

MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ+ NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

# Between THE Lines<sup>TM</sup>

**A DANGEROUS DOUBLE STANDARD**  
Gendered Reports Overshadow  
True Issue: Guns

**MONEY TALK**  
Michigan's New LGBTQ+ Law  
Is Good for Business

**TEAM SPORTS**

Ball-Curious Michiganders  
Flock to Queer Sports Clubs

## Speaking Boldly Through Dance

Complexions Co-Founder Desmond Richardson  
on Blending Social Commentary with Movement



# HEALTHY HOME!

## 84<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Savings!



Cleaning and sanitizing your home is more important today than ever before. Trust our highly experienced cleaning specialists for expert rug, carpet, tile, furniture, & air duct cleaning and **get your home Hagopian Clean!**

### AIR DUCT CLEANING

# \$100 OFF

State-of-the-art  
Cyclone System  
Air Duct Cleaning

Must present coupon. Some restrictions apply. Not to be combined with any other coupons/offers.  
Expires 4/30/2023

### CARPET CLEANING

# \$125

2 Rooms + Hall  
In-Home  
Carpet Cleaning

Must present coupon. Up to 250 sq. ft. each room.  
Not to be combined with any other coupons/offers.  
Expires 4/30/2023

### RUG CLEANING

# \$25 OFF

Rug Cleaning Pick-Up  
& Delivery Service

Must present coupon at time of rug pick up.  
Some restrictions apply. Not to be combined with any other coupons/offers.  
Expires 4/30/2023



### OUTDOOR CUSHION CLEANING

Your outdoor cushions, pillows, umbrellas and rugs need a refresh too! Don't struggle with spot cleaning or buying new ones - we can get them Hagopian Clean! Bring them in now so you'll be ready to enjoy your outdoor spaces.

The Most Trusted Name in Cleaning Since 1939

# HAGOPIAN

CLEANING SERVICES

**1-800-HAGOPIAN** (424-6742)

**HagopianClean.com**

**SCHEDULE ONLINE!**





- 4 5 Queer Things You Can Do Right Now-ish
- 6 Did the Media Really Have to Emphasize the Covenant Shooter's Trans Identity?
- 8 8 Things to Know About Cheryl Czach: Meet the New Deputy Executive Director of Affirmations
- 10 Where Camaraderie and White Claw Come Together
- 12 Creep of the Week: West Virginia Lawmakers Scramble to Protect Women From... 12-Year- Old Becky?
- 13 The Emotional Thrill of Experiencing Queer Michigan History in the Making
- 14 5 Ways Michigan's Commitment to LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Is Good for Business
- 16 LGBTQ+ Estate Planning: The Unsexy Taboo You Need to Break Sooner Rather Than Later
- 20 Speaking Boldly Through Dance: Complexions Co-Founder Desmond Richardson on Blending Social Commentary with Movement
- 22 Fighting The Good Fight with an Unlikely Weapon: Quilt Making



Photo courtesy of Complexions Contemporary Ballet Academy

Only on Pridesource.com

Find **Pride Source** on YouTube to check out all of our latest videos, including interviews with Jasmin Savoy Brown, Shania Twain, Cara Delevingne, Drew Barrymore and Billy Porter.



**VOL. 3115 • APRIL 13, 2023**  
**ISSUE 1224**

**PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP**

www.pridesource.com  
Phone 734-263-1476

**PUBLISHERS**  
Benjamin Jenkins  
benjamin@pridesource.com

**Publishers Emeritus:** Jan Stevenson & Susan Horowitz

**EDITORIAL**  
**Editorial Director**  
Chris Azzopardi  
chris@pridesource.com

**Assistant Editor**  
Sarah Bricker Hunt  
sarah@pridesource.com

**Senior Staff Writers**  
Ellen Shanna Knoppow, Jason A. Michael

**Writers and Columnists**  
D'Anne Witkowski, Jon King, Gwendolyn Ann Smith,  
Tim Retzlaff, George Elkind, Eve Kucharski

**CREATIVE**  
**Cartoonists**  
Paul Berg

**Graphic Designer**  
Sarah Wolf

**Contributing Photographers**  
Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen

**ADVERTISING & SALES**  
sales@pridesource.com

**Director of Sales**  
Tim Powers  
734-263-1475  
tim@pridesource.com

Ann/Andy Cox, 248-613-2513  
anncox@pridesource.com

**National Advertising Representative**  
Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863

**MEMBER OF**  
Michigan Press Association  
National LGBT Media Association  
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber  
Q Syndicate



2022 AWARD WINNER



"Pride Source"



Follow us @pridesource



@pridesourcemedia



Pride Source



Email your op-eds to  
editor@pridesource.com



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

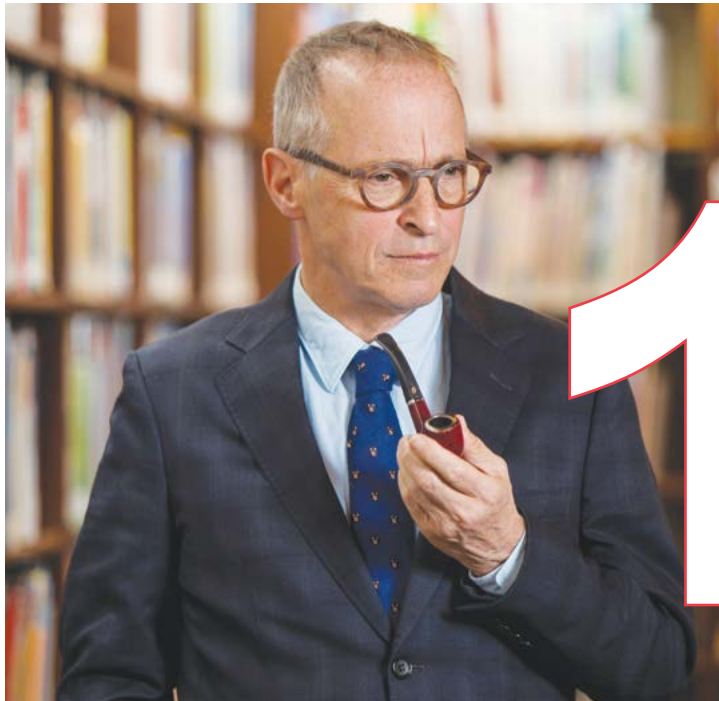
Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

Copyright 2022

# 5 Queer Things You Can Do Right Now-ish

BY SARAH BRICKER HUNT

Now that your “Barbie” movie meme stash is fully organized and primed for posting, it’s time to turn your attention to all the joyful queer fun waiting for you in Southeast Michigan this April. See David Sedaris in Detroit, stretch your concept of acceptance at one of NOW Studio’s weekly community events, or meet the Detroit-born creator of the highly-acclaimed musical, “A Strange Loop.” Looking for a special night out? Attend a benefit featuring Michigan drag queen superstars in support of Affirmations or experience the ethereal vibe of a Dani Darling show.



David Sedaris. Photo: Anne Fishbein

## Catch David Sedaris Live

Renowned gay author and speaker David Sedaris returns to Detroit April 19 for the aptly named “An Evening with David Sedaris.” Whether he’s regaling us with tales about picking up garbage on the side of the road in his adopted hometown in France or evoking visceral responses to stories about his wild interactions with little sister Amy, Sedaris is a master at digging into what it means to be human — flaws, corduroy and denim, and all. The author’s latest works, “Happy-Go-Lucky” and “Carnival of Snackery,” are sure to feature heavily in the talk and Q&A, and procrastinators, rejoice — you can buy a book right on site through Wayne State University and have it signed by the author.

April 19, 7:30 p.m., Fisher Theatre (3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit). Ticket link at [davidsearisonstour.com](http://davidsearisonstour.com).



Dani Darling. Photo: North Star Lounge

## Good Tunes, Good Vibes with Dani Darling

Looking for a low-key, midweek hang? North Star Lounge and Dani Darling have you covered. The venue’s weekly LGBTQ+ night frequently features Darling, a singer/songwriter, guitarist, producer and bandleader who plays in the layered funk and soul space. The artist draws on influences like Billie Holiday and old Hollywood — and also, dreams and the universe — to create what The Ark called a “whimsical world where time is like an old tune made new.” Darling’s latest EP, “The Future,” earned a Detroit Music Award nomination for best R&B recording.

April 25, 7-10 p.m., North Star Lounge, 301 North 5th Ave., Ann Arbor. More information at [nstarlounge.com](http://nstarlounge.com).



Emma Sapphire. Photo: Instagram

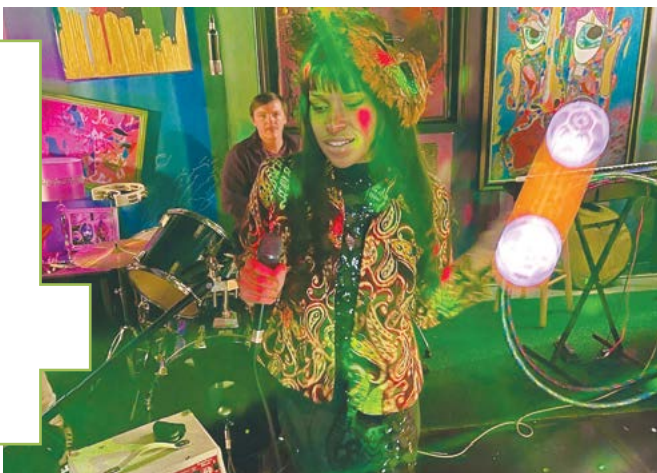
## Support Queers for a Cause

Revel in a dazzling drag performance by some of Michigan’s best known queens, enjoy some laughs and support a good cause all at the same time — who said you weren’t versatile? Queens for a Cause, hosted by Affirmations on April 27, will feature performances by Michigan-based drag performers Emma Sapphire, Kourtney Breeze and Bentley James and a stand-up comedy performance by “the little sister of Detroit comedy” Diana Graham. Proceeds from a 50/50 raffle will benefit Affirmations.

April 27, 8 p.m., The Crofoot, 1 South Saginaw, Pontiac. Ticket link at [thecrofoot.com/events/queens-for-a-cause](http://thecrofoot.com/events/queens-for-a-cause).



4



From the NOW Studios space. Courtesy photo

### Attend a Radically Inclusive Event at NOW Studios

NOW Studios founder Petals Sandcastle describes Wednesday nights at their space in Ann Arbor, officially dubbed "Community Sounds" nights, as "gorgeous community events where people, like clockwork every week, come to jam along with artists, 'artists' and dancers, all in the company of spectators spectating." Thursday night open mic nights offer a different vibe. "It's more like non-denominational church — it's so beautiful," Sandcastle tells BTL. Everyone is welcome, and Sandcastle truly means everyone. Radical acceptance and radical safety are core principles of the space and at the center of each of NOW Studio's many unique endeavors. Sandcastle adds, "The rabbit hole is waiting! Come play with Dorothy and Alice and all your friends."

NOW Studios, 715 University Ave., Ann Arbor (in the basement). More information at [expressyouryes.org](http://expressyouryes.org).



Michael R. Jackson. Photo: Beowulf Sheehan

### Attend a Talk with 'A Strange Loop' Creator Michael R. Jackson

Native Detroit playwright, composer and lyricist Michael R. Jackson, a Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner best known for his musical "A Strange Loop," currently on tour in London, will speak at Wayne State April 18 as part of the university's Urban Perspectives Series. John Corvino, dean of Wayne State's honors college and a professor of philosophy, will interview Jackson. "We are very excited to be bringing Michael R. Jackson to Wayne State," said Corvino in a news release, "and especially excited to host him in our new Hilberry Gateway space. His work is groundbreaking, challenging and inspiring — and I'm sure our conversation will be as well."

April 18, 5 p.m., Wayne State University's Hilberry Gateway, 4715 Cass Ave., Detroit. RSVP at [rsup.wayne.edu/aljup-jackson-2023](http://rsup.wayne.edu/aljup-jackson-2023) or call 313-577-2300.

Please check event pages for the most up-to-date scheduling information.

[www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)

# Judy Frankel Antiques SPRING WAREHOUSE SALE

## 3 Days Only!

### 35% to 80% Off Everything

## April 20th, 21st & 22nd 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

*Antique - Mid Century - Vintage  
Furniture - Lighting - Mirrors  
Artwork - Pottery - Glass*

*French - Italian - English  
Scandinavian - Asian - African  
And Special Warehouse Items*

## JUDY FRANKEL ANTIQUES

**1748 Northwood Drive, Troy, MI 48084**

**248-649-4399**

**[www.judyfrankelantiques.com](http://www.judyfrankelantiques.com)**

# Did the Media Really Have to Emphasize the Covenant Shooter's Trans Identity?



BY CAMERON PARKINS & LOGAN HARDING

The team at Stand With Trans was devastated to learn of the shooting at Covenant School in Nashville on March 27. We were horrified for the victims and their families, and we believe that all kids deserve to be protected, especially from gun violence perpetrated by adults. We also believe that school staffers deserve to be able to do their jobs without the looming threat of violence hanging over their heads.

Given the irresponsible way the media chose to report on the alleged shooter, we were also terrified for our community and the trans youth we serve. Rushed, shoddy reporting by members of the media who were only looking for a sensational headline to drive web traffic to their sites compounded the problem. By mishandling this news story in various ways — deadnaming the shooter, rushing to report that the attacker was transgender and then misreporting the attacker's gender identity, and still, a full week later,

failing to correct much of that information — our trans community was placed at an even greater risk than they already are.

Because of the way this news story was reported and sensationalized, within hours two troubling hashtags were trending on twitter: #TransTerrorism and #TransDayOfVengeance. Conservative politicians (especially Marjorie Taylor Greene) and news commentators like Tucker Carlson rushed to blame this shooting exclusively on the shooter's trans identity, pointing to their hormone treatments as a source of "rage" (we don't know if the shooter was on HRT, but we do know that HRT does not cause murderous rampages). They also called for targeted attacks against "dangerous" trans people while simultaneously calling for us as a whole to be disarmed. Internet trolls and online conservatives had a field day calling for the execution of trans people as an act of revenge for what they were

led to believe was an attack on Christianity — all because of the way this news was handled.

These failures are shameful and unacceptable.

There are mass shootings nearly every single day, sometimes multiple times a day. Nearly all of those shootings were committed by cisgender men, most of whom are white. However, those headlines, if those incidents were even reported on, did not

It is a journalist's responsibility to get the story right, and it is our responsibility as citizens to hold them accountable when they don't. We live in a fast paced world, but that does not excuse the harm done to the trans community when the shooter's specific description as a trans person is inconsistent and incorrect, like it has been after the Nashville shooting. It is irresponsible and inaccurate.

More than a week has gone by and there's still very little clarity, much less an apology for rushed clickbait-style reporting. All the while, the danger that constantly hangs over the trans community has intensified, with even more right-wing hysteria. At a time when trans people are perpetually under

school staff is newsworthy enough on its own. Additionally, experts have repeatedly suggested that not publicizing the name and personal details/views of shooters prevents future violence from copycats and fanatics, advice which seems to fall on deaf ears with each shooting. As you may have noted, we haven't once named the shooter in this piece, and our message has not lost its meaning or context.

Regardless of someone's actions or how people personally feel about an individual, all trans people deserve to be gendered accurately and respectfully, whether they are a victim or an aggressor. This is non-negotiable — we tell people that you don't need to like or understand someone to respect their identity.

If that's easy enough for children to understand, then it should be simple enough for adults to comprehend too.

If we're going to focus on the terrible actions of a transgender person with a gun, let us also focus on the terrible actions of cisgender people with guns. Let's make it a point to note that this was one incident out of hundreds of other incidents where the shooter was not

transgender. Better yet, let's focus on the common factor: assault-style guns in the hands of people who lack the training, emotional regulation and mental stability to responsibly handle firearms designed for literal war. Let's talk about how easy it is to buy and wield a gun in a state like Tennessee that has permitless carry. Let's talk about the facts.

*Cameron Parkins and Logan Harding work for Stand with Trans, and wrote this on behalf of the organization. For more information on Stand with Trans, visit [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).*

“

*Why is it so hard for members of the media to point out that the real issue is America's gun culture and a toxic, anti-trans internet culture that breeds these kinds of tragedies?*

read “Cis White Person Shoots Students.” So why, we wonder, was the gender identity of the Covenant School shooter so heavily emphasized? What statements were the media outlets trying to make, and did they think of the harm they were causing by focusing on the shooter's trans identity rather than focusing on the tragedy at hand? Why does this follow a troubling pattern of the media repeatedly misgendering and misnaming transgender victims of hate crimes? Why is it so hard for members of the media to point out that the real issue is America's gun culture and a toxic, anti-trans internet culture that breeds these kinds of tragedies?

attack by politicians and Fox News, and when transphobic hate crimes are at all-time highs, we did not need any additional vilification encouraging people to claim our lives or discriminate against us.

If you are a reporter and you do not have all of the facts, we suggest only reporting on the concrete facts that you have at that moment. We also ask that you maintain an awareness of the way your content affects people all across the country — your article would not have lost its impact if you decided that the shooter's trans identity was not the main focus of this story but, instead, that gun violence was. Three slain 9 year olds and three murdered





# Advice to Be Well

From Dr. Mark Bornstein and Dr. Paul Benson



Hi Doctor,

**I am newly single and want to get all possible sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing, including testing for herpes today. I want to show my future partners that I am clean. – SL**

Hi SL! There is a lot to unpack here. First, we do not like to use the word “clean” when referring to STIs. If you have an STI, it does not mean you are dirty, it just means that you have an infection. I tell all my patients - STIs are a PART of sex, they are not a CONSEQUENCE of sex. I think it is very important to reframe these conversations this way, especially when talking with future partners.

Now let's talk about testing for herpes. I am not a fan of testing for herpes from a blood draw. There are only a few scenarios where herpes testing in this way is warranted.

For some background, herpes is caused by the herpes simplex virus (HSV). There are two types, HSV-1 and HSV-2. HSV-1 is the virus that is typically on the mouth and is what many people refer to as cold sores. HSV-2 is the virus that is typically on the genitals and is what many people refer to as genital herpes. Due to sexual practices, both HSV-1 and HSV-2 can cause infections on the mouth AND genitals although they do typically like to stay in their preferred

region of the body.

If you ever have a rash on either your mouth or genitals, especially if the rash is uncomfortable, and are concerned for HSV, please come in and we will swab the lesion. This is the best way to test for HSV.

Testing for HSV in the blood is not recommended for many reasons. First, it is not a good test. The positive predictive value for testing for HSV-2 is only 50%! That means that if we test you and it is positive, there is only a 50% chance that you actually have the disease, a true flip of the coin! Second, the test is an antibody test. That means that it is really just telling you if you have ever been exposed to herpes. It is very common to have been exposed and never have an outbreak. In this scenario, what does it really mean for you if you have been exposed at one time and never had an outbreak? Last, is stigma. This is what I am most passionate about. The stigma regarding HSV is truly unfortunate and dangerous. For some reason, likely that it is not curable, HSV has a stigma unlike other STIs. People are shamed, ridiculed, and the butt of the joke for having HSV. This is an STI that virtually has no other consequences except for pain for a couple of days during an outbreak. Conversely, other STIs including chlamydia, gonorrhea, HPV all have more potential dire outcomes. Now I am a huge

proponent of destigmatizing ALL STIs, and I believe it is great for our society that many STIs do not have stigma. However, HSV needs to be in this group and when compared to other STIs as the negative effects of it are truly miniscule.

I hope this helps make you feel more comfortable in getting back out in the dating world and having conversations about STIs with future partners. Remember, STIs are a part of sex and no one is ever “dirty” for having one.

Hello Doctor,

**My best friend who is 40 years old just left the hospital after having a stroke. He is now living in a rehabilitation center. He is unable to use his muscles on the left side of his body. Everyone thought he was a very healthy person and his stroke was quite an unexpected surprise and concerning to his family and friends. We don't know what we should be doing regarding his care in the future. Are there warning signs to deal with strokes preventively? Thanks! – AW**

Dear AW,

Cerebral Vascular Accidents, also known as strokes, can be mild or severe. Most of them are caused by small blood clots entering the brain. Less common is bleeding from a rupture of a blood vessel in the brain. The commonality is

loss of blood flow to the affected region in the brain, causing tissue injury or tissue death. To an extent, depending on the severity, there is a variable rehabilitation potential, and that usually takes time and therapy. Many times a stroke can be prevented. There is not a unified screening program for the average person to determine stroke risk. We should be paying more attention to this, especially as one gets older, to identify and mitigate stroke risk factors. Attention to blood pressure, weight, cholesterol, and sugar, can reduce one's risk for stroke. Headaches, short episodes of loss of neurologic function, dizziness can also be signs of stroke risk. The medical providers at the Be Well Medical Center just released a podcast book review on “How to Prevent a Stroke”. It will give you a lot of valuable information. The link to this podcast is <https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/c9yVXypKvyb>.

*Since 1980 Dr. Paul Benson's Be Well Medical Center has been an inclusive medical center celebrating diversity. Do you have a health related question for Dr. Paul Benson and Dr. Mark Bornstein? Submit your questions to [bewelladvice@pridesource.com](mailto:bewelladvice@pridesource.com). This article is a sponsored editorial produced in collaboration with Be Well Medical Center. Between The Lines' journalism is made possible with the support and partnership of advertisers like Be Well. Learn more about Be Well from their ad below.*



## THIS IS A SAFER PLACE

**We are committed to provide quality health care and to serve our patients without regard to race, ethnicity, gender identity, religion, political preferences, or sexual orientation.**

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

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

- **HIV Prevention** (PrEP), Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), STI testing/ treatment
- **Hormone Affirming Therapy** for HIV positive & negative transgender individuals
- **Plus:** Ryan White Provider; Medcart Pharmacy on site; Tele-Medical Visits; Covid 19 testing and treatments; most insurances accepted

**New Locations Meet Community Needs:** Be Well is proud to partner with Wellness Services of Flint and CHAG:

**Living Well Medical Clinic of Flint**  
810-257-3131 • [www.wellnessaids.org](http://www.wellnessaids.org)  
311 E. Court Street, Flint, MI 48502

**Community Health Awareness Group (CHAG) | Living Well Clinic of Detroit**  
313-963-3434 • [www.chagdetroit.org](http://www.chagdetroit.org)  
1300 W. Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226

**Dr. Paul Benson's**  
**Be Well**  
**Medical Center**

1964 Eleven Mile Rd  
Berkley, MI 40872  
**(248) 544-9300**  
**[doctorbewell.com](http://doctorbewell.com)**



# 8 Things to Know About Cheryl Czach

## Meet the New Deputy Executive Director of Affirmations



Cheryl Czach. Photo: Affirmations

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

**A**ffirmations, the LGBTQ+ community center in Ferndale, recently named Cheryl Czach their new deputy executive director. BTL caught up with the long-time advocate to learn more about her history with the organization, her family life and how she enjoys spending her free time.

### **Her history with the center goes back almost a decade.**

Czach first became involved with Affirmations in 2014. Her first role with the center was as a front-desk volunteer. “I wanted to meet more folks in the community, and joining a social event or group felt a bit intimidating,” Czach said. Her mom was campaign manager for Congressman Dale Kildee and leader of her local Democratic Club. “My parents instilled in me the importance of being an active member of your community and, at the time, I felt this was missing in my life.” Working the front desk, Czach said, is “how I fell in love with this organization.”

### **She’s a former board president of the center.**

After volunteering at the front desk, Czach moved on to participating in committees and supporting events such as the annual wine party and the Big Bash, the center’s annual gala and largest fundraiser. In 2018, she was elected to the center’s Board of Directors. The following year, she became vice president and, eventually, the board’s president. “I enjoyed representing Affirmations at Pride events,” she said. Czach also became involved in the center’s youth leadership program. She left the board

when her term ended in 2021 but remained active with the center.

### **She holds an MBA and has a history in the automotive field.**

“No one in my family had gone to college,” said Czach. “It was not discussed as even an option.” So she got somewhat of a late start, not attending college until she was in her 30s. “When I went to college, I was far more mature, and I took it seriously because I was paying for it.” Czach earned her bachelor and master’s degree from the University of Phoenix. “I think starting so late helped me. I took it far more seriously than I would have if I went straight from high school.

Czach spent about 25 years working in executive leadership roles in the automotive industry. She was vice president for a Tier 1 auto supplier as well as president of a staffing company. “I think bringing that experience will be helpful,” she said. “My personal background is in human resources, and then I took on broader responsibilities at organizations.”

### **She’s a leadership coach and writer.**

In 2018, the same year she joined the board of Affirmations, Czach stepped out of the corporate world and began doing executive leadership coaching. She has a master’s certificate from the Conscious Business Institute. Czach also enjoys public speaking and has written for Forbes magazine. “I think the corporate experience along with what I’ve been doing with the executive leadership coaching, one-on-one development, group training and development will help me in my new role,” she said.

See **Cheryl Czach**, page 18

[www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)



As advisors and allies, we take pride in helping the LGBTQ+ community break barriers and achieve financial independence.



Dalejah, Joe, Desi

Monthly Financial Tip:

For married couples, when the first spouse passes away, the living spouse will retain the higher social security payout of the couple, but will lose the lower social security payout. Be sure to plan for this!

Women's Wealth Financial Planning

A2 Investment Solutions was founded with the goal of assisting women in every aspect of their financial lives. We work closely with clients to help them achieve their retirement and long-term planning goals. We specialize in women's financial planning including retirement, investments, estate, insurance, and divorce preparation.



INVESTMENT SOLUTIONS

Joseph P. Okros, JD, MBA

455 E. Eisenhower Parkway, Suite 15

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

(734) 418-2111 | A2InvestmentSolutions.com

Investment advisory services offered through Brookstone Capital Management, LLC (BCM), a Registered Investment Advisor. BCM and A2 Investment Solutions are independent of each other. Insurance products and services are not offered through BCM, but are offered and sold through individually licensed and appointed agents.

# Make a Genius Move!



**GENIUS**  
HIGH YIELD CHECKING

**5.25%**  
APY\*

+ Debit Rewards

## 2 Simple Requirements!

10 debit transactions of at least \$5 during the month

Must be enrolled in eStatements

**That's a potential of nearly \$400 extra cash a year!**

28 Southeast Michigan branches, find more at [genisyscu.org](http://genisyscu.org).

INSURED BY NCUA



**GENISYS**  
CREDIT UNION

\*APY is Annual Percentage Yield. Paid on balances up to \$7,500 each month if requirements met. Balances over \$7,500 will earn .05%APY. The earned per year amount shown is calculated by a full year at the maximum \$7,500 daily balance. Your results may vary as your daily account balance fluctuates. Transactions that are pending on your account, and have not posted as of the end of the monthly qualification cycle will not count as a qualifying transaction for that cycle.

DETROIT  
REGIONAL **light**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

COLOURS

PRIDE AWARDS GALA

CELEBRATING **10** YEARS

Reserve a  
Hotel Room



Reserve Your  
Table or Seat



**BOLD**

*Blue & Gold*

Friday, June 16, 2023

**Motor City Casino**

[detroitlgbtchamber.com/prideawards](http://detroitlgbtchamber.com/prideawards)

**MAGNA**

**Consumers Energy**  
Count on Us®

**PRIDESOURCE**



# WHERE CAMARADERIE AND WHITE CLAW COME TOGETHER



Courtesy Ben Rubinstein

## It’s Not About Winning At These Queer Sports — It’s About Community

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Like a lot of queer boys, Ben Rubinstein steered clear of the locker room in middle school, afraid that he would be teased for being an overweight kid. Whatever it means to be a “sports kid,” Rubinstein didn’t fit the prototype.

A turning point for the Michigan native, who now lives in Huntington Woods, was discovering a sports league specifically for queer players while living in Long Beach, California.

Today, Rubinstein likens playing kickball on a LGBTQ+ league to a religious experience — “my Sunday church,” he tells Pride Source.

“I love kickball,” said Rubinstein, who now serves as sports director for Stonewall Sports Detroit, a Michigan-based league for members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies. The non-profit organization, which is volunteer-led, offers a wide variety of sports, everything from billiards to volleyball and bowling. Rubinstein learned of the league from a friend in 2016 when he lived in California, and even though he was prepared not to like it, he took a chance and signed up. “I get to go and hang out with my friends in the afternoon and have a good time with my community,” he says.

Established in 2019, Stonewall Sports Detroit is one of 23 Stonewall Sports chapters nationwide. While Covid slowed them down, Rubinstein says the organization is currently

thriving, with more than 200 individuals now playing in the Detroit kickball chapter, about 90 percent of whom are LGBTQ+ members. Since the league began, nearly 900 people have signed up to play at least one sport with the league. Recently, they’ve expanded their sports selection to include billiards and pickleball, a hybrid of ping pong and tennis played with paddles and wiffle balls. Registration fees are charged for each sport, but there is a fee waiver program for those who qualify. Area businesses and LGBTQ+ organizations act as sponsors, and any additional funds go back into the community via donations to organizations like the Ruth Ellis Center and Affirmations.

Lindsey Matson, who plays bowling and kickball, learned of Stonewall Sports Detroit when they served on the board of the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce. “Obviously, just having a queer league, I think, provides more safety and camaraderie,” Matson said. “And especially once you get out of high school and college and it’s harder to meet friends.” The need to find queer community became even more important when Matson moved to Michigan from Portland, Oregon, “where it seems like everyone is gay,” they said.

Like Rubinstein, Matson wasn’t keen on locker rooms, but for a different reason. Matson played a number of sports — “basketball was my love,” they say — but growing up in rural Tennessee and Idaho made them feel like an outsider. As one of

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

**The City of Ann Arbor is an Equal Opportunity Employer**

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

[a2gov.org/jobs](http://a2gov.org/jobs)

**Shop LGBTQ+**  
PRIDESOURCE.COM

B	L	A	B	A	D	A	M	S	G	A	G	A		
R	U	L	E	C	O	N	I	C	U	S	E	S		
I	N	E	E	D	T	O	K	N	O	W	T	H	A	T
M	A	C	H	O	A	N	T	I	H	E	R	O		
				I	M	A	Y	I	T	E	R			
I	H	A	V	E	D	O	N	E	S	I	S	S	Y	
C	O	D	E	I	G	O	B	E	E	T	L	E		
A	T	V	I	N	I	T	I	A	L	E	I	N		
R	E	I	G	N	S	I	D	S	B	I	N	S		
E	L	L	I	S	O	N	E	T	H	I	N	G		
				N	E	S	S	E	E	P				
D	R	A	G	R	A	C	E	D	O	R	I	S		
R	I	G	H	T	W	I	T	H	M	Y	L	I	F	E
A	S	E	A	E	N	T	E	R	A	C	H	E		
T	E	E	M	D	E	E	M	S	R	E	E	D		

**Whale Intentioned**  
Puzzle on page 25





(Left) Stonewall Sports Detroit. Courtesy Lindsey Matson, Stonewall Sports Detroit. (Right) Courtesy Ben Rubinstein

the only out students in their school, Matson faced pushback against changing with other students in the locker room, which they said was “pretty messed up.”

Jazalyn Williams, who wasn’t out when she was an athlete at her all-girls Catholic school, was looking to meet LGBTQ+ friends, too. Although many of her friends are great allies, Williams sought queer companionship.

After seeing an Instagram post from Stonewall Sports Detroit, Williams dipped her toes into Stonewall’s volleyball league. “I was definitely nervous, ‘cause that’s something out of my comfort zone,” Williams said. “I was like, ‘Do I want to put myself out there and meet more people?’”

Williams, who also plays kickball, has definitely met more people, including her girlfriend. Their meet-cute happened at the first kickball season this past summer (there are two kickball seasons each summer) when a group went to hang out and grab some food and drinks at the Detroit Shipping Company after some games. But queer-inclusive volleyball wasn’t Williams’ first go at a sport with LGBTQ+ members — she

played lacrosse with out team members in college, when she came out.

“I just felt more comfortable, more confident in myself, and I think that helped me be a better player,” said Williams, who admitted that she was afraid of people finding out she was gay during high school, when she was still closeted.

“Now that I am out, I’m just a lot happier,” Williams continued. “I love sports more, and I’m just a lot more confident in what I’m doing.”

For Matson, sporting events that bring queer peers together serve another purpose: meaningful adult networking. When Congress of Communities, an organization in Southwest Detroit, was putting on a queer prom for students last fall, they had plenty of folks to call upon for help.

“A ton of people that I met through Stonewall came out to volunteer or donate food or donate dresses or suits for the youth,” Matson said. “They came and volunteered. Stonewall folks really understood what it was like to be a queer young person and not get the chance to fully be themselves at a prom.”

If Rubinstein’s experience running Stonewall is any indication, queer leagues, which he says are growing in popularity across the nation, are here to stay. Aside from playing on LGBTQ+ teams in California and Michigan, it’s also worth noting that Rubinstein expanded Stonewall Sports Detroit’s kickball offerings from two teams to 12, as of last year.

Now, Stonewall Detroit isn’t the only league of its kind locally — in 2022, the league GAAY Sports, an all-inclusive recreational sports league, began offering opportunities to play sports on queer teams in Lansing, Grand Rapids and Flint.

Like Rubinstein, Kye Campbell-Fox isn’t keen on what he describes as “the hyper-masculine male culture around sports,” he said. As someone who’s queer and trans, Campbell-Fox said being around a group of straight cis guys can be awkward. He finds that as an adult, he doesn’t care for split-gender leagues.

“The reason I joined a queer league was because I felt like I wouldn’t have to spend my entire time trying to build a positive culture

and that people would be coming from a place of more respect for people with different identities,” Campbell-Fox said.

Sexuality and gender aside, Alex Hines said the rules are the same for queer adult volleyball. There’s just one major difference: “We’re allowed to drink seltzers and play loud music.”

Queer teams also know a good team name when they hear one. Matson and their bowling teammates, for example, named themselves the Bowlerinas. Meanwhile, Williams’ team nickname was “Hit it baby one more time,” while her girlfriend’s was “Set me up daddy.”

Once nervous about joining, Williams has found her queer tribe.

“A lot of them do a lot of work in social justice and activism,” Williams said of her new friends. As a Black queer woman, she appreciates “seeing more people like me in certain spaces.”

These ones just happen to involve kicks, blocks and White Claw.

DALE'S LAKEFRONT COTTAGES - CASEVILLE, MI

# 4 BEDROOM LAKE HOUSE

SPECIAL RATES FOR FALL, WINTER, AND SPRING!



SLEEPS 10!  
BOOK NOW  
FOR SUMMER  
2023!  
(989) 856-8480

DALESLAKEFRONTCOTTAGES.NET

## Swing into better hearing.



Get back in the game.

**Call us TODAY!**  
**734-994-8300**

A custom hearing solution - **made for you**

**Oticon Own™ is a hearing aid developed for the ultimate discreetness and superior sound quality.**

Hear more of the sounds around you

**O'Connor HEARING CENTER**  
[www.oconnorhearing.com](http://www.oconnorhearing.com)

203 S. Zeeb Rd., Ste #207  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
PHONE: 734-994-8300

University of Michigan  
Employee/Retirees and BCBS  
Medicare Advantage

**Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan**



# West Virginia Lawmakers Scramble to Protect Women From... 12-Year-Old Becky?



BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Another day, another mass shooting in the United States. Actually, that's being optimistic as there have been more mass shootings than there

have been days in 2023 so far.

That's a lot. And no other country — aside from countries at literal war — even comes close. This is a uniquely American problem. And, unfortunately, it's been met by and large with a collective shrug from our elected leaders, specifically Republicans. There are lots of Democrats who say they are ready to act. Finally.

But at the federal level, with Republicans in control of the U.S. House, chances of anything happening there are slim to none. So it's going to be up to states with Democratic majorities to pass gun violence prevention legislation. States like California and Michigan are ones to watch on this issue.

Unfortunately, Republican majority states remain focused on transgender people. A cruel obsession with an end goal of erasing transgender people completely.

Take Kansas, for example. The legislature just passed a law that prohibits transgender people "from using bathrooms that align with their gender identities and preventing them from changing their names or genders on driver's licenses," according to USA Today. It would also "define 'sex' as 'either male or female, at birth,' in state law and require that government statisticians count people based on their sex assigned at birth and would prevent public documents, including birth certificates, from being changed to reflect a person's gender identity."

And that's not all. "The Kansas measure includes prisons, rape and domestic violence centers and shelters, and other spaces where 'biology, safety or privacy' require separate facilities," according to USA Today.

This leaves transgender people facing violence with nowhere to go and puts transgender people in prison at great risk. This is going to cost lives.

The good news? Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, will veto the law.

"I will continue to stand up for you, protect your rights and call out and condemn any speech or behavior or veto any bill that aims to harm or discriminate against you," Kelly said at a rally last week hosted by Equality Kansas at the Statehouse according to USA Today.

The bad news? Two Democrats voted for the bill (What the actual fuck?) giving Kansas Republicans a veto-proof majority. So Gov. Kelly's veto doesn't really matter. And more bad news: this law is only one of many anti-trans laws working their way through the legislature.

Speaking in favor of the bill on the house floor Rep. Brenda Landwehr, R-Wichita, said, "What is the rights of a woman? You are saying I have no more rights. I cannot go into a woman's bathroom and know that a male will not walk into that bathroom. What about my rights? What about my comfort zone? What about my granddaughters, what about their rights?"

Transgender people existing in the world doesn't take away "the rights of a woman." That's the job of Republicans. Seriously. Landwehr's comments are pretty rich coming from a woman whose party is hellbent on slashing reproductive rights across the country. So,



“

*Unfortunately, Republican majority states remain focused on transgender people. A cruel obsession with an end goal of erasing transgender people completely.*

yeah, what about your granddaughters, Rep. Landwehr? What about their rights?

Speaking of the rights of young people, the U.S. Supreme Court just ruled on a case literally challenging the right of ONE little girl to run track in West Virginia: 12-year-old Becky Pepper-Jackson.

West Virginia has a ban on transgender athletes "playing on female sports teams from middle school through college." According to The Washington Post, "The law has largely been on hold since its passage, and an appeals court is reviewing its constitutionality."

So what did the U.S. Supreme Court say? They refused to "immediately reinstate" West Virginia's transgender athlete ban, the Post reports.

So they ruled in favor of little Becky! Well, sort of.

The ruling "means a lower court's order

putting a hold on the law remains in place while the legal battles continue, but it is not a decision on the merits of the case," the Post reports.

In other words, this isn't over.

According to the Post, "Becky, who has presented as a girl since fourth grade and whose name has been legally changed, is the only transgender athlete in the state known to be affected."

I hope Becky and her family have good therapists and a strong support system, because I cannot imagine what it must be like for them to have Becky's very existence debated at the highest court in the land.

And for what? This isn't about protecting women. This is about hurting transgender people, especially kids. Becky, may you run all the runs or jump all the jumps or whatever kids do on a track team, haters be damned.



# The Emotional Thrill of Experiencing Queer Michigan History in the Making



BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Full disclosure: I have at least a dozen photos of myself standing next to Governor Whitmer since she

was Candidate Whitmer in 2018. The first was taken at a meet-and-greet in June of that year, at the Alley Cat Café in Pontiac.

I was sporting my “I am an Equality Voter/HRC 2018 Volunteer” T-shirt, ready with questions about amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. Whitmer assured that, under her administration, we would get it done, if not by the action of the legislature, then by taking it to the people in the form of a ballot initiative.

At the risk of sounding unprofessional, I’m a longtime fan.

Ron Owens, Whitmer’s deputy political director at the time, was on hand at that first meet-and-greet for photos, among many other things. As it turned out, I would meet him again at Michigan Pride in Lansing that summer and discover he was gay.

I had an idea. Would Between The Lines be interested in a profile of Owens?

My pitch was approved. But it almost didn’t happen.

Shortly before our interview, Ron called. Could we postpone the interview? He had planned to come out to his family in Saginaw that weekend, but it just didn’t happen. What was my deadline?

“Oh Ron,” I said, “your personal life is so much more important than any deadline. Take your time. Get back to me when you can.”

I didn’t know if he would, but he did. We published the feature, and all was good. With that piece, some

were learning for the first time that Ron was gay. It was a moment when I felt my work truly mattered.

As time went on, there would be more photo opportunities and a very important election in 2022. That brings us to the signing of Senate Bill 4.

The fact that the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act would finally be amended to include LGBTQ+ people after several decades of advocacy and activism felt surreal. I got a ride to Lansing with a friend who had an earlier meeting, so I waited at a Biggby and ate a toasted day-old bagel smeared with Country Crock. No stars for taste, but the high-carb snack calmed me.

At BTL, we communicate largely by email. So to hear from editorial director Chris Azzopardi several times that day by phone was unusual, but not unexpected. I had my marching orders. Note any distinguished witnesses to the event. Text quotes from the governor ASAP. And, “This may sound weird, but could you notice if anyone is crying?” Not at all weird, I assured Chris. I had my own personal stash of Kleenex.

The signing was held at Urban Beat, a bar in Lansing. The room was packed. I was squeezed in at a small table, standing with my backpack on a chair, sandwiched between news crews with their cameras on tripods. Just like Sen. Jeremy Moss told me

regarding the floor vote days earlier at the state house, I felt the weight of the moment. Garnet Lewis gave me a hug. It was Garn’s unfortunately unsuccessful run for state senate in 2018 that would be the first of my many candidate profiles for BTL. Before the speakers began, she introduced me to Mel Larsen — the “Larsen” in “Elliott-Larsen.”

After the signing ceremony, when Whitmer’s gay daughter, Sherry, came

up to stand by her mother for photos, I got misty.

It was time for a toast. Several of the Hate Won’t Win coalition activists and some others gathered at a restaurant across the street for Champagne.

What can I say? It was a grand day to be a queer Michigander. As Buzz Thomas told me in an earlier interview, “I’m feeling pretty equal.” But the adventure wasn’t over. I still had to interview the governor.

Now, anyone who has worked for or with Chris Azzopardi knows he is a persistent person. (Ask him about the time he scored an interview with Martha Stewart.) From the beginning, under his leadership, BTL had been trying to schedule a sit-down with Whitmer. There had been some back and forth but it never came to be. So when her deputy press secretary contacted him with the offer of a one-on-one interview, we were elated. And I got the assignment.

How to prepare for an interview with the leader of the state of Michigan? Well, don’t waste time with questions she’s answered already. I didn’t know how much time I would have, so I ordered my questions carefully. Most importantly, make sure the equipment is working. With the help of a friend, I retested my phone recording app’s ability to record incoming calls because sometimes it’s glitchy. I was set. Or so I thought.

The appointed time on Friday

was 2 p.m. At 1:57 p.m., I got a text from Whitmer’s communications director. Could we make it 2:30 p.m.? Of course. That gave me more time to fret about technical difficulties.

In fact, when the call was patched through to the governor, technology failed me. The calls wouldn’t merge. Neither my app nor my backup were functioning properly. This was nearly an epic disaster. Instead, I thought fast and figured my laptop had a voice recorder. Lucky for me, it wasn’t hard

to find.

Failure was not an option. I conducted the interview with my phone on speaker while talking at my laptop computer.

Just call me MacGyver.

*Ellen Knoppow is a writer who believes in second acts. She is the recipient of the 2022 award for Excellence in Transgender Coverage by NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists.*



Writer Ellen Shanna Knoppow with Gov. Whitmer at Ferndale Pride, 2022. Courtesy photo

*“What can I say? It was a grand day to be a queer Michigander.”*





# 5 Ways Michigan's Commitment to LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Is Good for Business

BY SARAH BRICKER HUNT

When Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed off on the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act Amendment, enshrining LGBTQ+ discrimination protections into law in March, the occasion marked a long-fought victory for equality in the state. But focusing state resources on equity initiatives isn't just the right thing to do. The Democratic-led push for LGBTQ+ rights has also launched Michigan

into a potentially lucrative new era in a fiscal sense — post amendment, opportunities abound for attracting and retaining equality-minded businesses and talented individuals ready to pour their energies into revitalizing the Great Lakes State.

Michigan becoming a more visible LGBTQ+ ally could have a positive impact on our state's economy, and here's why.

## LGBTQ-friendly states attract talented workers and long-term residents.

This is especially true for recent college graduates. Responding to a 2022 survey, two thirds of LGBTQ+ Gen Z respondents born between 1996 and 2010 said they would leave their job if they couldn't be out at work — a

situation far more likely to occur in states like Tennessee and Kentucky, where fresh new anti-LGBTQ+ legislation is on the books. Seventy percent of survey respondents said they would actually return to the closet if their colleagues were not allies or supportive of them being out at work, despite 83% of them having been out during college.

Gen Z is especially focused on living in places that mirror their values, which often align with protecting LGBTQ+ folks. A 2022 Gallup poll



revealed that a majority of this generation is “extremely concerned” about LGBTQ+ rights. No doubt Gov. Whitmer was speaking directly to Gen Z when she posted her viral tweet proclaiming “Michigan has a place for you,” which features a meme of Kristen Bell wearing a rainbow t-shirt and a text overlay reading “Come on in.”

## ‘Woke’ companies invest in states that promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

More than 200 major corporations have signed on to the Human Rights Campaign and Freedom for All Americans’ Business Statement on Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation, signaling their opposition to the wave of harmful anti-LGBTQ+ legislation that has been introduced and passed into law in several U.S. states. Signers include companies with strong Michigan ties, including General Motors, Kellogg and Dow. IBM’s chief diversity and inclusion officer, Carla Grant Pickens, told HRC the company signed the statement because “IBM strongly believes recent actions and new proposals by state governments targeting the LGBTQ community and particularly trans youth is discriminatory and wrongly creates fear and uncertainty for American families.”

## Companies that value LGBTQ-inclusion reap financial benefits.

Recently published data from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation paints a compelling picture about the positive impact of LGBTQ-inclusion in corporate America. Research conducted by the organization found that inclusive companies attract better talent and decrease employee turnover, two key business growth factors. Moreover, the Foundation found that publicly held companies with LGBT-friendly policies have seen their stock prices increase by around 6.5% compared with similar companies. If Michigan can entice companies to leave states with anti-LGBTQ+ legislative

agendas and harmful policies, we stand to benefit in the form of a healthier job market and the tax revenue these companies can bring to the state.

## Americans are moving to states that value inclusion.

Redfin reported in 2022 that homebuyers are increasingly “voting with their feet,” migrating to places that align with their political values. One in seven recent movers polled by the real estate company said they would refuse to live in a place where abortion is fully legal, for example. On the flipside, the company predicted that

pro-choice voters will more frequently seek out states that protect abortion rights. An overall expansion of “blue enclaves,” Redfin reports, is likely — and the country is certainly viewing Michigan as such a place these days. November’s election results underscored a prediction made by politico Nate Silver a few months prior, who mused about “Why a State Like Michigan Might Actually Be a Blue State.”

Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Right now, there is a nationwide assault on our LGBTQ+ community, especially our trans neighbors, family, and friends. It's dangerous, wrong, and un-American.

I want to send a message to anyone living in a state that doesn't respect who they are: Michigan has a place for you.



*Opportunities abound for businesses and individuals ready to pour their energies into revitalizing the Great Lakes State.*

## Queer travel drives in massive revenue.

Barring a slump during the Covid slowdown, tourism in Michigan has been driving in increased revenue for years, especially along the Western coast where vacationers flock from all over the world to quintessential Lake Michigan towns each summer. A more recent development across the tourism industry nationally has been a focus on attracting “pink” dollars — a term that refers to the buying power of LGBTQ+ community members and allies.

It’s an area that could use some attention in Michigan. As BTL reported last year, the state’s Pure Michigan tourism initiative has been roundly criticized for overlooking the community in its efforts to attract tourists, but in the shadow of the ELCRA amendment and renewed energy for the movement, we might just see a less tepid approach going forward. After all, surely the state could benefit from getting a slice of the \$218 billion global LGBTQ+ travel market pie.

ClinicalTrials.gov ID: NCT04925752

# PURPOSE

## JOIN OUR INJECTABLE PREP RESEARCH STUDY!

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Not have had an HIV test in the past 3 months
- No oral PrEP in past 12 weeks or any prior use of long-acting systemic PrEP
- Be a cisgender man, transgender or gender nonbinary individual who has receptive anal sex
- Meet eligibility criteria during screening

PLEASE CONTACT



## Grow Your Savings this Spring

MSUFCU's Insured Money Management Account (IMMA) pays higher dividends than a traditional savings account on balances of \$2,000 or more. With no minimum opening balance requirement, you can grow your savings by making deposits anytime.

To learn more about how you can save visit [msufcu.org/imma](https://msufcu.org/imma).







# LGBTQ+ Estate Planning: The Unsexy Taboo You Need to Break Sooner Rather Than Later

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

It's an uncomfortable topic many of us would rather avoid, but making a plan for what should happen at the end of your life to protect your loved ones is one of the kindest gifts you can leave behind. You'll benefit now, too, from the peace of mind of knowing that your affairs are in order.

Estate planning for older LGBTQ+ folks can be especially complicated, yet it is important and essential for making sure your wishes are carried out implicitly. And remember — estate planning is not just for the wealthy. Leaving behind a clear plan is beneficial for everyone.

The proper arrangements will ensure your affairs and end-of-life wishes are enacted, that the person of your choosing will be responsible for making medical decisions when you are no longer able to and that

your final wishes are carried out precisely.

In short, making sure that your estate planning is in order is the responsible thing to do. It will save heartaches — and possible confusion — later. For queer people, estate planning can be especially critical, particularly if your next of kin or biological family does not support your sexual orientation and you fear they might try to co-opt your death and make final arrangements of their own choosing. Do not let that happen to you.

Attorney Howard H. Collens of Galloway and Collens, PLLC in Huntington Woods, a queer ally, recommends a few basics that cover key estate planning issues, including a durable power of attorney to address financial matters, a patient advocate designation to make clear who is authorized to make medical and end-of-life decisions, a stand-alone HIPAA release to

describe who is able to learn about medical information and a last will and testament to direct the administration and distribution of assets after death.

Married same-sex couples enjoy many inherent legal benefits, but because marriage equality hinges on a 2015 Supreme Court change, some legal analysts fear this right is in jeopardy, much like *Roe v. Wade*, which established the right to abortion across the nation until the decision was overturned last year. "Through continued advocacy," Collens said, "we are working to make certain that marriage equality is permanent. This topic underscores the need to stay active and vocal about important rights as well as keeping current about any upcoming changes in the law."

On the subject of marriage, it's important to remember that Michigan does not protect so-called "common law" marriage

rights, which are granted in some states to couples who co-habitate for extended periods. It's entirely possible — in fact, it happens frequently — that a biological family member can step in to make end-of-life decisions and receive money and other assets from the estate when there isn't a will in place. "Having written planning that describes who is to make medical and end of life decisions can be accomplished by establishing a patient advocate designation," Collens said. "We also can set up a funeral representative to clarify who has authority to direct burial and/or cremation."

Finally, it's critical to consider financial concerns like how accounts are titled (separately or jointly). For example, Collens notes, things can become quite complicated when couples share ownerships of assets like a house should their relationship come to an end. "Determine the need or benefit of a

cohabitation agreement," he advised. "Confirming that beneficiary designations are properly set up so that life insurance and retirement assets will pass to the intended beneficiary upon the death of the account holder and setting up contingent benefits are important tasks."

It may be tempting to take advantage of free web-based estate planning resources, but Collens cautions against this approach. Making a mistake while setting up estate planning documents yourself can lead to complicated, expensive problems. Collens suggests working with an estate planning professional to ensure your unique situation is properly addressed.

*Learn more about how you can get your estate in order at the LGBTQ Legal Resource center ([justia.com/lgbtq/estate-planning](https://justia.com/lgbtq/estate-planning)).*





## Charles Zhang - Michigan's #1 Financial Advisor As Reported by Both Barron's\* and Forbes\*\*



**Our Zhang Financial Team**

**Serving the Entire Detroit Area**  
with offices in Troy, Ann Arbor and Lansing

**Troy Office**  
(248) 687-1258

**Ann Arbor Office**  
(734) 794-4896

**Lansing Office**  
(517) 893-3988

**Home Office**  
(269) 385-5888

**Visit us at [zhangfinancial.com](http://zhangfinancial.com)**

### **Fee-Only Unbiased Investment Advice**

- We uphold a Fiduciary Standard and work with clients on a fee-only basis.
- We do not receive commissions, kick-backs, or soft dollars from product sales, eliminating inherent conflicts of interest.

### **Credibility & Professionalism**

- Our team of professionals holds designations and degrees such as CFP®, CFA, CPA, MBA, and PhD.
- Charles received an MBA from Northwestern University (Kellogg School of Management), Executive Education from both Harvard Business School and Columbia University.
- Economics Advisory Council, Department of Economics, Columbia University.

### **Charles Zhang, CFP®, MBA, MSFS, ChFC**

- Ranked #1 on Barron's list of America's TOP Independent Advisors for 2021 and is the highest ranked NAPFA-Registered Fee-Only Advisor on the list.\*
- Ranked #4 in the nation on Forbes' list of TOP Wealth Advisors and is the ONLY Fee-Only Advisor in the top 5.\*\*

**Minimum investment: \$1,000,000 in the state of Michigan/\$2,000,000 outside of Michigan**  
**Assets under custody of LPL Financial, TD Ameritrade, and Charles Schwab.**

\*As reported in Barron's March 11, 2023 and September 17, 2021. Based on assets under management, revenue produced for the firm, regulatory record, quality of practices, and other factors. For fee-only status see NAPFA.org.

\*\*As reported in Forbes April 4, 2023. The Forbes rankings, developed by SHOOK Research, are based on an algorithm of qualitative criteria, mostly gained through telephone and in-person due diligence interviews, and quantitative data. Those advisors that are considered have a minimum of seven years experience, and the algorithm weighs factors like revenue trends, assets under management, compliance records, industry experience and those that encompass best practices in their practices and approach to working with clients.

See [zhangfinancial.com/disclosure](http://zhangfinancial.com/disclosure) for full ranking criteria.



**Founder and President**





**OAKLAND**  
COUNTY MICHIGAN  
HEALTH DIVISION  
DAVID COULTER  
OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

248-858-5416  
oakgov.com/HIV

# AT RISK FOR HIV?

Once a day PrEP  
can reduce your risk.



f t @PUBLICHEALTHOC

The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs.

## Cheryl Czach

Continued from page 8

### She is new to the non-profit sector.

Even though she's spent a lot of time working with Affirmations in various capacities, this will be Czach's first full-time job in the non-profit arena. "There's a language around that," she said. "I'm learning it. I think I'm coming up to speed in that regard, and that's going to be my initial challenge."

*Czach loves to get her boogie on and is a bad mama jama on the dance floor.*

### She has a 26-year-old son.

"We're very close and we enjoy spending time together," Czach said. "He's in the brewing program at Schoolcraft College, studying brewing and distilling." Consequently, the two spend a great deal of time going to local breweries and trying craft beers.

### She is adopted.

Czach was adopted when she was 2 months old. Just a few years ago, Cheryl reunited with her birth mother through DNA testing. "It has been an absolutely wonderful experience getting to know her," said Czach. "She is an artist and a phenomenal lady." But don't discount the good folks who raised her. "I feel very lucky to have been raised by two very loving parents," she said. "And then to meet my birth mom and develop a relationship with her."

### She loves music and dancing.

Czach loves to get her boogie on and is a bad mama jama on the dance floor. "Music has always been a part of my life, although I cannot play any instruments," she said. "My son is a musician, however, so I live vicariously through him." Czach said she listens to everything: R&B, folk, rock and even some Americana. Her favorite? The group My Chemical Romance. "I grew up listening to a mix of R&B and heavy metal," she said. "My mom also loved Broadway show tunes. So, those are in my rotation as well."



Delivering Amazing Quality  
since 1892.

800-862-8667 | www.nortonsflowers.com  
We Deliver the **WOW!**



LOCATIONS IN YPSILANTI & ANN ARBOR






**WANDER.WONDER.EXPLORE.**  
TOURS | EVENTS & EXPERIENCES | CLASSES | DINING | PRIVATE EVENTS

**FORD HOUSE**  
E  
EDSEL & ELEANOR

1100 LAKE SHORE ROAD  
GROSSE POINTE SHORES, MI 48236  
313-884-4222 | [WWW.FORDHOUSE.ORG](http://WWW.FORDHOUSE.ORG)  
*Ford House is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit National Historic Landmark*



SCAN ME

**AWBS**  
ALL WELL-BEING SERVICES

**BRINGING WELLNESS TO LIFE**



**AWBS MISSION:** To meet the needs of individuals, families and the community by providing integrated health services which foster well-being and self-sufficiency.

AWBS offers a variety of services to all members to function at their greatest potential by using trained professionals and best practices.

**SERVICES OFFERED:** Mental Health Services, Substance Use Disorder, Prevention & Treatment, HIV Prevention, STDs Testing, Primary Care, Health Workshops, Intellectual Development Disabilities Services, Skill Building, Family Support and more.

**TRAUMA INFORMED GROUPS:** • Anger Management • Dialectical Behavior Therapy • Recovery • Smoking Cessation • Trans Trauma (T-TREM)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR APPOINTMENT**  
CALL **(313) 924-7860** | [www.awbs.org](http://www.awbs.org)


**Supporting the  
Community Since  
Before it was Cool.**

100% Local Agents. 100% Client Focused.  
Trillium Real Estate Helps People  
Make Good Decisions.



**Sandi & Linda**  
[www.trilliumrealtors.com](http://www.trilliumrealtors.com)

323 Braun Ct. Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-302-3011

 **TRILLIUM**  
REAL ESTATE



# Speaking Boldly Through Dance

Complexions Co-Founder Desmond Richardson on What He Learned From Alvin Ailey



Desmond Richardson. Photo: Rachel Neville

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

As the first Black male principal dancer in the American Ballet Theatre, Desmond Richardson has been making waves in the dance world for decades. His own award-winning ballet company, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, which he co-founded with choreographer Dwight Rhoden in 1994, dances into Music Hall in Detroit on April 23 and into The Whiting Auditorium in Flint just a few days later, on April 28.

For over 30 years, Complexions, which has toured in over 20 countries across five continents, has been driven by what it calls “a singular approach to reinventing dance through a groundbreaking mix of methods, styles and cultures.”

As for Richardson, who is openly gay, he’s come a long way. In a 1991 “Up and Coming” profile in The New York Times that was written while he was a leading dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, he described himself as a “chubby” high schooler who never had a dance class. “Nobody is laughing now,” the article continued. “Over the past two seasons, Mr. Richardson has been singled out by critics and audiences for his dazzling technique and charismatic presence.”

Recently, Richardson, now 54, spoke to BTL about what Ailey taught him, incorporating social commentary into dance and how current attacks on the trans community may impact his work.

**Legend has it you discovered your love of dance at a block party when you were 10?**

Actually, I discovered dance through watching [the PBS series] Great Performances and master dancers such as Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn. I had a lightbulb moment. I knew that was something I wanted to do.



“

*For our first concerts, we had two men in drag. We have non-binary dancers in the company. When the audience sees that authenticity, they know it's not a novelty act.*

**What were your first steps, so to speak, to starting your dancing career?**

I spoke to my guidance counselor about it. She suggested I attend the High School of the Performing Arts [in Manhattan]. The movie “Fame” had just come out. I thought the school was a fictitious place.

**And what did you find when you started at the very real high school that so many greats had studied at?**

I didn't have much training. But I had passion and flexibility, for sure. I didn't know I had flexibility until they told me. They accepted me into the school, and I started my journey through classical, ballet, jazz, waltz, tap, singing, acting — all of those things that were really afforded to us at the school.

**Before graduating at the age of 17, you were already taking classes at the Alvin Ailey school as well. You went on to make the second company and, after a short while, the first. Did you have much interaction with Ailey himself?**

I had a lot of audiences with Alvin. He was really checking in on the new talent that was coming in from the school. I would sneak over and watch him teach and he'd invite me in. He told me, “Young man, we have plans for you.”

**Your trajectory with the company was rapid. From 1987 to 1994, you were the principal dancer. Then you and fellow dancer and choreographer Dwight Rhoden decided to start Complexions. What did you learn from Ailey that helped you to start your own company?**

What I took from being with Alvin Ailey was the point of being real, being in the moment and being honest. That's something that Alvin talked about readily. Your authenticity. What is that? You want to show your passion, but you don't want to impose yourself on people's choreography. You want to be bold. You need to be so

invested that the audience has no other opportunity but to look at you. They're engaged with you. Myself and Dwight, we really learned that there.

**Any key lessons that Ailey taught you?**

Alvin, he spoke in a lot of imagery. He always said, “What do you want to say? I have these steps, but if you don't breathe life into them, no one will understand, and you won't understand. I need to see your heart, your humanity and soul.”

**Talk to me about the beginnings of your baby, Complexions.**

We started in 1994 on the auspices of having a diverse group, not only ethnically but with music and the bridging of different genres of dance and wanting to really have a voice. Dwight understood that he really



Dancers Lucy Stewart and Joe Gonzalez. Photo: Rachel Neville

wanted to say something different. But we used what we knew and used that expertise.

**A recent piece, from 2019, was the timely “Woke.” Tell me about it.**

This was just as George Floyd's death and the Black Lives Matter movement was happening. Dwight wanted to comment about that, gun violence and sexual assault, and the LGBTQ+ community. Why are we

# The SMOKE HOUSE

**A true BBQ place is known by its brisket and we challenge you to find a better and more authentic brisket than ours!**

The Smokehouse is like none-other because we have a true fire pit from Missouri—used with Michigan hardwood. Our food is out-of-this-world amazing because top chefs have proved out our techniques and recipes to develop the most authentic and delicious BBQ in the Midwest.

**Bring home The Smokehouse tonight!**



**Holiday Market 1203 S Main St., Royal Oak  
248.541.1414 | holiday-market.com**

See Desmond Richardson, page 26



# Fighting The Good Fight with an Unlikely Weapon: *Quilt Making*

## Traverse City Author Talks New Inclusive Children's Book 'What Do You See?'

BY SARAH BRICKER HUNT

A handmade quilt might bring to mind a bygone era in American history — a time when handicrafts like quilting were the norm and long before progressive ideas about gender and diversity had taken root in most of the country.

But the truth is that the art of quilting has been here all along.

New generations of quilt makers have learned the craft from veteran artisans, putting a modern spin on patterns that represent life today.

Nancy Bordine, an author, quilt maker and retired nurse and healthcare educator, could be seen as a bridge between generations. Bordine's new young children's book, "What Do You See?: Developing New Perspectives with Quilt Patterns," for example, is, on one hand, a colorful nod to the art of quilt making framed in a preschool-friendly style and, on the other, an unapologetic vehicle for social justice advocacy.

The book, Bordine says, gives parents opportunities to discuss both the artwork — how objects in the scenery interact with each other — and opportunities to embark on conversations about diversity and inclusion, complete with guided prompts and study questions.

Bordine has been piecing

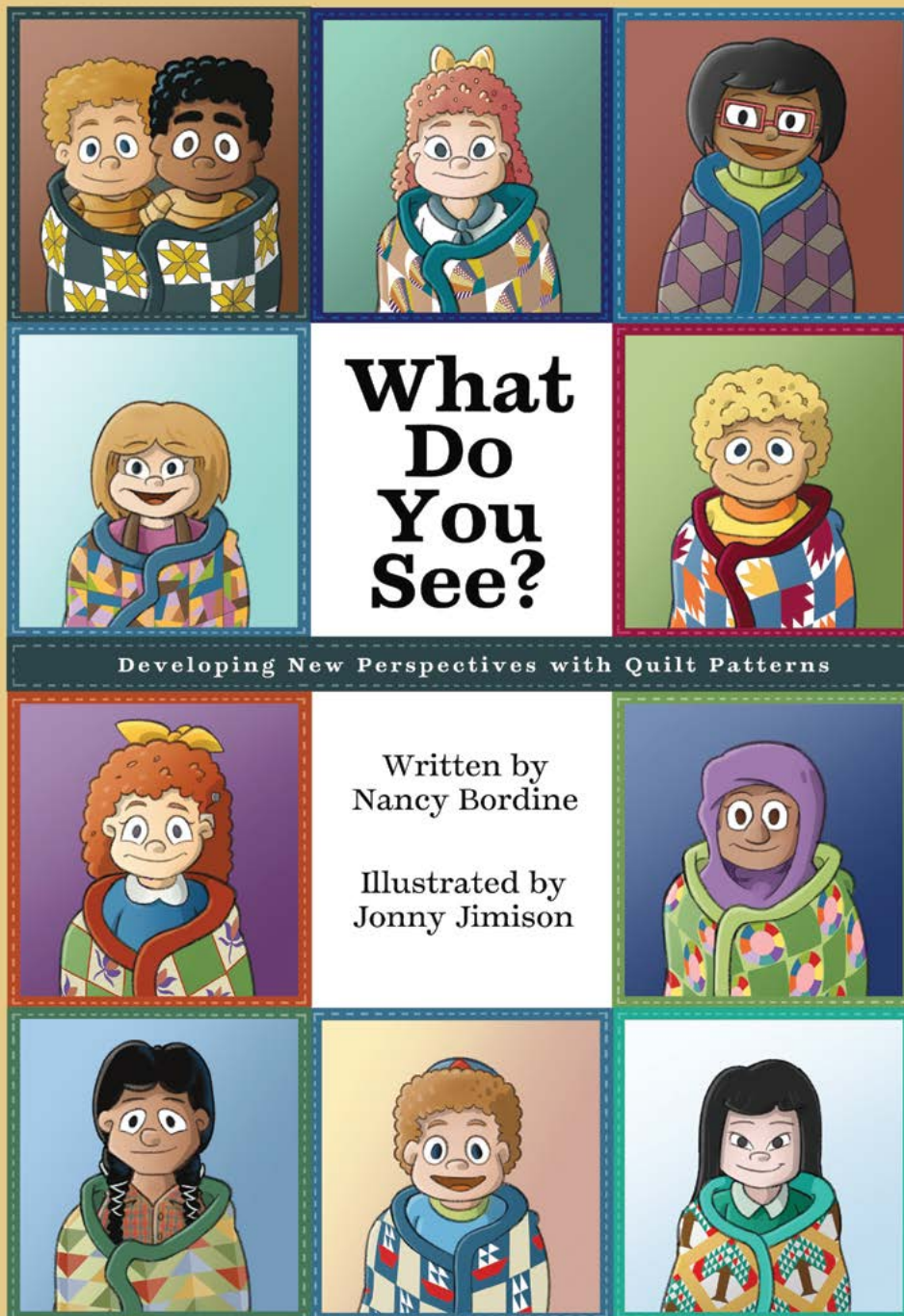
together quilts since childhood, when she learned the craft at the feet of her grandmother. Over the years, she created dozens of quilts for her own family and became known as "The Quilt Lady" around Traverse City, where she served as a historical reenactor for more than 12 years, presenting quilts, quilt lore and pioneer living to hundreds of local fourth graders, often weaving



Author Nancy Bordine. Courtesy photo

diversity sensitivity messages into her presentations.

Closer to home, Bordine says, her own family has expanded to include biracial representation. "My husband and I have created a family that includes children more melanin-rich than us," she explains. This perspective has played a role in developing her writing voice, as



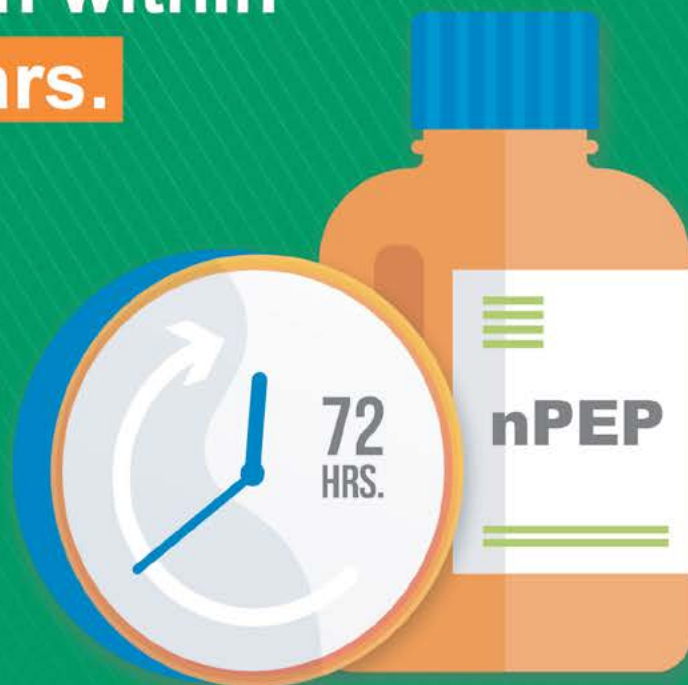




248-214-2246  
oakgov.com/HIV

# EXPOSED TO HIV?

nPEP can  
prevent HIV if  
given within  
**72 hrs.**



The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs.

CultureVerse

Here's to the  
creators  
& keepers  
of art, culture,  
and knowledge.

CultureVerse provides technology, training, consultation, and other resources in order to create equitable and sustainable opportunities for artists, educators, students, and preservationists.

LEARN MORE AT [WWW.CULTUREVERSE.ORG](http://WWW.CULTUREVERSE.ORG)  
BACKGROUND IMAGE: ARTWORK BY MIKE HAN

alzheimer's   
association®

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

*Join us in the fight to  
end Alzheimer's.*

**Call 248.983.5485  
or email  
[cmmucklin@alz.org](mailto:cmmucklin@alz.org)  
to learn more.**

[alz.org/gmc/volunteers](http://alz.org/gmc/volunteers)

24/7 Helpline: 800.272.3900  
[helplinegmc@alz.org](mailto:helplinegmc@alz.org)





ELIZABETH  
FACE + BODY  
MED SPA

#### April Specials

**10% off all Image BIOME+ Skincare Products**

**Signature HydraFacial \$155. (Value \$180.)**

**Customized Peel + Dermaplane \$80. (Value \$100.)**

**Diolaze Laser Hair Removal (6-8 Treatments)**

Buy one area get the other area 20% off.

Struggling with your weight loss efforts? Elizabeth Face + Body Med Spa is now offering wellness and weight loss services!

Semaglutide injections can be a "game changer" for weight loss among overweight individuals.

For more information on this FDA approved medication or to see if this weight loss program is right for you contact us today.

\*Weight loss results with semaglutide vary by patient

Wellness  
&  
Weight Loss

Call (248) 268-1655 to schedule your appointment today!  
[elizabethmedspa.com](http://elizabethmedspa.com)

#### 4 Nancy Bordine

Continued from page 22

has her work in nursing.

"As an RN, I developed the approach that the patients in my care were 'my babies,'" she says. "And that evolved into my method for coping with some of the distressing behaviors I dealt with as an acute-care mental health nurse. I took on the approach that every patient was 'a child of God,' deserving dignity and respect for their humanity."

After retiring from the nursing field, Bordine developed a foot care clinic for people experiencing homelessness through Central United Methodist Church in Traverse City. "Getting to know their circumstances while caring for their feet reinforced my passion for social justice and inclusivity," she says.

Bordine's "What Do You See?" joins a growing list of young children's books that feature diversity, equity and inclusion messages, including a new book by Juno Dawson, author of the frequently banned young adult book, "This Book Is Gay." Dawson's new work, "You Need to Chill," is geared toward preschool to early elementary grades and focuses on inclusivity.

Bordine's focus on inclusivity in the book includes the LGBTQ+ community, though in a more subtle way. Illustrations and character biographies include children

of multiple ethnicities, family structures, abilities and interests. "I discussed including sexual orientation with my lesbian friends," Bordine says. "They told me that at the age of my target audience — 3 to 7 year olds — they were not aware of their sexuality and that an LGBTQ+ character wouldn't be necessary."

Still, Bordine wanted to add a nod to the community in some way. She landed on borrowing a term she'd heard children in her neighborhood using: "fundle."

"The children have an uncle with a husband that have dubbed themselves the children's 'fundles,'" she explains. "I used that term to describe a character's favorite toy, an item given to them by their fundles and defined the term as 'gay married uncles.'"

Bordine's passion for social justice and early childhood community education came together when Bordine's writing coach, Stacy Roberts, encouraged her to develop learning activities for her children's book. "Our country was experiencing a radical political shift, especially regarding marginalized people," Bordine says. "I wanted my book to be a part of the social shift toward appreciating the humanity in everyone."

*"What Do You See?: Developing New Perspectives with Quilt Patterns" is out now. Learn more about author Nancy Bordine at [missnancywrites.com](http://missnancywrites.com).*

## The State Ballet of Georgia

Direct from the Opera & Ballet State Theatre in the capital city of Tbilisi, dancing Balanchine's *Serenade* & *Concerto Barocco*

Accompanied by the Detroit Opera Orchestra



**Detroit Opera**

Yeral Sharm, Gary L. Wassenaar, Artistic Director  
Christopher Gonsky, Artistic Advisor, Librettist  
Jon Tennent, Librettist, Advisor for Dance

William Davidson Foundation  
SEASON SPONSOR

Ford Motor Company Fund  
SPRING DANCE SPONSOR

**TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY!**

**Saturday April 29 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday April 30 at 2:30 p.m.**

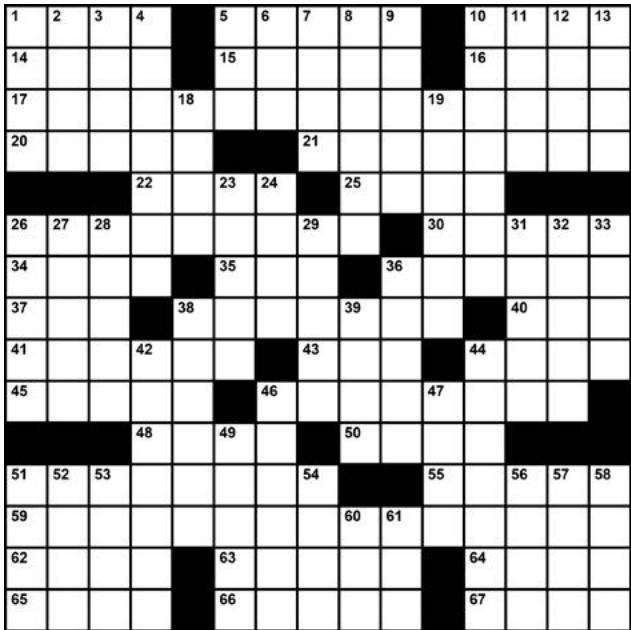
**at the Detroit Opera House**

**TICKETS  
START  
AT JUST \$29**

**[DetroitOpera.org](http://DetroitOpera.org)**







Across

Whale Intentioned

- 1 Use your mouth unfaithfully
- 5 Affleck's "Chasing Amy" crush
- 10 Infatuated with Mr. Right Now
- 14 "Desert of the Heart" author
- 15 Like a tutti-frutti holder
- 16 Takes advantage of
- 17 Start of a quote from Charlie in "The Whale"
- 20 The Village People's "\_\_\_ Man"

Q Puzzle

- 21 Balsac's Vautrin, for one
- 22 Noncommittal words
- 25 Body passageway
- 26 More of the quote
- 30 Pantywaist
- 34 McKellen's "The Da Vinci \_\_\_"
- 35 Parting words, old style
- 36 VW from the land of Rilke
- 37 Off-rd. transport
- 38 B. or D. to Wong

Down

- 1 Fedora feature
- 2 Deity identified with Diana
- 3 Trump portrayer Baldwin
- 4 Queen's abode
- 5 What thespians do
- 6 Toon canine Scooby-\_\_\_
- 7 "Crazy Love" singer Paul
- 8 Disney mouse
- 9 "The Queen" producer Rudin
- 10 Woody of fame
- 11 Straight AIDS victim Arthur
- 12 Reverse or neutral
- 13 Concerning
- 18 Rounded top

- 19 "Night" author Elie
- 23 Some scores for Mauresmo
- 24 Boo-Boo's buddy
- 26 Words of empathy
- 27 Valet employer
- 28 Prop for "I have a headache ..."
- 29 Part of "NIMBY"
- 31 Gertrude, who could hold her beer?
- 32 Weapon of Biblical Jonathan's lover
- 33 Itches
- 36 Keep moist in the kitchen
- 38 Dildo, e.g.
- 39 Bad day for Caesar
- 42 Checked cotton fabric
- 44 Like an AC/DC white bear?
- 46 Lie a birdcage resident, perhaps
- 47 Lamarr of Hollywood
- 49 Cut, to lumberjacks
- 51 "Doggone it!"
- 52 Get out of bed
- 53 "The African Queen" author
- 54 "Rock" suffix
- 56 \_Evita\_ lyricist Tim
- 57 "\_\_\_ Walked Into My Life"
- 58 Watermelon "ammo"
- 60 Skirt edge
- 61 Mr. Williams, as Doubtfire

See p. 10 for answers

# Prism of Possibilities

## Psychotherapy

### Christine Cantrell, PhD

#### Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

- ▼ Speak Your Truth
- ▼ Discover What You Want
- ▼ Create Your True Self
- ▼ Heal Old Hurts, Find Wholeness

Located in Royal Oak  
www.christinecantrell.com  
christinecantrellphd@gmail.com

CALL NOW! 248-591-2888

# Prom ReDeux

PROM BUT MAKE IT QUEER

Affirmations invites you to the prom of your queer dreams! Bring yourself, your friends, and your partner(s) to an incredible party!

Music, prom pics, dancing, food, spiked punch, and tarot readings are all part of the fun.

\$30 per ticket. All proceeds go towards funding our center and programming. This event is 21+.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

**Date:** Saturday, June 24

**Time:** 8 pm - 12 am

**At:** Affirmations, 290 W 9 Mile Rd, Ferndale



## SEEKING LGBTQI+ WOMYN

DJs, Musicians, Bands,  
Visual and Performance Artists

Share your talent at a  
*Pop-up Womyn's Dance Club*  
Coming Soon to SE Michigan

Interested? Contact Ei at:  
[yes.womyndancing@gmail.com](mailto:yes.womyndancing@gmail.com)



**LOOKING TO REACH  
THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY?**

**PRIDESOURCE.COM/ADVERTISE**



**STACK UP  
*your style***

SCAN TO SHOP



**Lewis Jewelers**  
"YOUR DIAMOND STORE"

Visit us in our NEW location!  
300 S Maple Rd., Ann Arbor  
734.994.5111 | [www.LewisJewelers.com](http://www.LewisJewelers.com)



Jasmine Cruz and Kobe A. Courtney. Photo: Rachel Neville

### ◀ Desmond Richardson

Continued from page 21

having an issue when we're all just human here? It's about loving each other.

#### **And what does "Woke" mean to you, specifically?**

"Woke" is being able to understand people. To understand differences and to be generous in spirit and say, "Listen, I understand you. I'm available and awake to understand who you are; that I can be respectful to you and your plight."

**With the queer community and, especially, the trans community, coming under attack across the country, will that find its way into your work as well?**

We're going to let that come to us as it

comes to us. We're about to work on a new work and I'm sure that's about to come into play. We've been doing that and having it in our repertory since day one. For our first concerts, we had two men in drag. We have non-binary dancers in the company. When the audience sees that authenticity, they know it's not a novelty act.

#### **Is it challenging to blend social commentary and dance?**

The way we do it is to really speak through movement. It doesn't need to be so literal, but we definitely put it out there and give you the playing field to say, I'm witnessing it. If you see two men on the stage, you witness it. If they're kissing or whatever, it's not to be in your face. It's about, let's talk about this. This is the human experience.

**Complexions turns 29 this year.**

#### **Meanwhile, you're 54. How do you feel?**

I'm more mature now. It's really quite interesting. Even before the pandemic, I was starting to transition off the stage due to my feet. I have bursitis in both feet. I was already trying to understand where I am going, what I am doing, where else I want to go and what do I want to say.

#### **And what do you want to say?**

The body does what it does. My body is changing, and I can no longer do those things that I could in my 20s. But there are other things to do. I can engage in music quite differently and still speak quite boldly.

*Complexions Contemporary Ballet Company will perform at the Music Hall in Detroit at 8 p.m. Sunday, April 23 and at The Whiting Auditorium in Flint at 8 p.m. Friday, April 28. For more information, visit [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).*

[www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)







**CITY OF  
DETROIT**

**HEALTH  
Department**

# NO CAP!

1

MANY STIS DON'T  
CAUSE SYMPTOMS

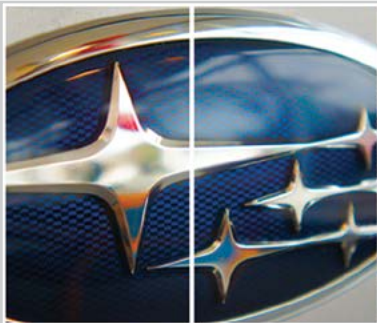

2

TESTING IS THE ONLY  
WAY TO KNOW


3

GET TESTED TO KEEP  
YOU AND YOUR  
PARTNER HEALTHY

**Visit or Call iDecide Health Clinic**  
100 Mack, Detroit, MI 48201 | (313) 876-4319





*at Hodges...*



**SUBARU**

PDG-41 **OUTBACK**



**HODGES  
SUBARU**  
Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

21205 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220  
248.547.8800 • [www.hodgessubaru.com](http://www.hodgessubaru.com)  
HOURS: **MONDAY** - 9:00A.M. - 7:00P.M.  
**TUESDAY - FRIDAY** - 9:00A.M. - 6:00P.M.  
**SATURDAY** - 10:00A.M. - 2:00P.M.

**EVERYDAY!**

EXCELLENT SERVICE • OUTSTANDING SELECTION • FANTASTIC PRICES....



**Delivered  
Straight to  
Your Mailbox**

Support LGBTQ+ journalism and  
get Between the Lines  
delivered to your door for  
just \$95/year or \$10/month.

[WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM/SUBSCRIBE)

**Dixie's  
Tupperware  
party**



**MAY 6 • MUSIC HALL**  
**BROADWAYINDETROIT.COM**  
Groups (10+) [BroadwayInDetroitGroups@TheAmbassadors.com](mailto:BroadwayInDetroitGroups@TheAmbassadors.com) (Subject: Dixie)  
ADULT CONTENT

PHOTO: BRADFORD ROGNE





**Grab a coffee,  
take the survey,  
make a difference.**

**Take the 17th Annual  
LGBTQ Community Survey®**

**LGBTQsurvey.com**

LGBTQ research helps non-profits, universities  
and businesses better understand and  
serve our community.

Download survey results free of charge  
at [cmi.info](https://cmi.info).