



Michigan Pride Updates

by Nicholas Sekmistrz, Michigan Pride

The Michigan Pride 2012 Golf Outing will be held at Wheatfield Valley Golf Club in Williamston on Sunday, May 20th, 2012.

Registration is \$70 per person and includes 18 holes of play with cart, 4 hole-in-one contests, lunch and dinner, and a six pack of beer per cart. There will also be 50/50 drawings, a live auction, and a putting contest to assure a fun filled day for all. Teams are filling up fast; please visit www.michiganpride.org for more details and registration information.

The 23rd annual Michigan Pride Festival Weekend will be held on June 15th and 16th. The White Party will kick off the weekend on Friday evening with themed events and specials at the Michigan Pride Beer Tent, Spiral Dance Bar, Grand Café, and Esquire in Lansing's Old Town district. On Saturday, June 16th, the Festival will begin with the annual Capital Rally, March, and Commitment



Ceremony. The March will assemble at 10 am and start at 11 am at the Adado Riverfront Park. Participants will

(Continued on page 2)

Shall We Dance?

Join LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus for an evening of song and dance.

June 8 @ 9 at 8pm

Molly Grove Chapel of First Presbyterian Church
at the Corner of Ottawa and Pine Street, Downtown Lansing.

Admission is \$20 - \$12 Per Person

Visit www.lansingout.org for more information

Logos for Lansing Community College, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and GALA Choruses.

Get your dance card ready because LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus, under the direction of Doug Armstead, is presenting "Shall We Dance?" on Friday, June 8th and Saturday, June 9th, 2012.

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Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus Presents "A Living Voice"

from Trixie Smith, Sistrum

Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus will present its 26th annual spring concert and silent auction on May 18 & May 19 at Lansing Community College's Dart Auditorium at 8 p.m. This year's concerts are entitled "A Living Voice" and will include Michigan folk musician Pat Madden as a special guest singer.

The group will present a diverse set of music this year, with classic folk songs, a piece sung in Sanskrit, and a gospel tune. The concert will also include percussionists, a string quartet, and three movements from a piece composed by Linda Tutas Hagan with text from The Diary of Anne Frank—"A Living Voice."

Tickets, on a sliding scale from \$25-12, can be purchased online at www.sistrum.org or through a chorus member. Tickets at the door will be \$25-15. ASL interpretation and wheelchair accessibility will be provided for both concerts. The silent auction begins at 7:00 pm both nights, with proceeds helping Sistrum travel to the

(Continued on page 2)

LAHR's New Address

PO Box 14009
Lansing MI 48901-4009

LAHR Coffee Night Returns

by Frank Vaca, LAHR Vice President

Starting May 1st I will be doing a weekly Coffee Evening 6pm-8pm on Tuesdays at Gone Wired Café. If you would like to see our Coffee Night continue, please attend as soon and as often as you can!!

Sistrum

(Continued from page 1)

Choral Music Experience workshop in Kenosha, Wisconsin this July.

Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, currently has 40 singing members, is active in both the Sister Singers Network and the GALA Choruses, and is a 501c3 organization. Sistrum: creating music that inspires, empowers, and entertains.

For more information please visit www.sistrum.org or contact Trixie Smith at tgsmith12@yahoo.com.



Pride Art Needed

City Pulse is seeking cover art for its annual Michigan Pride issue in June. It must reflect gay pride. Anything original in any publishable medium will be considered. The dimensions of the image size are 11.5 inches high by 10.5 inches wide. Consult a copy of City Pulse for where our name plate and other standing elements are usually placed. If your submission is selected for the cover, you will receive \$125. If you have questions, please send them to publisher@lansingcitypulse.com, subject line: Gay Pride Cover. Deadline for submissions is May 28.

Berl Schwartz
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Gay Men's Chorus

(Continued from page 1)

The concert will be at the Molly Grove Chapel of First Presbyterian Church, 510 West Ottawa Street in Lansing. Come join the guys on a journey through time as they sing and dance some well-known and not so well-known songs of dancing and moving to the music. Follow them on their journey from the minstrel days through the 60s and 70s to now, from salsa to Greased Lightning! Show time is 8 pm on Friday and Saturday with ticket prices \$20 to \$12 per person. For more information please go to our LanSINGout Facebook page or visit www.lansingout.org. Hope to see you there with your dancing shoes on!

Michigan Pride

(Continued from page 1)

march through downtown Lansing to the steps of the Capitol.

At noon, the Michigan Pride Commitment Ceremony will take place on the grounds of the Capitol. The Capitol Rally will follow and will include numerous local and nationally-recognized speakers. The Michigan Pride Board is presently in negotiations with Rachel Maddow's publicity team and is optimistic that Ms. Maddow will present as the keynote speaker for the event.

Following the Capitol events, the Pride Festival gates will open at noon in Old Town. This year's festival will feature the nationally-recognized talent of God-des and She, and Chris Willis. The festival will also include a wide array of vendor booths that will showcase Michigan artisans, GLBTQ groups, and provide a diverse selection of dining options.

Join the Band!

"Join the Equality Band of Michigan preparing for Pride celebrations.

Email Gary Hicks at GHicks5200@aol.com "

LAHR • Email: President@lahronline.org • On the Web: www.LAHRonline.org

LGBT News

Lansing Association for
Human Rights
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Contents of the LGBT News should not be construed to represent the beliefs of the LAHR organization as a whole.



Bi-Visibility

by Emily Snoek,
LAHR Board

I am currently in a class called Sexual Politics, in the James Madison College at MSU. My professor, Julia Grant, has had us reading a wide variety of books related to sexuality and the politics of sexuality, as well as how these issues relate to us socially. We have read *How Sex Changed* which focused on transgender issues, *Straight to Jesus* that talks about the ex-gay ministry and led to other interesting conversations about religion and sexuality, *Sex in the Heartland* about the sexual revolution, *Dude You're a Fag* about masculinity in high school, and some other books as well. This class has been both fascinating and enlightening and I have greatly enjoyed the variety of opinions shared by members of the class.

We are also required to do an independent research project related to the course themes. For this project I chose to focus on bisexuality and the way the bisexual coming out experience or "narrative" differs from coming out as gay or lesbian. To do this I had to conduct interviews, which I did via e-mail, asking self-identified bisexuals to answer several questions related to their coming out experience. While their answers have been helpful with regards to my research and quite interesting to read, what really surprised me was both the number of individuals willing to take the time to participate as well as the number that thanked me for my research, asked to see a copy of my paper when I was done, and appreciated what I was doing and its work towards bi-visibility. This is a term I hadn't heard before really, but I guess it is what I'm working towards. There is a gap in information about bisexuals. While there are multiple sources from which to glean information about the bisexual lifestyle and identity, this number pales in comparison to that which is available for the gay and/or lesbian lifestyle and identity, and there is no information about how or why their coming out process is unique.

I feel blessed that these individuals find the research I'm doing for a sexual politics class to be important and interesting enough to warrant use of their precious time. I think they really made me see how important it really is that bisexuals and bisexuality not be just another letter in the acronym or a survey box to check but a group of individuals who have unique experiences and should be valued and appreciated for those experiences.



Know What's Happening

by Bill Beachler, Publisher

Join your friends and be one of the approximately 500 current participants in the excellent LAHR list services to learn what's happening. These free services are one of the best communication tools available. There are two list servs available: LAHRonline (social) and LAHRdiscussion.

The LAHRonline list service is for social communication. You will receive all postings about what is happening in the Mid-Michigan area. In addition, you also have the opportunity to post what you know, so you can share it with others.

The LAHRdiscussion list service is for conversations about various topics. You may read what others think about a particular topic and you may add your "two-cents" to the discussion. This is frequently an educational opportunity. Often this discussion includes information and opinions about politics.

You have the opportunity to join one or both of these excellent, free list services. It's simple - just go to the LAHR Web site home page at www.lahronline.org and on the right side of the screen it says, "Subscribe to Mailing List." Under this heading are the two choices. Just click LAHRonline and/or LAHRdiscussion to join. **The more people who join, the more effective, informative, and successful the services will become!!!**

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All I'm Saying...



by Dan Boutell

And Then, There Was One

I'm talking about the Republican Presidential Candidates. I know there is still really three (well, at the time I am writing this there is). But seriously, with Rick Santorum dropping out, there is really only Mitt Romney. I knew months ago that he would really be the nominee. I think I actually mentioned it in one of my articles. Hmm, let me check and see. I'll be right back.

Ok, I'm back. Yep, I said it back in early December. I think it's been hysterical to watch the "Christian Conservatives" bounce from Bachmann, to Perry, to Cain, to Gingrich, to Santorum and now reluctantly have attached themselves to Romney. The reason they waited so long? They really

didn't want him to get the nomination. He's not really "Christian Conservative" enough. Remember, this is the guy that started the whole "Individual Mandate" thing with health care. You know, the one that "Obamacare" is modeled after? Those conservative Republicans hate that! He was never really "for" gay marriage but, back in the mid 90's he was much more supportive than he is now (can you say "Pandering to your base?"). Honestly, I don't think he has that much of a problem with it but, wants to put up a good front for his party.

I laughed every time I saw one of the "crazies" drop out as I knew they eventually would. To me, the scary thing is how the craziest, was one of the last in the race. Rick Santorum is just plain frightening! His views of the world are more reminiscent of the 50's McCarthy era. I know Santorum didn't think everyone was a communist but, he has very dated views of the world and is afraid of the communist (err, I mean gay) agenda. His views

on Homosexuality, women and contraception remind me of arguments from then. But, his hypocrisy is what truly set him apart. I like how he is against abortion even in the case of the mother's life is in danger but, his wife had an abortion. He also tried to put limits on how much you can sue a Doctor for but, he and his wife sued a Doctor for more than the limit he wanted to put into law.

The truth is, it scared the hell out of me to think of Santorum as President. Many people think our country is screwed up already. If he had won, we would have had to put signs at the border warning people that upon entering the United States, they had traveled back in time. A time when the only people with any rights were rich, white, straight men. Wait, that's farther back than the 1950's.....

Tell me what you think. Comments (hopefully positive) are always welcome. Write me at allimsaying@yahoo.com

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A Matter of Law

by Pam Sisson,
Attorney & Mediator

IT'S THE LAW, OR IS IT? - Part 11

*The first step towards liberation
for any group
is to use the power in hand . . .
and the power in hand is the vote.
- Helen Gahagan Douglas*

(Publisher's Note – Finding Pam's and other articles from the past is very easy. Just go to LAHR's excellent website at www.lahronline.org and easily see the most recent newsletter and click on Newsletter Page. All issues back to January, 2008 are there and just click whatever issue you want to see.)

What follows is a list of the articles so far in this series and the dates of publication in the LAHR newsletter:

4/11	Levels of government and agencies	11/11	Free speech - tough issues
	Civil/criminal law. Statutory/common law	12/11	Talking to people – bigots
	Court systems		Alternatives to violent demonstrations
5/11	Criminal prosecution – due process	1/12	New Year's Resolution
	Police state – minorities, etc.	2/12	13th and 14th Amendments
6/11	Coalition against Domestic Violence	3/12	1985 Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act Amendment attempt - LGBT
	Activism		
7/11	First Amendment		Coincidentally, Senator Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) has just introduced a proposed amendment to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (Michigan) to prohibit discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents. It is Senate Bill 1063 (SB1063). This is very exciting and very important for each of us. More on this as it develops.
	Bill of Rights/Constitution		
8/11	Journalists – pros and cons		

More Than Just Words...

It is My Commitment to the People of Michigan

*...all men are created equal,
...endowed by their Creator
with certain unalienable Rights,
that among these are*

Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness

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Someone in Michigan may have Equal Rights

from the Internet

Michigan's constitution outlaws same-sex marriage, but a Michigan Indian tribe is considering making same-sex marriage constitutional for its members. The Little Traverse Band of Odawa Indians is considering a constitutional amendment that would affect its 4,000 members – most of whom live in the Lower Peninsula .

Because the tribe is a sovereign nation under U.S. law, it could adopt the proposal.

If adopted, at least one person in the marriage would have to be a tribal member. The proposal has to first be open for tribal comment for 30 days before being voted on by the tribal council. The tribal chair must then either sign or veto the measure.

Should the measure be adopted, it is uncertain what effect the provision could have on a same-sex couple that does not live on tribal land in Michigan, whether, for example, that couple would be treated as a married couple under tax laws and be permitted to adopt children.

(Continued on page 8)

Out at Work



by Frank Vaco,
LAHR Vice President

Spider in the Workplace

Adrienne Rich, a poet, who I am hooked on this month says in one of her poems, “the refusal to be a victim we have lived with violence so long am I to go on saying for myself for her this is my body take and destroy it.” Which makes me wonder where has our back bone gone to these days? I am not your boss and yet I have taken the time to order you out of the closet. Adrienne Rich recently passed away and the poem I refer to is talking about spiders holds greater meaning like every poem. It is one of her poems in the book *The Dream of a Common Language*. Further research discovered a spider is slang for an employee who manipulates sexually or seductively.

What are you doing not to become a victim and placing your body on the stack taken by the black widow? Are you being a web slinger enjoying new experiences of being out and free? Do you say to yourself bring it on life or any other affirming motto in your head? Do you escape into a dark corner or dark place?

In the past I was so not Mr. Social butterfly and feared of being swatted down over my part in a conversation. Recently I got lured into a conversation, I was on my way to my class in an elevator when I graciously kept the door open for someone saying goodbye to a girl. His response to me was to be apologetic but claimed that she was hot to him so worth the wait right? I was like I am gay and his response awkward. So trapped in an elevator and had gotten chewed off for stating my preference. What would you do to be not so awkward or sacrificial victim?

I so enjoy my new resume in which lists the courses I have taken to

feminism and teaching children diversity. We often hide what we have been training to do. I consider my resume the essence and a wakeup call that I do need to come competent on one subject during this lifetime. It’s only a matter of time until I shall find employment again. It’s still quite a growing experience to be out at the workplace. How are you catching your cliental or being a pest to gain Equality? Let me know at vacafrank@gmail.com

Advertise in the LGBT News!

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The Lansing Area AIDS Network (LAAN)

is now providing Rapid HIV Testing on Tuesdays
from 1pm to 8 pm. By appointment.
Results will be given the same day.

To schedule an appointment, please call 517-394-3719 ext.30 ask for Matt.
Rapid HIV testing is available at the LAAN office located at
913 W Holmes Rd suite 115 Lansing MI 48910.

GET TESTED; KNOW YOUR STATUS!

Pastor Kari



by Rev. Kari Nicewander

“Watering Dirt”

Sometimes, when I look around at the world, all I can see is dirt and mud. The mud that people sling at one another, the insults hurled, the hatred spewed, the ignorance unleashed. The dirt that covers beauty, skews truth, and undermines love. And when I am in this state of mind, miserable about the pain and oppression that I see, it helps me to remember the following story, from Rachel Naomi Remen. I thought I would share it with you this month.

“Often, when he came to visit, my grandfather would bring me a present. These were never the sorts of things that other people brought, dolls and books and stuffed animals. My dolls and stuffed animals have been gone for more than half a century, but many of my grandfather’s gifts are with me still.

“Once he brought me a little paper cup. I looked inside it expecting something special. It was full of dirt. I was not allowed to play with dirt. Disappointed, I told him this. He smiled at me fondly. Turning, he picked up the little teapot from my doll’s tea set and took me to the kitchen where he filled it with water. Back in the nursery, he put the little cup on the window sill and handed me the teapot. ‘If you promise to put some water in the cup every day, something may happen,’ he told me.

“At the time, I was four years old and my nursery was on the sixth floor of an apartment building in Manhattan. This whole thing made no sense to me at all. I looked at him dubiously. He nodded with encouragement. ‘Every day, Neshume-le,’ he told me.

“And so I promised. At first, curious to see what would happen, I did not mind doing this. But as the days went by and nothing changed, it got harder and harder to remember to water the cup. After a week, I asked my grandfather if it was time to stop yet. Shaking his head no, he said, ‘Every day, Neshume-le.’ The second week was even harder and I became resentful of my promise to water the cup. When my grandfather came again, I tried to give it back to him but he

refused to take it, saying simply, ‘Every day, Neshume-le.’ By the third week, I began to forget to water the cup. Often I would remember only after I had been put to bed and would have to get out of bed and water it in the dark. But I did not miss a single day. And one morning, there were two little green leaves that had not been there the night before.

“I was completely astonished. Day by day they got bigger. I could not wait to tell my grandfather, certain that he would be as surprised as I was. But of course he was not. Carefully he explained to me that life is everywhere, hidden in the most ordinary and unlikely places. I was delighted. ‘And all it needs is water, Grandpa?’ I asked him. Gently he touched me on the top of my head. ‘No, Neshume-le,’ he said. ‘All it needs is your faithfulness.’

We are called to be faithful as we work for justice, equality, and peace. And sometimes, when all we can see is dirt, we need to remember that seeds are sprouting, that life is on its way, just below the surface. May we remember that life, love, and hope are hidden everywhere, that seeds are growing, even if dirt and mud seem to abound. And may we be faithful in watering those seeds of hope, seeds of peace, seeds of justice.

God bless,
Pastor Kari
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Walking the Beat



by Michelle Bryant,
LGBT Liaison
Officer

Fraud Warning

This month I am going to discuss some current fraud trends that we are seeing in the Greater Lansing area. I am going to discuss several specific fact patterns, and how to best prevent becoming a victim yourself.

A friend/associate asks you to cash a check for them because they lost their identification, or they don't have a bank account. They tell you they will give you \$20 for gas. You take the check to your bank, present your ID, cash the check and give the money to the friend. A few weeks later, the bank contacts you and tells you that the check was counterfeit and that you are responsible for the loss. You attempt to contact your friend, but your friend is no longer taking your calls.

You are responsible for the monetary loss based on your actions. If you did this knowing the check was fraudulent or altered in anyway, you can be charged with Uttering and Publishing, a 14 year felony. Often, people unknowingly get caught up in this scenario because they are trying to help out a friend. To avoid getting caught up in a similar scenario, don't cash checks for anyone. If you choose to, hold onto the cash until you know that the check has cleared. Just because a bank cashes a check doesn't mean it's a valid check.

You are looking for a job online. You receive an email that offers you a "reshipping" job. A legitimate looking contract is emailed to you. The company says that packages will be sent to your address, you are to repackage the items and send them to the addresses provided. The company sometimes even provides the prepaid shipping label. You will be paid once a month.

After a few weeks, the police come knocking at your door. They ask you about the items that have been purchased with stolen credit card numbers that have been shipped to your address. You explain

that it is your new job that you signed up for online. You then realize that you have repackaged several items, but you still haven't been paid. You try to contact your employer but the telephone number has been disconnected. The e-mail address is no longer valid.

You have no idea who you are talking to online. There may be some legitimate job postings, but verify everything. Once again, you are being used as a pawn to do someone else's dirty work.

You are on Craig's list looking for a place to rent. You find a great buy! Only \$400 per month for a 3 bedroom house. The posting includes photos of a beautiful house. You respond to the ad. The landlord responds but says they have another interested party. If you are willing to pay for 6 months up front + the security deposit, the house is yours! The landlord requests that you wire the money to him in Nigeria where he is currently working. You are excited you got such a good deal, so you wire the money immediately.

You soon find out that the house is already occupied and that the landlord never had it listed for rent on Craig's list. You wired \$2,800 overseas to an unknown person. You call the local police department and they tell you they can take a report, but there is little more that they can do. You are out the money and you are out the rental house.

I could go on and on with scenarios. New scams are being developed all of the time. People have a natural inclination to trust people. People want to help people. Con artists play on those vulnerabilities. The best way to avoid being conned is to use common sense. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Do Not Send Drones to Kill

*Killing by remote control is wrong.
Drones kill too many innocent civilians.
Beware of drones.*

DRONES ARE NOT THE ANSWER!

The Greater Lansing Network Against War & Injustice,
working for Peace and Justice in the Lansing area.

Donations Welcome

www.glnawi.org

Equal Rights

(Continued from page 5)

The Little Traverse Band is the first tribe in the state to consider adopting a provision dealing with same-sex marriage. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has decided to follow state requirements on same-sex marriage. Two other tribes in the U.S., the Coquille Tribe in Oregon and the Squamish Tribe in Washington, have adopted same-sex marriage provisions.

LAHR Grant Proposals Selected

by Kate Miller, LAHR Board

LAHR is proud to announce that the Equality Band of Michigan and Gateway Community Services will receive funding for their proposed programs.

The Equality Band of Michigan is looking to increase awareness and membership for their band. The Equality Band travels around Michigan and brings in Michigan musicians as they perform. They are part of a larger national organization and have been seen at events such as Michigan Pride. The Equality Band strives to educate the state of Michigan and encourages its members to be healthy in their lives socially, mentally, and physically. The money received from the LAHR Grant Program will go

toward increasing awareness of, and unity in, the Equality Band through website development, purchase of musical instruments and music, and band apparel.

Gateway Community Services is a previous recipient of funding from the LAHR Grant Program. Gateway is extending their program, Teens Respecting and Understanding Each other (TRUE), that offers LGBTQI youth to spend time with other people their age in a safe space. LGBTQI youth receive education and support through group activities. Social work professionals and volunteers help LGBTQI youth learn about sexual health, bullying, and other important aspects of life as a LGBTQI youth. In a world where our younger community members often grow up alone and apart from the greater

(Continued on page 14)

Relationship, Not Rules



Relationship, Not Rules.” That has become our church’s motto. Many interpret God’s Word as being a rule book. “Just follow the rules and then, you’ll be a ‘good’ Christian.” It’s a pretty “safe” system, in that, you can track your performance and those of others quite easily. Everything is simple and easy to understand (at least on the surface). Judgments can be made swiftly and easily. OOOOOPS!!! We have just discovered the fatal flaw. “Judge not, that ye be not judged.” (Matthew 7:1) It is a WRONG system that is 100% guaranteed to bring the WRONG results.

The overall theme of the Bible can be summed up in the two greatest commandments given by Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40. Summed up, He said that we are to truly love God, and to truly love others. If we keep those two commandments, we will be living out the Christian life as God intended, doing so with God’s heart and attitude, not with some man-made adaptations of His desires for us. True love rules out condemning judgments. We then live in a place where we fully realize that flawed human beings have no ability or authority to judge other flawed human beings. We simply must leave all that up to God.

As the pastors of Covenant Life Worship Center, our aim is to treat everyone with love and respect, excluding or judging no one. We endeavor by word and example to unite God and His people into a more intimate relationship than perhaps they’ve ever had before. We open our doors to all, as we rebuild on a more solid foundation: the truth that God loves and includes all.

Pastors Phil & Marilyn Parmelee
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Gay rights in Michigan:
Still a tough place to live
see page 14

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City Pulse Welcomes Monique Goch as Sales Director

Friday Dinner Group



by Gary Hicks,
Host

Chick'n & Fix'ns

The May LGBT Dinner will be held Friday, May 18, 2012, at 6:30 pm at Chick'n & Fix'ns Restaurant, 6333 S. Cedar Street, just south of Edgewood

Blvd. This restaurant offers chicken fingers, chicken pot pies, bbq chicken sandwiches and sides such as garlic smashed potatoes, sweet potato fries, green beans, baked beans, mac and cheese, cole slaw and biscuits. Strawberry shortcake is available for dessert.

These dinners are usually held the third Friday of each month at a different restaurant in the Lansing area and provide an opportunity to socialize over a casual meal. We usually dine at independently-owned restaurants where entrees can be purchased for less than ten dollars.

All members of the mid-Michigan LGBT community, including MSU, LCC, and Cooley students, as well as friends, family members, and allies are welcome to attend. So whether you come on your own or bring a friend or partner, please join us for dinner! RSVP to Gary Hicks at garyhickslaw@aol.com by 3 pm on Friday, May 18, if you plan to attend so we know how much seating to request.

Washington / Lansing Responds

Senator Debbie Stabenow Responds to a LAHR Member:

Subject: Health Care for Women

Thank you for contacting me about preventive health care for women. I share your views!

I have led the fight to protect women's health. I support the President's decision to ensure that women receive equal treatment from insurance companies while protecting the rights of religious employers.

I strongly opposed the Blunt Amendment, which would have allowed any employer to deny any type of health care coverage for women for any reason. This could have jeopardized access to essential preventive health care, including contraception, maternity care, and mammograms. I will continue to strongly oppose any legislation that attempts to take away critical health care services from women.

Thank you again for contacting me. Please continue to keep me informed about issues of concern to you and your family.

Sincerely,
Debbie Stabenow, United States Senator

(Publisher's Note – I have now received many emails from people, including my own, from governmental officials on a variety of subjects. Beginning in May, 2009, I am going to include one letter per month entitled "Washington / Lansing Responds." I hope these letters provide you a better understanding of where our elected officials stand on important LGBT issues and a better understanding of the issue. If you receive responses, please email them to me. Thank You!)

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Historic MSU Housing Changes

from Kathy Collins, MSU

On April 2, 2012 rising sophomore students were able to sign up for flexible housing options for the 2012-2013 school year. These housing options may specifically benefit students you connect with on a daily basis at MSU. The current flexible housing options (University Village and Spartan Village) were expanded in two upper-class residence halls, West McDonel and North Wonders Halls (suite-style accommodations), as follows:

Rising sophomore students and above, including graduate students, or transfer students [who are at least 18 years old and eligible for university housing], were able to sign up for flexible housing, on a limited, opt-in basis only, without regard to gender. This expansion in flexible living options will be piloted over a two-year period, and limited to ten (4) person suites per hall. During the two-year pilot period the university will assess the impact of this change before continuing beyond the two-year period or expansion beyond the two residence halls.

Dee Hurlbert, LGBT Resource Center, commented, "This is an historic occasion and another day on which I am proud to be a SPARTAN. Thank you to all who contributed to this significant advance in our campus living services at Michigan State University.

I would especially like to thank the student leaders who initiated and championed housing options for all who are in need of free-choice in the sex and gender of their roommates. This will increase access for transgender students to the academic and personal wellness benefits of the campus residential experience. "

Breakfast Club Fun

by Bill Beachler, LAHR Host

The LAHR Breakfast Club will be getting together Saturday, May 26th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Frandor Flap Jack.

LAHR Board members Cindy Redman and her partner Pam also usually attend. The Breakfast Club normally meets on the fourth Saturday each month. We do not change our location every month, but we do sometimes change it. We always post a notice about the Breakfast Club on the LAHR List Service. If you do not participate in this excellent service, read the Know What's Happening article in this issue. You may also call me or email anytime – see below.

The Breakfast Club is an excellent opportunity for the LGBT community and our families and friends to get together, enjoy good food, meet new friends, and discuss current issues and events without having any responsibilities.

Everyone is welcome!!

If you have any questions, please call Bill at 337-1419 or email beachlerb@sbcglobal.net or call Cindy at 643-0956 .

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Washington / Lansing Responds

Representative Joan Bauer Responds to a LAHR Member:

Subject: Michigan Non-discrimination Law

Thank you for getting in touch with my office. I am always happy to hear from engaged constituents.

I was thrilled to see Senator Warren introduce legislation to amend Michigan's non-discrimination law to include protections for our state's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender residents. I will be voting yes on the bill when it comes to the House of Representatives. It is my hope that colleagues in the House and Senate recognize the importance of protecting all Michiganders from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations and support this bill. I will do all I can to advocate for the passage of this legislation that protects the civil rights of so many Michigan citizens.

Thank you again for your input, and please feel free to contact my office with any other concerns.

Sincerely,
Joan Bauer, State Representative

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Washington / Lansing Responds

Senator Rebekah Warren Responds to a LAHR Member:

Subject: Michigan Non-discrimination Law

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for Senate Bill 1063, my new legislation which would expand Michigan's Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

As the proud sponsor of this bill, I share your deep concern about the discrimination LGBT citizens face, and agree that we must work to ensure that all Michiganders are afforded equal protection under the law. Moving forward, please rest assured that I will work vigorously to see that it is passed and to promote measures that remedy the inequities that exist in our state for LGBT individuals.

Once again, thank you for your correspondence. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (517) 373-2406 or senrwarren@senate.michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Warren, State Senator, 18th District

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Gateway LGBT Youth Activities Continued

by Bill Beachler, Publisher

(Publisher Note – Recently, I provided several reports that provided information and progress about our LAHR grant to Gateway. LAHR extended the Gateway youth project and the following is a continuation of the article from the March newsletter from their most recent report. Sorry for the time gap between the report and this issue.)

Following are activities for a month:

- The group participated in an activity called “No Two Snowflakes” to explore individuality. Decorated the store front window at Everybody Reads Bookstore with the snowflakes.
- The group hosted a pizza social at Sir Pizza in Old Town. 12 youth attended from 5 different schools (Holt, Okemos, East Lansing, Bath and Corunna High School). One youth’s parents came with her to meet the facilitators of the group.
- After the pizza social 2 new group members joined the group!
- Presented at Eastern High School’s GSA and discussed the upcoming Pizza Social and how teens can get involved in group.

Barriers:

1. Increasing the number of youth attending – many youth communicate with Gateway by phone or email about coming to group but have not actually made it to group. There has been an increase with parent contact and community referrals. – This is still a struggle; however they have noticed that after the event they host they usually get one – two new youth who attend group.
2. Accessing the teens that need the group the most.
3. Staying in regular communication with parents.

Lessons Learned:

Gateway has learned that email and Facebook are a great way to connect with youth. They have been posting more links to events and news worthy articles on the Facebook page. The stats are now showing that a majority of the people accessing the page are between

the ages of 13 – 18. This is a huge increase!

Gateway has also learned that the best way to offer support to youth is to provide them an opportunity to meet other people their age and have fun in addition to gaining support. The pizza social was a great example of this!

Gateway will use this information to expand the group and the services they offer.

Grant Proposals

(Continued from page 9)

community, Gateway provides a safe place to grow. The money received from the LAHR Grant Program will go toward staffing, office supplies, therapeutic arts and crafts, admission fees for community events, food, and promotional products to help the TRUE program develop.

The LAHR Grant Program received many outstanding program proposals and encourages groups to send in their project proposals during the next LAHR Grant Program application cycle!

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Calendar of Events!

SUNDAY

- **Covenant Life Worship Center** - noon (Wed. 7:30 p.m.) - 1380 Haslett Rd., Haslett - Phil & Marilyn Parmelee at 339-9590, www.cwchurch.com
- **First Presbyterian Church** - LAHR Institutional Member - Sunday service at 10 a.m. 510 W. Ottawa St. - contact Tracy at 482-0668 or tweldon@lansingfirstpres.org
- **Light House Chapel** - An Open and Affirming Church - LGBT friendly-11:00 a.m. service - 1501 Windsor St., Lansing, 48906. Contact (517) 394-2080 for info.
- **All Saints Episcopal Church**, Open and Affirming, Sunday Service 10am, 800 Abbot, East Lansing.
- **Edgewood United Church of Christ**, Open and Affirming, Sunday Service 10am, 469 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing
- **Unitarian Universalist Church**, Open and Affirming, Sunday Services 9:15am & 11:15am, 85 Grove, East Lansing
- **Volleyball** - With warm weather - 1:00 - 5:00 - Sharp Park north of the Lansing Mall. For information, contact Bill at 337-1419 or email beachlerb@sbcglobal.net.
- **Fellowship for Today** - 5:30 p.m. - Open & Affirming - Lansing Korean United Methodist Church, 2400 E. Lake Lansing Rd., E. Lansing - contact (517) 337-4070 or info@fellowshipfortoday.org.
- **Unity of Greater Lansing** - 11 a.m. - Open & Affirming - 240 Marshall St. - contact (517) 371-3010 or revkent@unityofgreaterlansing.org.
- **Red Cedar Friends Quaker Meeting** - 1400 Turner Street, Lansing. Meetings for Worship in the manner of friends Sundays 9:00 to 10:00 am & 10:30 - 11:30 am. Childcare available. Open and Affirming.

MONDAY

- **Lansing Community College Gay Straight Alliance** - Meets every Monday at 6pm in Gannon Building Room 304 on LCC Main Campus, 422 North Washington Square - contact Frank Vaco lccgsasecretary@yahoo.com or Jennifer Spenny Spennyj@lcc.edu for more information
- **LGBT AA meeting** - 7:30 p.m., University Lutheran Church, South Harrison, in East Lansing.
- **Social Knit Night** - 2nd Monday of each month. 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., 319 S. Waverly Rd.
- **Gay Bowling** - Every Monday at Holiday Lanes in Frandor. Starts at 9pm until midnight - A benefit for Michigan Pride. For information, contact Darren at canejoda@gmail.com.

TUESDAY

- **Starting May 1st - weekly Coffee Evening** 6pm-8pm at Gone Wired Café - Contact Frank Vaca at lccgsasecretary@yahoo.com
- **Grand River Connection** - 4th Tuesday casual group for the "creative class." Sign-up and get more info at: www.grandriverconnection.com.
- **Euchre at Esquire Club** - registration at 6:30 p.m.
- **LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus** - Weekley rehearsals are at the Molly Grove Chapel of the First Presbyterian Church at 510 W. Ottawa St. in downtown Lansing from 6:45-8:45pm. To email: info@glgmc.org or visit the website at www.glgmc.org.
- **Michigan Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Straight Allies of Faith Working for Justice for All** - 6:30 p.m to 8:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month in Lansing at a different spiritual place - contact Khristian at (586) 801-5427 or kspeelman@afsc.org - www.faithactionnetwork.org
- **LGBTQA with Disabilities Group** - weekly at 5:30pm-7:30pm - at Capital Area Center for Independent Living, 2812 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Lansing - for more information, contact Frank Vaca on Facebook or call (517) 643-1491.

WEDNESDAY

- **Suits And The City** - 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the Month - the location changes each month - please visit www.suitsandthecity.com for the location or to contact the organization.
- **Karaoke Night** - 9:00 p.m. at Esquire
- **Sistrum, Lansing Womens Chorus** - 7-9pm, Wed. at Central United Methodist Church, 215 N Capitol, Lansing. www.sistrum.org
- **Just B Yoga and Tai Chi, LLC - FREE community yoga class**, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 106 Island Avenue, REO Town, Lansing. This is a flowing yoga class for all levels. Just B loves the LGBT community and encourages all to explore the benefits of cultivating a healthy body-mind connection. Come early. Space fills fast. Mats are available. More info: www.justbyoga.com 517-488-5260

THURSDAY

- **Bingo** - 7:00 p.m. at Esquire

FRIDAY

- **LAHR Downtown Lunch** - 11:45 a.m. second Friday at Meditaran at 333 S. Washington, credit cards accepted! Contact Greg at MLLatino@aol.com
- **LGBT AA meeting**, 6:30 p.m., at University United Methodist Church, South Harrison, in East Lansing
- **LAHR Friday Night Dinner** - 6:30 p.m. on third Friday of the month. Meets at different restaurant each month. Contact Gary at garyatmsu@aol.com

SATURDAY

- **LAHR Breakfast Club** - 10 a.m. 4th Saturday each month. Contact Bill for location and questions at 337-1419 or beachlerb@sbcglobal.net

VARIES

- **Equality Band of Michigan** - Rehearsals have been Sunday at 5:00 or Monday at 7:00 at Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave. in Lansing. For exact information, contact Gary at ghicks5200@aol.com or 517-525-1732

Join LAHR Today!

The purpose of the Lansing Association for Human Rights is to improve the quality of life for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people throughout the greater Lansing area through Civil rights activities, communications, education, social events and supportive services.

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