U.S. Fifth Circuit of Appeals overturned that decision on the basis that plaintiffs lacked standing to challenges the lawsuit. Despite a request from plaintiffs for a “en banc” rehearing before the full court, the Fifth Circuit refused to hear the case. As a result, the law took effect earlier this month.

The Campaign for Southern Equality lawsuit was consolidated with a separate lawsuit filed by LGBT people, a dozen Mississippi ministers and the Joshua Metropolitan Community Church. Lambda Legal, which is representing plaintiffs in that lawsuit, sought relief after the Fifth Circuit ruling rejecting their challenge by filing a petition of certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court has yet to act on the petition.

As of earlier this month, the Campaign for Southern Equality had also stated a plan to take its challenge up to the Supreme Court. It wasn’t immediately clear the organization still plans to pursue that course of action in the aftermath of the judge’s order.

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Gay Media Association.
Trump’s Gay Nominee Facing Dem Opposition in Senate

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The first openly LGBT nominee of President Trump’s administration is encountering opposition from Democrats, who are objecting to his history of sexist comments.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee narrowly voted to approve gay foreign policy expert Ric Grenell as U.S. ambassador to Germany on 11-10 party-line basis.

A Democratic aide said Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) spoke for Democrats on Grenell’s nomination and expressed concern about his public commentary, including degrading comments about the appearance of women. Those remarks, Murphy reportedly said, could be a problem if Grenell becomes the U.S. representative to a country led by arguably the most powerful woman in the world.

During Grenell’s confirmation hearing, Murphy raised concerns about Grenell’s remarks on Twitter about the appearances of women. Grenell deleted those tweets and apologized for them in 2012 during his brief stint of two weeks on Mitt Romney’s presidential campaign, which he noted during the hearing.

“Anybody who knows me knows that I am a very caring person and very sensitive – and I also appreciate good humor,” Grenell said in response. “Unfortunately, there are times where what was intended to be humorous turned out to be not so humorous, and, again, that was never my intention and I regret that.”

But Grenell has a history of making offensive comments about women long before the advent of social media. A 1995 Washington Post profile on Grenell quotes his fellow staffer in the 1992 Bush-Quayle re-election campaign as saying he once told a female colleague, “Didn’t your mother ever tell you only whores and very small children wear red shoes?”

The narrow vote in committee could spell trouble for Grenell when his nomination comes to the Senate floor. If all Democrats vote against his nomination and at least three Republicans vote “no,” his confirmation will be sunk.

The opposition to a gay nominee from Democrats marks a considerable contrast to years past when Republicans would be the voice against presidential gay appointments, citing objections to their sexual orientation. But Grenell’s sexual orientation isn’t the issue for Democrats.

Gregory Angelo, president of Log Cabin Republicans, criticized the Democratic opposition to Grenell’s nomination.

“Clearly no Republican is immune from the Democrats’ unhinged opposition to anything and everything proposed by the Trump administration – even a highly qualified openly gay man appointed to represent our interests in a center-right nation that just realized marriage equality,” Angelo said. “Pathetic, but not surprising.”

Also receiving a 11-10 party-line pick was Sam Brownback, Trump’s pick as U.S. ambassador at large for religious freedom, who also has an anti-LGBT record.

Prior to the vote, the Human Rights Campaign sent a letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee urging senators to reject the nomination.

“Over his long career in the U.S. Senate and as governor of Kansas, Gov. Brownback has consistently opposed basic civil and human rights for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender people and queer (LGBTQ) people,” wrote Human Rights Campaign Governmental Affairs Director David Stacy. “These positions stand in contrast to longstanding policies of the U.S. State Department and could do severe damage to LGBTQ people living abroad.”

During his confirmation hearing, Brownback refused to say under questioning from Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Kaine) that religious motivations aren’t sufficient justification for foreign laws instituting the death penalty for homosexual acts.

Approved on a unanimous basis by the committee was former Rep. Pete Hoekstra for the position of U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands. Hoekstra had unanimous support despite an anti-gay history and objections to his nomination from a Dutch LGBT group based on his opposition to same-sex marriage.

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Widely aware much less likely to seek preventative care of heterosexual women. Finally, lesbian women may have a higher overall risk for certain health concerns, as well as a lack of provider understanding and even violence due to stigma (Transgender and bisexual women also face unique healthcare challenges, albeit different from lesbians, that are worthy of further exploration in a future column).

In particular, lesbian women experience health disparities with regard to cancer risk. As with other LGBTQ individuals, this is due, in part, to an increased likelihood of smoking cigarettes and using other substances (this is a common method of coping for those facing family rejection, stigma, or violence due to their identities). Additionally, lesbians have a decreased likelihood of pregnancy (which can be a protective factor with regard to breast, cervical, and uterine cancer), a higher overall Body Mass Index (BMI), and may have a less robust support system than bisexual or heterosexual women. Finally, lesbian women are much less likely to seek preventative care due to concerns about finances, meeting the demands of their own roles as caregivers, wishing to avoid provider rejection, and past negative experiences in healthcare settings. This can result in their health care concerns being more serious, and their treatment options more limited, by the time they access care.

Within the current healthcare system, the majority of patients receive health insurance through their employer or the employer of a spouse or parent. This structure places employment as a gateway to receiving access to healthcare. Unfortunately for lesbians and other LGBTQ people, discrimination in employment remains legal and may have serious healthcare-related consequences. Michigan is a state that does not offer consistent protections to its LGBTQ citizens, which means that if lesbian women and other LGBTQ people are targeted for discrimination in the workplace or are denied employment, they may be unable access to care, as a result.

Even for lesbian women who fall within the poverty guidelines that qualify a person for Medicaid or other assistance, there may be additional barriers to finding competent medical professionals. Assuming a patient for Medicaid or other assistance, there may be additional barriers to finding competent medical professionals. Assuming a patient is fortunate to have healthcare access, most medical students receive an average of only five hours of study related to the health needs of LGBTQ patients. The majority of patients receive health insurance through their employer or the employer of a spouse or parent. This structure places employment as a gateway to receiving access to healthcare. Unfortunately for lesbians and other LGBTQ people, discrimination in employment remains legal and may have serious healthcare-related consequences. Michigan is a state that does not offer consistent protections to its LGBTQ citizens, which means that if lesbian women and other LGBTQ people are targeted for discrimination in the workplace or are denied employment, they may be unable access to care, as a result.

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Even for lesbian women who fall within the poverty guidelines that qualify a person for Medicaid or other assistance, there may be additional barriers to finding competent medical professionals. Assuming a patient is fortunate to have healthcare access, most medical students receive an average of only five hours of study related to the health needs of the LGBTQ population, the majority of which is focused on HIV prevention and treatment for cis gay men. Even more concerning are the findings of research surveying biases among medical professionals, against lesbians and other LGBTQ patients. A 2014 study – “Attitudes Toward LGBT Patients Among Students in the Health Professions: Influence of Demographics and Discipline” – revealed that, “respondents were more likely to endorse attitudes of tolerance rather than respect for their patients who are LGBT, with the majority of the sample (70 percent) rating themselves as having low self-efficacy for treating LGBT patients.”

This gap in understanding and cultural competence has detrimental effects on the health outcomes of all LGBTQ patients and must be addressed.

That said, recent LGBTQ advocacy and Obama-era policies have helped steer grant funding and research toward addressing the unique healthcare needs of lesbians and other LGBTQ populations, including more support for lesbian fertility concerns. However, more research is needed to assess models of care that are effective for lesbians, and to establish the necessity of LGBTQ-inclusive sexual health education and cultural competency training for medical providers. Additionally, funding focused on the provision of LGBTQ-affirming services – apart from HIV – can be difficult to access.

In light of the health risks faced by lesbians, as well as the barriers to competent care experienced by all LGBTQ patients, Corktown Health Clinic (CHC) is committed to providing access to vitally important cancer screenings. CHC, Michigan’s first LGBTQ-focused health center, has partnered with the Tri-County Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) to provide breast and cervical cancer screenings to uninsured and underinsured lesbian and bisexual women, and transgender men, as part of LGBTQ-affirming preventative care. CHC is also working with community partners to bring mobile mammography services on site for patients. Those interested in the cancer screening program, or seeking other medical services, can contact Corktown Health Center by calling 313-832-3300 to schedule an appointment. CHC is located at 1726 Howard Street in Detroit. Visit CHC online at coktownhealth.org.

by Natasha Wilson and Jennifer Schwartz

Women’s health has gained greater awareness in the last 20 years, in part due to political debate over reproductive rights, and growing understanding of women’s experiences accessing healthcare. For women who identify as lesbians, however, these programs may continue to miss the mark. This population experiences a disproportionate risk for certain health concerns, as well as a lack of provider understanding and even discrimination (Transgender and bisexual women also face unique healthcare challenges, albeit different from lesbians, that are worthy of further exploration in a future column).

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Natasha Wilson, LMSW, LMT and Jennifer Schwartz, LMSW are the Behavioral Health Services Program Co-coordinators and Therapists at Health Emergency Lifeline Program/CHC in Detroit.
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Health Dept. Vaccinates Staff, Clients at Local Shelters for Hepatitis A

BY BTL STAFF

The Ingham County Health Department vaccinated staff and clientele at two local homeless shelters last week for hepatitis A following possible exposure and an increase in hepatitis A cases in the county.

Three Ingham County residents have been diagnosed with hepatitis A since August, and one of them has died. Although Southeast Michigan has been combating a large hepatitis A outbreak since 2016, the two outbreaks have not been directly linked at this time.

“In two months, we’ve seen the number of cases we typically expect to see over the course of a year,” said Ingham County Health Officer Linda S. Vail. “We are working diligently to stop the outbreak, especially in light of what has happened in Southeast Michigan. We don’t want to see an outbreak on that scale here in Ingham County.”

Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable, contagious liver disease. It is often spread through the ingestion of food or water contaminated with infected feces or oral contact with contaminated objects. Transmission can occur easily among household contacts and sexual partners. Risk factors in the Ingham County outbreak include: homelessness or use of transient housing, illicit drug use, incarceration, men who have sex with men, and sex workers and their clients.

The health department provided hepatitis A vaccine at no cost to people connected to the two shelters and is recommending the vaccine to people in high risk occupations. This includes hospital workers employed in the emergency room, the environmental health and sanitation department, and the food service department.

Illness generally occurs two to six weeks after exposure to the hepatitis A virus and includes fatigue, abdominal pain, yellow skin (jaundice), dark urine and pale stool. It can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious illness lasting several months. Some people have no symptoms. Vaccination and thorough hand washing can prevent infection.

People who believe they have been exposed to hepatitis A or who have symptoms should contact their health care provider immediately. Anyone who wants to be vaccinated should contact their health care provider or the Ingham County Immunization Clinic at 517-887-4316.

Detroit HealthLink Project Awarded Grant to Research LGBTQ Cancer Disparities

BY DREW HOWARD

According to the National LGBT Cancer Network, LGBT people carry a “disproportionate” cancer burden. The organization states that tobacco and alcohol use in the community are much higher than in the general population, and that gay and bisexual men have anal cancer rates 44 times the national average.

A program purposed with addressing cancer-related needs in Metro Detroit has received additional funding that will go toward researching cancer disparities within the LGBTQ community.

Launched in 2016 by Dr. Hayley S. Thompson, the Detroit HealthLink for Equity in Cancer Care program brings community members and cancer researchers together to develop research ideas as well as educational and service-based programs. The program is run through several Cancer Action Councils that are composed of cancer survivors, caretakers, loved ones, as well as interested advocates and community partners.

Dr. Thompson was recently awarded $250,000 from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to expand her research into the LGBTQ community. Thompson’s grant submission, titled “Partnering with Sexual and Gender Minority Communities to Address Cancer Disparities in Detroit,” promises to give a voice to members of the LGBTQ community affected by cancer.

“In the LGBTQ community, there’s emerging evidence that there are big disparities,” Thompson said. “We want to increase their voice and advocate that this population be included in cancer research.”

A 2015 study estimates that there are more than one million LGBTQ individuals living with cancer in the U.S. Thompson’s proposal cites several studies revealing disparities among LGBTQ people in regard to lung cancer, breast cancer, anal cancer, and HIV-related cancers.

Detroit HealthLink will establish two new CACs specializing in the LGBTQ community at the Detroit-based non-profit LGBT Detroit. Applications to become a CAC member are now being accepted.

Danny Inman, program coordinator at LGBT Detroit, said CAC members will go through an 18-month program to increase community engagement in research and build research capacity. Council members will learn different elements of community research as well as identifying and prioritizing needs in the LGBTQ community. Members will meet up once a month to go over a new lesson module.

“Members who go through these modules will be able to help lead focus groups,” Inman said. “With those focus groups, we hope to understand more about how cancer impacts the LGBTQ community and have research projects that come out of it.”

Focus groups are a new element of the Detroit HealthLink program. Thompson’s proposal promises a series of six focus groups that will address barriers to medical care among LGBTQ people and evaluate the community’s general attitude toward cancer care.

See LGBT Cancer Disparities, page 20
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An LGBTQ health center is hardly a new idea. Major cities have had them for years, and they play significant roles in the healthcare safety net in their communities. Around the country, we also see a growing number of HIV programs integrating onsite medical care as part of deliberate efforts towards accomplishing the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. After thirty years administering HIV funds, I have never seen such widespread reinvention of programs as I have recently followed in cities like Portland, Cleveland, New Orleans, and Washington D.C. Now we are putting Detroit on the map for advances in LGBTQ health.

Corktown Health Center launched patient care in August with a clinical team comprised of the Medical Director, Latonya Riddle-Jones, M.D., Nurse Practitioner, Patrice Wade-Olson, DNP and talented support staff. Additional capacity will be added soon thanks to funds from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Ryan White Program administered by the Detroit Health Department to expand HIV treatment access and establish a new PreP program linked to the clinic.

A major collaborator in the development of the LGBTQ-centric health center is Wayne State University School of Medicine and its University Physicians Medical Education programs. Under Dr. Riddle-Jones’ leadership, CHC has already expanded access to breast and cervical cancer screening for uninsured and underinsured patients through a new affiliation with the Tri-County Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (BCCCP) (see related article, pg. 16).

While many have played important roles in helping Corktown Health Center reach this point, special acknowledgments must go to the Harold & Carolyn Robison Foundation, the Metro Health Foundation and individual donors who have supported our work. We are still in the early stages of striving to achieve the full vision created for Corktown Health Center. I hope you will take a moment to visit www.corktownhealth.org to learn more about the services available and how you can support its work. More announcements, updates and opportunities to engage with CHC are coming soon. After all one milestone leads to the next.

Patrick Yankee is the chief development officer at Corktown Health Center, 1726 Howard Street in Detroit. Call 313-832-3300 or email info@corktownhealth.org for more information.

LGBT Detroit executive director Curtis Lipscomb said there is one element of the project that sets it apart from other research initiatives.

“I don’t know of anything like this that exists in Detroit,” Lipscomb said. “Our big focus is building research capacity in communities. I think the unique thing about this is that community members will be involved in every level.”

For more information about Detroit HealthLink for Equity in Cancer Care, including how to register to become a CAC member, please visit detroithealthlink.org.
Support the T Raises Money for Transition-Related Expenses

Clothing Line Creates, Sells Custom Made Merchandise to Help Trans and Non-Binary Community

BY DAVID RYALS

In January 2016 Liam Vella founded Support the T – his own clothing company that specifically caters to transgender people. Its inception was inspired by a culmination of different things and after a short period of fundraising it came to life. Vella says, “I was seeing an influx of GoFundMe-type pages popping up on my social media feeds. There were so many trans people who needed help raising the funds for their transitions who didn’t feel like they had any other options. I wanted to give them an option that could raise money while also being able to give something back because I know many people are against asking for help without being able to offer something in return. I had the means to create something of value that they could give back while also pursuing my passion of creating LGBTQ-centered shirts and eventually other merchandise.”

It is a way for Vella to give back to the community and help other people achieve their transition goals. Since its inception it has grown exponentially.

“I am incredibly happy and in total awe of how much we’ve grown since our start less than two years ago. We are well over 3,000 followers on Facebook and we are starting to see our shirts and buttons pop up in LGBTQ spaces, which never gets old,” said Vella.

Vella attributes their online growth to binder giveaways. Binding is a technique used to minimize the appearance of a person’s breasts. Some transgender men or gender-nonconforming individuals use binders (compression undergarments) to bind the breasts to the body, creating a flatter chest.

“I’ve lost count of how many brand new binders we’ve been able to giveaway and each time we host a giveaway our audience online grows as well, which opens more opportunities for growth each time,” he said. “Seeing how a binder can impact someone who needs one is another feeling that never gets old.”

Vendor events have also contributed to their growth. This summer, Support the T did six different events across southeast Michigan.

“Being out at vendor events is one of my favorite parts of running Support the T,” said Vella. “We get to go out and display all our products, connect with people attending the events as well as other vendors and the outreach we have is amazing at events. I also think events are one of the best ways for people to support us, as we have a wider reach to people who may not be trans themselves but want to support the cause for family and friends. The person-to-person interaction is truly something special that we can’t get by selling online.”

Support the T stands apart from other clothing lines, even other LGBTQ clothing lines in that almost one hundred percent of shirt sales go to fundraising partners. They are run much more like a non-profit than a business.

“This allows us to also take on more than one fundraising partner at a time which was also important to me,” said Vella. “Don’t get me wrong, I absolutely love what some of those other companies are doing. I just wanted to be sure we were doing something to set ourselves apart. Something that sets us apart...”

See Support T, page 24

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Tips for LGBTQ People Struggling with Eating Disorders and Body Image Issues

BY MARK THIESMEYER, MS, MPH, RD

T
he stereotype of gay men being obsessed with our appearance aside, it’s a sad fact that LGBTQ people as a whole are at greater risk for eating disorders. LGBTQ individuals are also more likely to experience body dysmorphic disorder (BDD).

And as we all know, the gym is one of the first stops people make when we’re trying to improve the way we feel about our bodies. But while some fitness centers and gyms certainly help clients recover from these issues, others can actually make the problem worse – and some places even promote unhealthy approaches to fitness.

Fortunately, once you know what to look for it’s fairly easy to determine whether any given fitness center is going to be helpful or hurtful. Here are some tips to help, whether you want to evaluate your current gym or you’re in the market for a new fitness center:

Where’s the scale? I once worked out in a fitness center that had a huge scale right in the middle of the workout room. Checking your weight there was practically a public event. Scale placement isn’t just a matter of protecting clients’ privacy – it can also tell you a lot about whether weight loss for its own sake is a high priority at a given gym.

Look at what the staff members are wearing. If the men are all in muscle shirts and the women are wearing nothing but tights and sports bras, that may be a sign that this fitness center is focused on achieving the kind of supposedly ideal body that most of us will never have.

How many mirrors are there? This factor can be a bit tricky to evaluate, because correctly-placed mirrors are essential for helping people check for proper form as they exercise. If there are so many mirrors that you feel like you’re in a clothing store fitting room, though, that could indicate that the business is focused more on your appearance than your health.

Pay attention to how the fitness center talks about itself and its clients. Is the gym’s website all about creating six-pack abs? Does the fitness center offer classes designed to promote overall health – including things like cardio fitness, strength, balance, and flexibility - or are many, or even most, of the sessions entirely focused on weight loss? Are the trainers open to whatever a clients’ individual goals may be, or does this gym encourage all of its members to measure their progress solely in terms of their measurements?

Finally, take a look at the other clients. Do you see people of diverse ages and body types, or do you feel like you’ve walked into a Baywatch rerun? A diverse membership is a good sign that you’ve found a fitness center that’s focused on people’s health, not just their waistlines.

It’s important to note that weight loss can be a legitimate, important goal on the way to greater health and fitness. It’s also not necessarily, or always, a bad thing to hit the gym because you want to be able to tighten your belt another notch or two.

At the same time, LGBTQ people in particular are more at risk for putting an unhealthy emphasis on the scale, our pants size, or both. In our quest to take the best possible care of our bodies, we need gyms to be part of the solution – not to contribute to the problem.

Mark Thiesmeyer Hook, MS, MPH, RD is an author, exercise physiologist and registered dietitian and the owner of the Better Living Fitness Center, which offers personal training, nutrition counseling, Yoga, and cardio classes. Mark lives with his husband, Matt, in Ann Arbor. Contact: mark@betterlivingfitness.com or 734-747-0123.
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from most clothing brands in general is that we are completely handmade. Support the T is completely trans-owned and run. All of our volunteers identify as LGBTQ in some way or another. We don’t sell anything we can’t make ourselves.”

Support the T has impacted lives in the LGBTQ community in real, life changing ways.

“So far, we have helped 12 people fundraise for their transitions,” said Vella. “The amount we’ve raised has varied from person to person, but there has definitely been steady growth and I’m able to see what works best to help guide our future fundraising partners in the right direction as well. With each of our products I hope to make a small impact, helping someone show their identity and pride through a shirt, or helping them express which pronouns they use with a button. Those are things that matter to people, especially when queer representation isn’t a priority in our society.”

When asked what he has planned for Support the T in the future Vella said, “I want our merchandise to empower people, to make them feel pride in what they’re wearing and how they’re presenting themselves. On a larger scale I want to keep growing so we can continue raising money. I want to widen the horizon of who we help, how we help, and how much we are able to help.”

Looking ahead, Vella and his team have a wide array of goals set out to achieve.

“Our most immediate goal is to move into a bigger and better production space. Support the T was started and is still run out of a one bedroom apartment with two people living in it. We are looking to move into a bigger space which will help immensely with production and future growth. I am constantly brainstorming what I can do to make Support the T better and where we can go next, so saying exactly what we are up to is hard,” he said.

“I could go on for days. Really I’m just optimistic and open to whatever the future holds. I’m always open to new ideas, collaborations with other queer brands, and whatever else comes my way. I take pride in the fact that everything we sell is 100 percent handmade here in our studio by queer people so I’m constantly trying to find new things that we are able to produce that our supporters might like to buy.”

Vella has stayed true to his original aim. Currently he is enjoying the perks of being a small and intimate company and plans on continuing down the path he has paved saying, “From the beginning I’ve been excited to see where Support the T would go. While I have plenty of ideas and plans, I’m also open to seeing where it goes organically. That’s the great thing about being such a small organization is I can take it in the direction I feel is best at the time in whatever situation arises. I’m excited to see what opportunities arise and where they will lead.”

Find Support the T on Facebook http://gaybe.am/60 or Instagram www.instagram.com/supportthet. Visit the online store http://supportthet.storenvy.com or email STT.project@mail.com.

"I want our merchandise to empower people, to make them feel pride in what they’re wearing and how they’re presenting themselves. On a larger scale I want to keep growing so we can continue raising money. I want to widen the horizon of who we help, how we help, and how much we are able to help.”

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November 2, 2017 | BTL 25
BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“Are there gays in Michigan? They made it all the way there?” deadpans Mila Kunis to native Michigander Kristen Bell, as if to jokingly say all the world’s queers migrated from her hometown of West Hollywood. Seated next to Kunis, 34, at a hotel conference room in The Peninsula Chicago, Bell, 37, replies plainly: “Well, yes.”

“I grew up with them in my theater community,” adds Bell, who was raised in suburban Detroit. “When I was there it wasn’t talked about, which, when I left, I felt very conflicted about. I hope that it’s a thriving community now.”

“You clearly did not grow up in West Hollywood!” Kunis retorts, after teasing Michigan gays that, “They should get out.” Though Bell and Kunis come from varying places on the gay geographical grid, their queer-aligned acting catalogues – Bell’s roles in “Veronica Mars” and “Burlesque,” alongside Cher, as well as “Frozen,” as the voice of Anna; Kunis’ red-hot sex scene with Natalie Portman in “Black Swan” and her role in 2007’s indie film “After Sex,” featuring Kunis getting fingered by actress Zoe Saldana – have certainly reached LGBTQ audiences from Michigan to West Hollywood, and beyond.

The night before our hilariously revealing sit-down, Bell and Kunis were reaching a less-gay demographic: 700-ish drunk moms. The occasion? An advance screening for “A Bad Moms Christmas,” the sequel to 2016’s “Bad Moms,” which also stars “Transparent” fave Kathryn Hahn. To make the yuletide even gayer, Cheryl Hines, Christine Baranski and Susan Sarandon join the moms-gone-wild gaggle, respectively playing the original trifecta’s mommies dearest.

To talk about their raunchy new romp – more specifically, that hot taint-waxing scene featuring “This Is Us” actor Justin Hartley in, to many gay men, a very familiar position alongside LGBTQ allies Kunis and Bell met with me on a recent afternoon, looking more like glam moms than bad moms. But when the conversation turned to a diverse range of other topics – how Kunis wouldn’t be married to husband Ashton Kutcher if it weren’t for the legalization of same-sex marriage, and, for Bell, the satisfaction of knowing that queer Disney diehards dress up as Anna at gay parades – the bad-mom duo demonstrated what it means to be a good mom too.

Mila, as someone who grew up in West Hollywood, you’ve been immersed in the gay community for a long time.

Mila Kunis: I do love me some gays.

When’s the last time you went “bad mom” at a gay bar?

Mila Kunis: Oh, it’s been a while. Micky’s burned down. But then it became hip. It was weird. I used to go out to gay bars because I lived in West Hollywood and it was always really easy, like the Abbey. But then when the gays became popular and “in” and fashionable, so did the bars, and it became very hip to go to gay bars. That made me crazy, because I was like, “This is not my intent. I just wanna go and dance to some fucking Madonna. I don’t care that it’s gay.” But it became very hip in LA to be the girl at the gay bar.

Kristen Bell: You invented the girl at the gay bar!

Kristen, have you been the girl at the gay bar too?

Kunis: Every girl in LA has.

Bell: Yes, but not in a very long time – regrettfully a very long time. I went to college in New York and went to a ton of gay bars in college. The last time I remember (going to a gay bar) was when my best friend and
I, before I had kids – probably six years ago – were sitting on the couch one night. (“Veronica Mars” co-star) Ryan Hansen and his wife, Amy (Russell), and my husband (Dax Shepard) and I were so lame, like “What are we doing? Let’s go on a bar crawl!!” We went to four different bars in one night, and I can’t even remember the name of the bar we ended up in, but what I specifically remember is that Amy and I were splitting a martini. It was very dangerous. (Laughs)

Kunis: Wow, you guys were so exciting. Bell: But she didn’t drink any of it!! She was pretending to drink it! And then the next day she was like, “I’m pregnant.” Such a lame story, oh my god.

Kunis: No, that was really cute.
Bell: As I was saying it I could feel how lame it was.

But still, you know, gays and pregnancy.
Kunis: Hey, if you’re transgender, it could happen.

You really are up on your LGBTQ-everything, Mila.
Kunis: LGBTQ and Q, I learned there’s a secondary Q.
Bell: What’s the second Q?
Kunis: Don’t ask me, but I know someone corrected me when I went LGBTQ, and they went, “And Q.” Ashton and I, when we saw a sign for LGBTQ, had a whole conversation. “What’s the Q for?” And he was like, “Queer.” And I was like, “You can’t say that.” And he goes, “I think it’s for queer.” And I go, “No, it would never be for queer. Queer is considered derogatory.” But it’s for fucking queer! I don’t even understand this! But I don’t know the second Q. (Kunis asks her assistant, seated nearby, to look up the second Q.)

Bell: My nieces are talking a lot about – is it pansexual? Shouldn’t they be adding a P?
Kunis: It’s too much. This is all becoming too much.

Kunis’ assistant: It’s questioning.
Kunis: See! LGBTQ...Q. Literally, it’s never-ending letters.

If you’ve worked with Cher and you’ve voiced a Disney princess, does that make you a gay icon?
Bell: You tell me.
Kunis: Yes!
Bell: I know better than to put myself in the position of claiming to know what the gay community respects and enjoys... but they seem to enjoy it. (Laughs)
Kunis: If you’re a costume at the gay parade, you’re an icon. You’re a costume at a gay parade, girl! You’re an icon.

What does it feel like knowing the LGBTQ community is dressing up as Anna at gay parades?
Bell: That someone is having a joyful experience and celebrating with an outfit that I somehow had a part in creating feels amazing. It feels like you’re spreading joy. To make anyone else happy feels wonderful. And if someone will wear that costume and smile and feel like they can relate to that character, then I’ve done a good job on earth.

Mila, with “After Sex” and “Black Swan”...
Kunis: (Looks perplexed) I was like what’s “After Sex”? But yes. Correct. These are my two lesbian parts. Or pansexual. What’s the term?

Are we saying your role in “Black Swan” is lesbian now?
Kunis: We don’t know. Pansexual!

When did you know you had a following in the LGBTQ-and-now-P community?
Kunis: When I was, like, 12, because I lived in West Hollywood, so maybe I’m the wrong person to ask. Always, my whole life!
Bell: I was on Broadway when I was 21 and I had gone to musical-theater school, so you know, the gays love Broadway. Can you believe it? (Laughs)
Kunis: (Sarcastically) They like theater? Wow.
Bell: As do a lot of straight people and a lot of cool people and some nerds! It’s just a wonderful community. So, I think when I was working in New York on Broadway was when I was like, “This is a very chic group of people and they’re mostly gay guys and I love it.”

What did your gay friends think of the first “Bad Moms”?
Kunis: The gay community is so wonderful and has always been so amazing in empowering women, and I think the reason why you have the icons – be it Cher, be it Madonna, be it Britney Spears – is because the rest of the world will be like, “They’re such a bitch,” and the gay community is like, “Fuck yeah they are.” They embrace the powerful woman. Always have. That’s just the way the gays have been about it, and I’ve always loved that about them. Because anytime someone is like (pointing to herself), “She’s a bitch,” my roommate who was gay was always like, “Yeah, she is!” And he’d turn it around. So, I think the gays have always loved any woman on screen that represents power or strength or something that they have overcome – anything that’s positive. Because I feel like being gay is not fucking easy, and I say this because I was raised with the gays my entire life.

It’s always frustrated me when people are like, “It’s a choice.” I never think that people choose to live a life that’s hard. I do think being gay was a challenge for many decades. For our entire life history, being gay was always considered a challenge for many decades. And if someone will wear that costume and smile and feel like they can relate to that character, then I’ve done a good job on earth.

See Bad Moms, page 28
toward that. To this day, my friends who are gay will always gravitate toward a woman who empowers her strengths and weaknesses.

You both have made major statements about the gay community throughout your career, and Kristen, you even went as far as to not marry Dax until same-sex marriage was legalized.

Bell: Bet your ass.
Kunis: (Looks to Bell, surprised)
Bell: Yeah, we didn’t get married until same-sex marriage was legal.
Kunis: Neither did I!
Bell: You didn’t?
Kunis: No, my dad talked about it on my wedding day. His whole speech was about when I was 14, I told my parents I’m never getting married and they were like, “OK, let’s talk about this.” I was like, “I’m not getting married because the gays can’t get married, and so I’m never getting married.” Never thinking that the gays were ever gonna get married! So, I was just like, “It is what it is.”
Bell: It just felt gross. What are we gonna do? Have a party and be like, “Look at us celebrating this thing you can’t do?” That’s fucking putrid. Like, 90 percent of our friends are gay!
Kunis: I didn’t have that much awareness at 14. I don’t know what it was.
Bell: But you knew instinctually. You knew it felt gross, and it did feel gross.
Kunis: It just didn’t feel equal, so why would I? It just didn’t feel like it made sense to me. The concept of marriage didn’t make sense to me because my friends couldn’t do it, and I found nothing wrong with what they wanted. So, I was like, “Well, then it’s not sacred, then it’s not what it’s supposed to be, so I don’t want it.”
Then when marriage became legal, the second that it happened I was doing a stunt in London. I was 35 feet in the air and I got a text from my roommate who was married in London. I was 35 feet in the air and I got a text from my roommate who was married in London. He was on the East Coast and I was on the West Coast, and at 7:30 in the morning and he was on the East Coast and I was on the West Coast, and at 7:31 I proposed to him on Twitter to make a fucking point of it. To be like, “Now it’s OK, but before, it was not cool.”

I love that your men were on the same page about waiting to marry till everyone could marry too.

Kunis: My husband’s assistant is a gay guy.
Bell: My husband is the most masculine pro-gay man that you would ever meet.
Kunis: I married a gay man! (Laughs)
Bell: In high school (Dax) would snuggle and spoon with his best friend and his mom would walk into the living room and be like, “Well, OK, anytime you want to talk...” thinking, like, is this opening the door to something? And he was like, “No, I like snuggling! He’s my best friend!” And they would just be spooning.
Kunis: Awwww! (Laughs)
Bell: He’s so open.

Wait, is cuddling gay?
Bell: (Laughs) No, but you have to be very, very open and aware and sensitive to snuggle another man, straight or gay, as a guy.

There are sometimes I’d rather just snuggle –
Kunis: A dog!

How have you been describing the NSFW scene featuring Kathryn Hahn waxing “This Is Us” heartthrob Justin Hartley’s junk to your gay friends?
Bell: If you’re wondering, “Should I see ‘Bad Moms’?” and if you’ve ever seen “This Is Us” and thought, “I wonder what that guy looks like naked,” then this is the movie for you.

Is that the “Bad Moms Christmas” scene that you hope becomes gay famous?
Bell: The waxing scene is gonna become famous in the gay and straight and comedy communities, without question. The waxing scene, I think, is gonna go down in history next to the “When Harry Met Sally” scene. When I first saw it, my jaw was on the ground. It’s incredible.

It’s just what 2017 needs, if you ask me.
Bell: It’s gonna start –
Kunis: A revolution.
Kunis: It won’t, you guys, but I like this wishful thinking.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBTQ wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).
LGBT Artwork Selected for #LoveLansing Billboard Project

Artist Paige Kowaleski Helps Put LGBT Pride on Display in Lansing Community

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

When asked by the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, “What do you love about Lansing?” Paige Kowaleski said, “I love that I have a community where I feel loved and respected, no matter my gender identity or sexual orientation.”

She creatively expressed these feelings by designing a piece of artwork to submit for a community billboard project the Arts Council began in August in collaboration with Adams Outdoor Advertising.

The #LoveLansing Billboard Project invites any Greater Lansing resident - people of all ages, backgrounds and artistic abilities - to submit artwork that centers on the #LoveLansing hashtag.

Once submitted, the artists’ works goes before a panel for selection, and Adams will turn the chosen pieces into 10-foot by 30-foot billboards to be placed around the city when space is available.

“We asked people to show us what Lansing means to them, why it’s important to them,” said Elizabeth Kindinger, art director at Adams.

“Paige was the only submission representative of the LGBT community. It was so big and bold and beautiful,” said Kindinger noting Lansing’s growth in diversity and inclusivity in the last few decades.

“Not up until recently would you maybe have seen a piece like this. This piece being out in the community is really a statement of who we are and that’s really important to project onto people,” she said. “The Arts Council really stood behind her and pushed her to take that leap of faith.”

As did Kowaleski’s dad who told her about the contest.

“I haven’t really done any artwork for a couple years, up to this point. Being a single parent and trying to find your way in the world makes it hard to focus on things outside of the big necessities. Mostly I would do drawings as gifts for my loved ones,” she said.

When Kowaleski first came to the Lansing area in 2014, she experienced homelessness with her then two-year-old. She found help at the Siren Eaton Shelter, which serves domestic violence survivors and homeless families in Eaton County. It was there she met her girlfriend, Danielle Chauvin.

“There were a lot of good people who worked there and helped me overcome barriers to getting my own housing...
Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Nov. 2
LGBTQ Networking Group 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo. 269-925-8330. info@outcenter.org www.outcenter.org

The League of Extraordinary Genders 7 p.m. Transgender support group OutCenter, 132 Water St., Benton Harbor. 269-925-8330. info@outcenter.org www.outcenter.org

Transgender Support Group 7 p.m. Perceptions, 815 N. Grant, Bay City. www.perceptionsmi.org/

Andy Cohen - Up Close & Personal

Friday, Nov. 3
Alter-Abilities Support Group 3 p.m. For alter-abled or “disabled” LGBTQ people. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Coming Out Over Coffee 10:30 a.m. A casual discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Saturday, Nov. 4
Smart Recovery 10 a.m. Smart Recovery offers people with any type of addiction a place to learn how to change unwanted behaviors through cognitive based methods. This is a non-12 step program, led by Smart Recovery trainers, and does not require abstinence. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Sunday, Nov. 5
LGBTQ Support Group 5 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6726 Center Road, Traverse City. www.tcpolestar.org/

Sunday Night Potluck 7 p.m. Join the GLBTQQ group of the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research at 1451 Greenpoint Ave., Brooklyn, NY. 766-2079. www.thebrooklyninstitute.com

Editor’s Pick

A Drag Queen Christmas: The Naughty Tour

Murray and Peter present A Drag Queen Christmas: The Naughty Tour hosted by Roxxy Andrews at 7 p.m. on Nov. 21 at the Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. This is a must-see holiday spectacular featuring some of the country’s best known drag performers like Kim, Shea, Latrice, Aja, Naomi, Farrah, Chi Chi and Eureka. Call 800-745-3000 to purchase tickets. Visit www.dragfans.com for more information.

Monday, Nov. 6
Alcoholics Anonymous 5:45 Serenity 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Sexual Addicts Anonymous 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

UNPLUGGED Social and Support Group 7 p.m. First Monday of every month. For those shunned, disfellowshipped or excommunicated from their religion, family or friends for being LGBTQ. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

www.goaffirmations.org

Spotlight on Wu Man

One of China's great orchestras, from the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing, makes its UMS debut with a new work commissioned by Giang Chen. The concert also shines a spotlight on Wu Man, the world's reigning pipa virtuoso and Silk Road Ensemble member. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 7 at Hill Auditorium, 825 North University Avenue in Ann Arbor. Tickets: $14-65. Call 734-764-2538, email umstix@ums.org or visit https://ums.org/performance/china-ncpa-orchestra.
Editor’s Pick

Harry Potter Celebration to benefit the Salus Center

On Nov. 11, the Firefly Farm at 3180 Hagadorn Rd. in Mason will transform into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. There will be pony rides, wizarding crafts, Quidditch pong, themed drinks and potions, caramel apples, house sorting, wand making and more. Suggested donation: $10. All ages welcome. Costumes encouraged. The event starts at 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.saluscenter.org.
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Q Puzzle

Across
1 A shade of the color purple
5 What comes out of your head
10 Abercrombie & Fitch event
15 Queer activist Murphy
16 A doctor makes you strip for it
17 Something the nose knows
18 Sample some buns, e.g.
19 Mounts, to Maria von Trapp
20 Suzanne’s nickname on “Orange Is the New Black”
22 Not getting enough credit
26 Place for pinballs
30 “Designing Women” actress Annie
31 Queen in “Romeo and Juliet”
34 Like cornstalks that bear
35 “Star Trek” counselor Deanna
36 Shore of Palm Springs
38 Mulan’s male personna
39 Start of a quote by Suzanne about autoeroticism, perhaps
42 Spring month for Vivien
43 Ferrera of “Ugly Betty”
44 Title for Laurence Olivier
45 Come out in the long run
47 Head job?
48 Metal waste
50 Nurse in a bar
52 Pitching stat
53 End of the quote
56 The Queen Elizabeth, for one
57 Number of sides to a gay symbol
58 Suffix with beef or fruit
62 Suffix with beef or fruit
65 “King Lear” daughter
66 Took a bough?
67 2000 Ian flick
68 Kelly Clarkson and Will Young, e.g.
69 Box tops
70 Suzanne Summarizes

Down
1 Solidly behind
2 Young chap
3 Actress ___ Aduba, who plays
20-Across
4 Pal of Romeo
5 Where to see Tom, Dick, or Harry
6 Star of “There’s Something About Mary”
7 Stephen McCauley’s “The ___ Way Out”
8 It comes before date?
9 “So long!”
10 Albee Pulitzer Prize work
11 Guns N’ Roses frontman
12 ___ dance (stripper’s offering)
13 Printers’ measures
21 Workers under Dr. Torres
22 Palindromic preposition
23 Working hours
24 Role for Anthony or Freddie
25 Stone-faced
26 Like a melody, to Bernstein
28 Sandy of “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?”
29 They can cut leaves of grass
30 Soft in the head
37 Word after post or ad
40 Lacking life
41 Moraga’s mother
46 Frequent grand slam title of Billie Jean King
49 One who may act up
52 Makes straight
53 Passing fancy
54 Put in a position?
55 Where you stack wood or spank a fanny
56 Therefore
57 Ginsberg’s “In Back of the ___”
58 Ankle-length skirt
59 Just managed, with “out”
60 Safe follower
63 Some staffers at The Advocate (abbr.)
68 Kelly Clarkson and Will Young, e.g.
69 Box tops
70 Suzanne Summarizes

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Suzanne Summarizes

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www.PrizeSource.com
7 Award-Worthy LGBT Films (That You Probably Haven’t Seen) to Cozy Up to This Fall

BY MIKEY ROX

Over network TV? Tired of Hulu? Seen everything on Netflix? Dig a little deeper to find meaningful and surprisingly well-executed LGBT films making the festival rounds this fall.

1. ‘The Lavendar Scare’
A documentary detailing the homosexual witch hunt sanctioned by the U.S. government in the 1950s (made possible by then-Senator Joseph McCarthy’s anti-communism campaign), “The Lavender Scare” – which has been in production since at least 2013, but only released last year – follows several subjects, including lifelong LGBT activist Frank Kemeny, as they tell their harrowing stories of humiliation, blackmail, and dismissal of civil service for what amounts to nothing more than keeping their private lives private. This eye-opening doc is still making the rounds – recently winning awards at film fests in Atlantic City; Fargo, North Dakota; Hartford, Connecticut; Kansas City; and Memphis – but you may find it among the screenings at an art-house theater or LGBT film festival near you. If not, call your local indie joint and request it.

2. ‘Close-Knit’
You might not expect one of the most progressive trans films ever made to emerge from Japan – especially considering that it’s the first trans film to come from the country ever – but it makes sense for “Close-Knit,” a surprising narrative that focuses on the beating heart of a blended-by-circumstance family. The film takes issue with the trans plot line as an aside, welcomingly, and rather pays attention to the bond formed between a young girl and her uncle’s male-to-female partner during the absence of her oft-missing mother. The film, directed by Naoko Ogigami, took home the top prize at the Far East Film Festival in Udine, Italy; Best Narrative Feature at the Tel Aviv International LGBT Film Festival; and the Teddy Jury Award at the Berlin International Film Festival.

3. “Families Like Yours”
Underwritten by Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Wells Fargo, and the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, “Families Like Yours” showcases candid interviews the challenges of raising an LGBT family in America – which, for all intents and purposes, is not unlike raising a “traditional” family in America (the whole point of this documentary) – as it introduces us to the LGBT men and women called mommy and daddy by their children, including out actor Denis O’Hare, husband Hugo Redwood and adopted son Declan. The film recently screened at Fort Lauderdale’s OUTshine Film Festival, following its July premiere in New York City presented by Deutsche Bank.

4. ‘God’s Own Country’
There’s a lot to like about Britain’s “God’s Own Country” – before you even sit down to watch it. If its Sundance Film Festival cred doesn’t attract you – it was the only UK-based movie to feature in the world drama category at this year’s event – perhaps its 98-percent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes will do the trick. Drawing comparison to “Brokeback Mountain” (which, admittedly, is an easy association for our community for any material portraying rough sex in a rural setting between two partners who don’t consider themselves “gay”), “God’s Own Country” at least does right where that Best Picture Oscar nominee broke our hearts by pursuing a happy ending. Even if that is relative nowadays.

5. ‘After Louie’
Artist and ACT UP activist Sam (Alan Cumming), who lived through the early years of the HIV/AIDS crisis, is disillusioned by Millennials’ seeming disregard for the disease as they solicit casual sex through social media with seemingly no regard for the consequences while simultaneously resting on their political laurels at a time when activism is quite necessary. But just when Sam thinks there’s no hope for our LGBT future in the hands of 20-somethings, along comes young, pretty Braeden to revive his cold, dead heart (figuratively, of course). IndieWire’s Jude Dry calls it “one of the most exciting queer films of 2017 so far.” Doubling down on that sentiment, “Los Angeles Blade”s John Paul King says, “‘After Louie’ may well be the most important gay movie you see in your lifetime.”

6. ‘High Low Forty’
Long-estranged brothers Billy and Joe reconnect during a road trip back to their native Texas to be by their dying father’s side. The sibs haven’t seen each other in a while because after Billy was discharged from the Army, he beat feet to Los Angeles, the reason for which plays out over the long ride home (though you’ve probably already guessed why). Directed and written by and starring Paddy Quinn, “High-Low Forty” won Best Narrative Feature at this year’s GI Film Festival in San Diego.

7. ‘Rift’
Iceland – if you’re not aware – has a solid track record for producing attention-commanding queer films (if you haven’t found “Heartstone” yet, track it down), and “Rift” is no exception. This thriller/horror-mystery finds ex-boyfriends Gunnar and Einar holed up together in BFI (that’s Bumfuck, Iceland for the uninitiated) haunted by their past and a few bumps in the night. The film won the Artistic Vision Award at L.A. Outfest 2017 and is scheduled for limited theatrical release on Nov. 21.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.
Editor’s Pick

Annual Michael vs. Prince Party
Corner Productions invites members of the community to their annual Michael vs. Prince party on Nov. 25 at 8 p.m. featuring DJs John Arnold and Toddi Osborn. For 12 years, this legendary event pays tribute to both music icons - Michael Jackson and Prince - at the Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St. in Detroit. Tickets are $15 for the 21+ event. For more information, visit http://gaybe.am/SS.

Happenings
Continued from p. 31

Due to limited seating, ordering tickets in advance is recommended. ACT2 Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 10 - Nov. 11. 734-971-2228. http://www.act2.org/events/improv-troupe

Broadway In Detroit “Gobsmacked!” The amazing a cappella & beatboxing show! Fisher Theatre, 3111 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Nov. 3 - Nov. 5. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

Michigan Opera Theatre “Kathleen Battle in Recital” This legendary soprano continues to hold audiences spellbound with her luminous voice that is without question, one of the very few most beautiful in the world. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 4 p.m. Nov. 5. 313-237-5960. www.michiganoperia.org

Theatre Detroit “The Con” Tegan & Sara are traveling across North America performing acoustic arrangements from The Con album. Tickets start at $29. Detroit Masonic Temple, 500 Temple Street, Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 5. 313-638-2222. www.themasonic.org

University Musical Society “The Joke is Mightier than the Sword” Originally a five-minute show shot from his laundry room & posted on YouTube after protests in Tahrir Square unseated Egypt’s ruling elite, it became the most-watched international video of the year & posted on YouTube after protests five-minute show shot from his laundry room & posted on YouTube after protests.


A Raisin in the Sun Tickets are $20-$23.50. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. Nov. 3 - Nov. 18. 2485418027. www.stagecrafters.org


Detroit Mercy Theatre Company Library Event LIBRARY SERIES - A movie scene from a play. How do scenes work? The University of Detroit Mercy Theatre Company will present an interactive experience about the making of a scene using a scene from their first production, A Bright Room Called Day. Join us at the Ferndale Public Library and learn how a scene is crafted to move a story forward. Detroit Mercy Theatre Company, Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Rd, Ferndale. 6:30 p.m. Nov. 8. 313-993-3269. TheTheatreCo.com


Resisting by David Wells Tickets: $20. Pay-What-You-Can Tickets available. Based on a true story, a young black woman who begins to film an incident of police brutality is subjected to shocking treatment herself and becomes embroiled in a legal case that never should have been. Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron Ave., Ann Arbor. Through Nov. 19. 734-635-8450. www.theatrenova.org


Stagecrafters “A Raisin in the Sun” Tickets are $20-$23.50. Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. Nov. 3 - Nov. 18. 2485418027. www.stagecrafters.org


ART ’N’ AROUND

Flint Institute of Arts “Size Matters” Big and small works from the FIA Collection Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearasy St., Flint, Sept. 16 - Dec. 30. 8102341695. flintarts.org


Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series “Art Spiegelman: Comics is the Yiddish of Art” Artist/Illustrator Art Spiegelman is known widely for his Pulitzer Prize-winning literary graphic novel Maus, a Holocaust narrative. His current project, WORLLESS, a multimedia look at the history of the graphic novel, had its world premiere at the Sydney Opera House. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor. 5:10 p.m. Nov. 9. 7347643464. https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/art_spiegelman

Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series “Morehshin Allahyari on Digital Colonialism, Re-fuging, and Monstrosity” Morehshin Allahyari is an Iranian media artist, activist, educator, and curator who uses computer modeling and digital fabrication techniques to explore the intersection of art and activism. Michigan Theater, 603 E Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 5:10 p.m. Nov. 2. 7347643464. https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/morehshin_allahyari

Keynote Speaker Tonya Allen Skillman Foundation President & CEO
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Detroit Repertory Theatre 61st Season Black Tie Celebration 6:30 P.M. Saturday November 18, 2017

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ADD’L SPONSORSHIPS WELCOME
John Corvino Selected as Next Dean of Irvin D. Reid Honors College

BY BTL STAFF

The Office of the Provost is pleased to announce that John Corvino has been selected to serve as the next dean of the Irvin D. Reid Honors College. Corvino will begin serving in this position on July 1, 2018. He succeeds founding Dean Jerry Herron, who has led the Honors College since 2008.

“After a number of discussions with several faculty candidates and discussions with leadership from around the university, John Corvino was clearly the best candidate for this challenging role,” said Provost Keith Whitfield.

Corvino arrived at Wayne State as a lecturer in 1998, earning tenure in 2007 and becoming full professor in 2015. He holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor’s from St. John’s University (New York), whose own Honors Program he credits for an excellent educational foundation.

Much of Corvino’s research aims to build bridges on controversial “culture war” issues surrounding sexuality and marriage. He is the author of numerous articles, as well as three books from Oxford University Press: “Debating Same-Sex Marriage” (with Maggie Gallagher, 2012), “What’s Wrong with Homosexuality?” (2013), and “Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination” (with Ryan T. Anderson and Sherif Girgis, 2017).

Corvino is the recipient of several teaching awards, including the Wayne State University President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and a 2012 Distinguished Professor of the Year Award from the Presidents Council of the State Universities of Michigan. In 2012, he became chair of the Wayne State Philosophy Department, where he has focused on building and strengthening ties with other university departments and reforming undergraduate and graduate program curricula. He also continues to be active as a “public philosopher,” having spoken at more than 250 campuses around the country and the globe. He lives in Detroit.

“I am excited to begin this new role, having enjoyed working with our Honors students in many classes during my two decades at Wayne State,” said Corvino. “I am deeply humbled to follow founding Dean Jerry Herron, who has built a fantastic college worthy of the exceptional students it serves.”

Whitfield also thanked Herron for his long and distinguished service as founding dean of the Honors College. “I have enjoyed working with Dean Herron and will miss his thoughtful, caring and compassionate leadership. I have always found him to be the quintessential example of selfless administrator, scholar and gentleman, and we will miss his contributions to the leadership of the university. The university is truly a better place because of his longstanding and steadfast leadership.”

Henry Ford Village Implements Collaborative Education Experience

Pairs Local Interior Design Students with Senior Living Residents

BY BTL STAFF

Senior living community Henry Ford Village announced Oct. 24 that they are hosting a collaborative education experience program known as the Student Designer Show House with the interior design students from Eastern Michigan University and Henry Ford College. The program is designed to give students at the universities a chance to practice their skills in real life situations. As part of a full-semester class project, students will have the opportunity to meet with Henry Ford Village residents and work closely with them to completely redesign a living space at Henry Ford Village.

Susan Haifleigh, an instructor of interior design at the School of Visual and Built Environments at EMU, expressed her enthusiasm for the program when she said, “This is a wonderful way to take the academic theories the students are learning in our classrooms and apply them in the real world. Because of collaborations like this one, we know our students will produce creative solutions that are also grounded in reality.”

In addition to working with residents throughout the semester, this first-of-its-kind collaborative education experience will also feature a very special series of viewing events. The events will be held at Henry Ford Village Dec. 6-9 with three homes designed by the participating students open for viewing.

Karen Wilmering, program coordinator of interior design at Henry Ford College said, “Our students are privileged to work with Henry Ford Village to gain this practical experience and believe it to be an honor to give back to our community through this innovative service project.”

The viewings begin on Dec. 6 with a premiere night open exclusively to the residents of Henry Ford Village, followed by an open house for participating students and their guests on Dec. 8, and finally on Dec. 9, the homes will be available for viewing by the general public. Following the public viewings, the program will end with the completed living space being presented to the Henry Ford Village residents that worked with the students throughout the semester.

More About Henry Ford Village

Henry Ford Village is a vibrant, thriving, active community for people who have worked hard and are looking to get the most out of life by living a maintenance-free lifestyle. A multitude of activities and amenities can be found on the 35-acre grounds including shopping, dining and entertainment. With levels of care that range from fully independent living to assisted living, the staff is available 24/7 at Henry Ford Village which specializes in the latest innovations in senior care. Offering both memory support and a top-quality health rehabilitation center, Henry Ford Village provides skilled nursing and specialized care programs tailored to their resident’s individual needs.

To learn more about the Student Designer Show House program contact Denise Sutton at 313-584-5200 or email: suttondenise@hfvillage.com

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Henry Ford Village Implements Collaborative Education Experience
Pairs Local Interior Design Students with Senior Living Residents

BY BTL STAFF

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MI Launches First Trauma Recovery Center in Flint for Victims of Violent Crime

BY BTL STAFF

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced Oct. 27 that Hurley Medical Center in Flint will serve as the first Trauma Recovery Center in Michigan to provide crisis intervention to hospitalized traumatic violent crime victims.

Michigan will be just the third state in the nation to build a network of Trauma Recovery Centers. To launch this new center, MDHHS has granted $365,927 to Hurley Medical Center.

“We are proud to launch Michigan’s first Trauma Recovery Center in partnership with Hurley Medical Center to improve the services available to victims of crime, especially those who may face challenges in accessing services,” said James McCurtis, Manager of Crime Victim Services, MDHHS. “After a violent crime has occurred, this new Trauma Recovery Center will ensure that victims are immediately connected to support services.”

The TRC at Hurley Medical Center will operate in partnership with community service organizations to provide comprehensive treatment to crime victims. TRC trauma counselors will provide immediate mental health support and advocacy to hospitalized patients who are victims of traumatic violent crimes such as gunshot and stab wounds, gang violence, physical attacks, sexual assault, human trafficking, domestic violence, and hate crimes.

“In year one of what is planned to be a multi-year initiative, funded by the MDHHS, Hurley will hire staff, and refine the TRC’s scope of services while solidifying collaborative partnerships with other local service organizations.

When fully implemented, Hurley’s TRC will follow and care for victims throughout their hospital stay and post hospital experience, providing them a familiar face to associate with during a time where they have been uprooted from everything in their lives. The TRC is being developed in collaboration and with the support of national partners including the Alliance for Safety and Justice, UC San Francisco Trauma Recovery Center, and local partners.

“Michigan is showing national leadership in how to help victims heal and stop the cycle of crime. Unaddressed trauma is too often an invisible epidemic,” said Lenore Anderson, President, Alliance for Safety & Justice. TRC advocates will provide patients with trauma counseling and assistance with any other immediate needs such as food, clothing, and housing. An advocate will also help victims apply for victim compensation and will, if needed, arrange for victims to receive more specialized assistance, such as substance abuse treatment, legal advocacy, joblessness, or psychological trauma treatment. Beyond leaving the hospital, the TRC will assist with services including follow up treatment, counseling, transportation and more.

Michigan’s TRC is modeled on the California TRC network. The UC San Francisco Trauma Recovery Center reports that 74 percent of patients showed an improvement in overall mental health. There was also a 65 percent increase in sexual assault survivors who received follow-up treatment and a 56 percent increase in victims returning to employment. MDHHS aims to launch additional TRCs throughout the state in the future.

Lansing Billboard

Continued from p. 29

two girls and two boys. It’s important that we all respect each other’s love. All love is important,” she said. “I was really excited about the thought that my art would be seen by a huge number of people. Billboards are unmissable broadcasts that locals and visitors to Lansing would see. People would see my name and maybe I would have more opportunities to do art for people, or businesses. Also, my art had to have a greater meaning, a higher purpose – to open people’s minds and eyes to the diverse communities around us.”

Kowaleski has found peace through practicing her art.

“I am a survivor and live with anxiety disorder and PTSD,” she said. “This affects my whole life, often leaving me debilitated and isolated. Art gives me something to focus on, apart from my feelings of anxiety. I am disappointed that this contest is over, because I found a great sense of purpose while I was working on my piece.”

Since the contest ended, Kowaleski has become a member of the Arts Council.

“I am hoping to be involved with the projects and contests that they organize for community members. I would love to make connections with other artists and people working in the industry,” she said. “I am hoping to open some doors to a career opportunity in graphic design.”

The project will produce up to 40 billboards this fall. Kowaleski’s billboard is set to stay up until Jan. 1. There will be a call for new artists to submit their work in mid-December.

AIDS/HIV

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

- **AIDS Walk Detroit**
  Contact info@aidswalkdetroit.org or 248-399-9255 for more information. The walk takes place this year on Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Royal Oak Farmers Market.

- **Macomb County STD Clinic**
  27690 Van Dyke
  Warren, MI 48093
  586-465-9217
  http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDS-Counseling-Testing

- **Matrix Ryan White**
  120 Parsons Street
  Detroit, MI 48201
  888-226-6366
  248-545-1435
  www.matrixhuman services.org/programs/ryanwhite/

**UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond**

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

**Adovcacy**

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

**Campus**

- **Currently there are 19 organizations listed as active online at www.pridesource.com.**
- **Michigan**
- **Ann Arbor**
  Spectrum Center
  spectrumcenter@umich.edu
  734-763-4186

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

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

- **The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center**
  itu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

- **Wayne State JIGSAW**
  Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW
  ouwsgsaw@gmail.com

**Community Centers**

- **Michigan has nine active LGBTQ community centers, with a tenth planned in Lansing. Here are three of them:**
- **Jin Toy Community Center**
  Ann Arbor
  Facebook.com/jintoycenter

- **LGBT Detroit**
  Detroit
  www.lgbtdetroit.org.
  Facebook.com/lgbtdetroit

**Affirmations**

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

**Legal**

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

**Fair Michigan**

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

**Know Your Rights Project**

- **Outlaws U-M student group**
  outlawslegals@gmail.com
  734-995-9867

**Older Adults**

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

**Political**

- **The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party**
  Facebook.com/TheLGBTCAucusoftheMDP

**Stonewall for Revolution**

- **www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution**

**Suits And The City**

- **Lansing, MI**
  suitsandthecity@gmail.com
  www.suitsandthecity.org

**Transgender**

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

- **FTM A2 Ypsi**
  ftmannarborypsi@gmail.com
  https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsyi/

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

**Trans Sistas of Color Project**

- **19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit**
  313-537-7000 Ext 107
  info@tscopd.org
  www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/

**Youth**

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

**Ozone House**

- **102 N. Hamilton Street**
  Ypsilanti, MI
  734-662-2222
  734-662-2265
  info@transgendermichigan.org
  www.transgendermichigan.org
  800-842-2954

**Stand With Trans**

- **Farmington, MI**
  www.standwithtrans.org
  248-739-9254

**Find over 300 Non-Profit Listings Serving Michigan’s LGBTQ Online @ www.pridesource.com**

**Get Listed, Promote Your Events**

You can add or update any listing by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information.

You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Calendar, then “Add Event.” Send any press releases and announcements to editor@pridesource.com
In adults with HIV on ART who have diarrhea not caused by an infection

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- Has the same or fewer side effects as placebo in clinical studies
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What is Mytesi?
Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Important Safety Information
Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

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

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

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