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MARCH 8, 2017  
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S O U T H F L O R I D A G A Y N E W S

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**SFGN WINNER** of  
**& 3 FLORIDA PRESS CLUB AWARDS**  
 And runner-up for  
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Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando) Photo by John McDonald

# FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC LGBT CAUCUS REFORMS IN LAKELAND

John McDonald

In a county that Republicans swept decisively last election cycle, a group of Florida Democrats prepared to organize an opposition movement.

“Polk County is where Mufasa told Simba not to come,” said David Jones invoking words from “The Lion King” to a room full of community activists Saturday at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Lakeland. “The gay marriage ban started right here at the First Baptist Church.”

Jones is a member of the Rainbow Ridge Democrats, an LGBT political group based in Polk County. He was one of several speakers during the winter meeting of the Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus.

The caucus has been around a while under various names, said Michael Albetta, a district director representing Broward County. Albetta said what started as Triangle Democrats in Key West grew to become a statewide movement known as the GLBT Caucus. Sally Phillips of Hillsborough County took control in 2011 and the caucus later became the Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus with the “A” standing for allies.

“We couldn’t do it without our allies,” said Phillips.

Terry Fleming of Alachua County was

re-elected Caucus President at Saturday’s meeting. Chartered by the Florida Democratic Party, the caucus serves to educate, advocate, support and elect.

“We don’t care where you are on the Kinsey scale as long as you believe in equal rights,” said Jones.

In this I-4 corridor community the caucus heard reports from around the state, a presentation from civil rights group Floridians for a Fair Democracy followed by a speech from Representative Carlos Guillermo Smith of Orlando.

Smith, claiming the title as Florida’s first queer Latinx legislator, represents district 49 in Tallahassee. The lawmaker’s speech primarily focused on guns.

“Florida is the gunshine state,” Smith said. “It’s really sad. We — unfortunately because of how permissive our state laws are when it comes to access to firearms — we are at the top of and the bottom of a lot of really terrible lists.”

Smith said Florida ranks last among all 50 U.S. states in funding for mental health services. Citing a recent report from the Tampa Bay Times, Smith said a child is shot every 17 hours in Florida.

Attempting to reverse those trends, Smith has filed house bill 6033 which

targets the Firearm Owners Privacy Act (FOPA), a 2011 piece of legislation commonly referred to as “Docs vs. Glocks.”

“That law is so stupid,” Smith said. “God forbid a doctor should ask a patient, “Are you a firearm owner? Do you have your firearm safely secured unloaded and locked in a private place in the home? Because if they (Docs) do ask that question under Florida law they can be sued and also lose their license to practice medicine. How stupid is that? It’s stupid and extreme.”

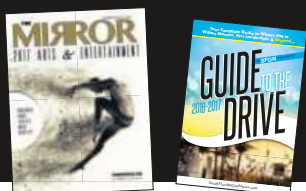
With many constituents of district 49 still healing from the Pulse Nightclub massacre, Smith is partnering with Senator Gary Farmer of Fort Lauderdale to repeal the “Docs vs. Glocks” law.

Representatives, Smith said, are allowed to file six bills each session.

Meeting in Lakeland was a risky move for the caucus. Polk County, despite having more registered Democrats (151,056) than Republicans (147,456) went for Donald Trump in last fall’s U.S. Presidential election. Trump carried the county with 157,418 votes (55 percent) to 117,422 (41 percent) for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. **SFGN**

## OUR OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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Cover 1, 'Before Night Falls' - Jorge Martin's opera based on the life of gay Cuban poet and dissident Reinaldo Arenas, will receive its regional premiere at Florida Grand Opera. Submitted photo.  
 Cover 2, 'Black Women Rise' - Keynote speaker: Dr. Angela Davis. Photo: Charles Pratt.

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# News Briefs

## Looking for a Gender-Neutral Bathroom? Yelp can Help

(AP) Yelp, the crowd-sourced company specializing in online reviews, is wading into the national debate over transgender people's bathroom access with a new feature that will enable consumers to search for businesses offering gender-neutral restrooms.

In a blog post on Friday, Yelp said it would collect information from both customers and business owners in order to add a "Gender Neutral Restrooms" category to its listings. Yelp defines such restrooms as locking, single-stall toilet facilities accessible to people of any gender.

"At Yelp we thrive on inclusion and acceptance," the blog post said.

Rachel Williams, Yelp's head of diversity since November 2014, said the initiative, to be phased in over several weeks, marked the first time during her tenure that the company had sought to integrate a social issue into its website and app.

"The hope is that this feature gets business owners thinking about how they're presenting themselves - who they're supporting and why," Williams said. "Maybe it will start some conversations."

She said the idea for the new feature came from employees in Yelp's products section who were "incensed" by efforts in some parts of the U.S. to curtail transgender people's civil rights.

On Thursday, Yelp was among 53 U.S. companies filing a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting transgender teen Gavin Grimm in a lawsuit against his local school board in Virginia's Gloucester County. Grimm wants to use the boys' bathroom at his high school, saying it matches his chosen gender; the board's policy prohibits him from doing so.

Along with Yelp, businesses supporting the brief included Airbnb, Apple, eBay, IBM, Microsoft, PayPal, Tumblr and Williams-Sonoma. Similar briefs were filed by religious leaders, major medical associations, civil rights organizations, teachers' unions and other groups.

The conservative legal group Alliance Defending Freedom, which filed a brief supporting the Gloucester County school board, criticized the 53 companies for disregarding the concerns that some students might have about sharing bathrooms and locker rooms with transgender schoolmates. **SFGN**



Photo: Facebook.

### STATE

## Pulse Nightclub Victims' Fund Will Make Second Payout

(AP) Survivors of the Pulse nightclub massacre and families of the victims will receive a second payout from the OneOrlando Fund.

According to an Orlando Sentinel report, the fund's board of directors decided late Friday to distribute \$1.3 million in additional contributions made since September.

The fund already has distributed \$29.5 million for 305 claims. The city of Orlando created the fund to help the families of 49 people killed and patrons who were inside the club when a shooter opened fire June 12. The shooter was killed by police.

Fund officials said Friday that five families are still fighting in court over who will get compensated.

Board members said the new payout will follow the same formula as the first, with the most money going to the families of the deceased. **SFGN**



#OrlandoUnited

### NATIONAL

## Arkansas Lawmaker Backs Off Transgender 'Bathroom Bill' Plan

(AP) An Arkansas lawmaker on Thursday backed away from a broad "bathroom bill" targeting transgender people that had drawn opposition from the state's Republican governor, but said he will propose another measure giving schools legal protection over their restroom policies.

Republican Sen. Greg Standridge said he's withdrawing his one-sentence bill to address gender identity and bathroom privileges. A co-sponsor of the measure had said it was intended to require that people use public restrooms consistent with the gender on their birth certificate.

Standridge said the bill isn't needed after President Donald Trump revoked an Obama-era federal directive instructing public schools to let transgender students use bathrooms and locker rooms of their chosen gender.

"The bathroom bill to begin with was to do some things for the schools, and I think we've got that worked out now federally with Trump coming down with what he said," Standridge told reporters.

The bill Standridge introduced last month offered no specifics. It had faced criticism from Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson and tourism groups who warned the move was unnecessary and would hurt the state. A similar law in North Carolina has drawn widespread criticism and boycotts from businesses, and prompted the NBA to pull this year's All-Star Game out of Charlotte. Business groups and LGBT-rights supporters have warned that a North Carolina-style bill being considered in Texas could cost that state many millions of dollars and the opportunity to host future pro sports championships. **SFGN**

### NATIONAL

## Last-Ditch Effort to Add LGBT Protections in Idaho Added

(AP) A surprise rule technicality blocked Idaho's House Democrats attempts to add last-minute legislation to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from employment and housing discrimination.

House Minority Leader Mat Erpelding said Thursday that his caucus was planning on submitting an amendment to an election-related bill that would have deleted the majority of the bill's original language. Instead, the proposal would have added the words "gender identity" and "sexual orientation" to Idaho's Human Rights Act.

That effort came to a halt after Republican leadership pointed out that the amendment would have violated House rules because the proposal was not germane to the original legislation.

The state's Republican-controlled Legislature has consistently blocked efforts to amend the Human Rights Act for nearly a decade. **SFGN**



# COPS: TRANSGENDER PROTESTER ARRESTED FOR KICKING OVER TENT

John McDonald

Police have released the identity of the individual arrested last Friday night during a transgender rights demonstration.

According to a complaint affidavit from the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, 25-year-old Timothy Daniel Pilar was arrested and charged with one count of disorderly conduct and one count of resisting an officer without violence.

Video from NBC6 South Florida camera crews show police lifting Pilar off the ground and into a squad car. Pilar was attending a protest organized by transgender activists in response to the U.S. Justice Department's decision to scrap the Obama administration's transgender guidelines for students.

In the affidavit, arresting officer Krystal K. Smith writes "Pilar entered a park, after being instructed to leave Pilar kicked over a tent."

Upon kicking over the tent, Officer Smith informed Pilar he was under arrest. The police report reads, Pilar then ran, was caught and taken down.

The incident occurred at 50 E. Las Olas Blvd. Pilar is listed as a 6-foot, male with a Pembroke



Pines address. Officer Smith indicates Pilar was under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

NBC6 reported Pilar was tased during apprehension, however there is no mention of Smith using a taser in the affidavit. **SFGN**

## TESTOSTERONE THERAPY FOR MEN

In a world where science and medicine keep advancing at unprecedented rates, the discovery that men suffer from hormone unbalance comes as no surprise. Andropause, known as male menopause, begins affecting men in their mid-thirties when testosterone levels start decreasing gradually by approximately 2% annually. This leaves an average man in his 50's with only about 35% of his original highest level. Luckily, there's an effective solution: Bio-Identical Testosterone Replacement Therapy. Lower levels of Testosterone manifest through a number of physical, mental and emotional symptoms including:

- Increase in body fat, especially around the waistline
- Decrease in muscle mass
- Feeling tired or not motivated much of the time
- Diminished sexual performance or loss of sex drive
- Irritability, sleep disturbances, some level of depression
- Memory loss, lack of concentration

Historically, these symptoms have been considered part of the "normal" aging process. But they really don't need to be. While there is no way of slowing down aging, the effects of it can be drastically changed.

Men suffering from lower levels of testosterone benefit greatly from Bio-Identical Testosterone Replacement Therapy. Using cutting-edge technology,

Dr. Cabrera of the Genesis Health Institute begins treatment with simple blood tests to assess a patient's baseline testosterone level. "The medically accepted normal range is fairly broad, between 200-1200," says Dr. Cabrera. "Our goal is to optimize our patients' levels to the higher end of the normal range. By doing so, our patients realize optimal benefits including increased lean muscle, decreased body fat, more energy, greater sexual appetite and arousal, greater thought and memory process, better restful sleep and most importantly, a better overall feeling of well-being."

The Genesis Health Institute uses only Bio-Identical Testosterone meaning the molecular structure of the hormone is biologically identical to what the human body naturally produces. Testosterone therapy is available at Genesis in topical, injectable and pellet delivery systems. All therapies are medically supervised with regular blood work and doctor follow up visits to ensure the benefits of treatment are being realized.

All men feeling the symptoms described in this article are invited to call the Genesis Health Institute at 954-561-3175 and schedule a complimentary consultation with their patient coordinator. He will be able to provide more information about this very affordable therapy, as well as other age management therapies, which are all designed to increase quantity and most importantly quality of life!

The Genesis Health Institute is located at 1001 NE 26th Street, Wilton Manors, FL 33305 (next to Starbucks at 5-points) and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9am to 5pm. You may also check their website at [www.ghinstitute.com](http://www.ghinstitute.com) for more information on their cutting edge medical and aesthetic treatments.



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## EMMY-WINNING RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE ABRUPTLY MOVES TO MAINSTREAM CHANNEL

▶ Brittany Ferrendi

RuPaul's Drag Race is being moved from LGBT-centric LogoTV to cable channel VH1. Logo will air exclusive content, including a 'Race to the Nines' series marathon on March 19 which includes previously-unseen bonus content.

"Coming off RuPaul's Emmy win and a ratings record-breaking season of All Stars, the fandom around RuPaul's Drag Race has only continued to swell as we head into season nine," Pamela Post, SVP of Original Programming & Development at Logo, told VH1. "Broadcasting the show on VH1 will allow more fans to experience the energy, heart and talent these fierce queens bring to the stage every week."

The first episode features first LGBT Superbowl halftime singer Lady Gaga as a guest judge. Her appearance was confirmed in a teaser last month and on her Twitter.

"The time has come! I'm joining the girls on the season premiere of @RuPaulsDragRace! #DontBeADrag #JustBeAQueen," she wrote.

The full trailer reveals a closer look at the contestants, including first openly transgender



contestant Peppermint. Also joining the cast is Trinity Taylor, voted Miss Pulse at the Pulse Nightclub in 2011.

RuPaul's Drag Race season nine will premiere on Friday, March 24 at 8 p.m. **SFGN**



## SMART RIDE KICK OFF FUNDRAISER A "NIGHT OF STARS" MARCH 9

Event will feature celebrity bartenders

▶ Ryan Yousefi

Lips, the ultimate in drag dining, kicks-off the fundraising for this year's fourteenth annual Smart Ride with their "A Night of Stars" HIV/AIDS awareness event scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 9.

The fundraiser is an effort to raise funds that will go towards the annual 165 mile Smart Ride bicycle ride taking place in November. The ride, that stretches from Miami to Key West, benefits HIV/AIDS-related charities, including Broward House, Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Centers, Metro Wellness and Community Centers, Pridelines, AIDS Help, Compass Community Center, and Miracle of Love.

Over the past 13 years, Smart Ride has raised more than \$8.5 million, and 100 percent of the money raised by its participants are given to AIDS Service Organizations throughout the State of Florida to provide direct services to those living with, affected by, or at risk for the disease. In this 14th year, both Lips and Smart Ride are pulling out all the stops to make sure it's their biggest and best yet.

The Lips event, hosted by hostess Nicolette with a special appearance by Michael Dean as Cher, will feature celebrity guest servers: Jane Bolin, Victor Diaz Herman, Stacy Hyde, Mark Ketchum and Tom Runyan.

"Lips continues its proud support of the community with this fun night planned especially for Smart Ride, which donates 100 percent of proceeds to statewide AIDS care service organizations," said Yvonne Lamé, Lips founder and co-owner. "A Night of Stars will showcase Lips' unique brand of dragalicious fun while raising funds to offset costs of the huge successful biking event."

Michael Goodman, event organizer and spokesperson for Lips, said this year's event to kick-off the Smart Ride funding is sure to be a blast.

"Lips is known as the celebration place, and this event is just that as the official kick-off of Smart Ride." Goodman said. "It will be amazing with a night of stars, including the celebrity servers, special guest talent and the cast of Lips, plus everyone will be excited to help launch this year's amazing ride."

According to Goodman, the partnership between the Lips family and Smart Ride has been a natural one, and one that just makes a ton of sense.

"Lips is proud to support the community and respected organizations like Smart Ride. It is a good match and a cause that is near and dear to the Lips family."

For Smart Ride founder Glen Weinzimer, raising funds for HIV/AIDS charities hits home. Weinzimer was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS over 20 years ago. Last year Weinzimer told SFGN just how important getting funds to help get HIV/AIDS patients support and treatment is, as he's a living testament as to what advances in medicine have done for those living with the HIV and AIDS.

"I shouldn't be alive." Weinzimer said last year prior to the Smart Ride race. "I was one of those people who wasn't supposed to live 10 days."

Lips has been a partner of the Smart Ride event for several years now. The fundraisers have helped the annual event raise money that's been critical to making the ride happen every year.

"We are grateful to Lips for their continued support for the past four years, which impacts several statewide organizations committed to helping those affected by HIV/AIDS," Weinzimer said. "Our amazing group of celebrity servers to this kick-off event, we know this will be our best year as we challenge ourselves and the community to raise more than \$1.1 million." **SFGN**

Reservations are required for Lips' "A Night of Stars" to benefit SMART Ride. Tickets are \$50 per person, which includes a three-course dinner with soft drinks, gratuity and the show cover charge. A \$75 VIP level enjoys the same plus premium seating and one complimentary drink. To reserve your seats for Lips' "A Night of Stars" in support of Smart Ride, call Smart Ride at 866-696-7701 or visit [TheSmartRide.org](http://TheSmartRide.org).

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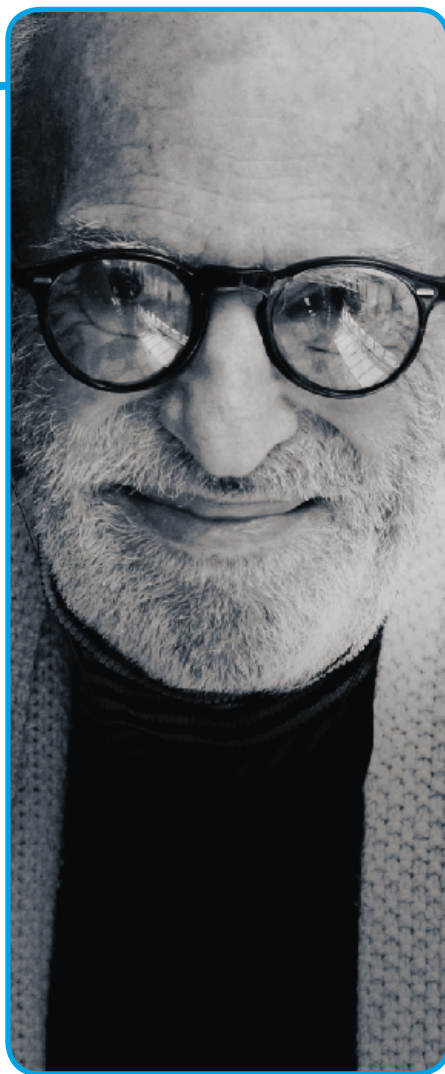
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## SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR HIV ACTIVIST LARRY KRAMER

Book signing Thursday and on stage interview Friday

▶ Ryan Yousefi



The World AIDS Museum and Educational Center (WAM) will open the doors of their new exhibit; AIDS Crisis in America: 30 Years of ACT UP - A Convergence of Disease, Art and Human Resilience, March 8.

In addition, WAM announced Academy Award-winning performer Larry Kramer will be on hand to help the center celebrate. The exhibit, set to run into mid-April, will feature artwork, film, and photography that helps detail the 30-year history of ACT UP, the primary organization behind political and social responses to the AIDS pandemic.

Kramer is scheduled to appear at WAM for a book signing, March 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. And "An Evening with Larry Kramer" March 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sunshine Cathedral, tickets are \$25.

Throughout the three-day event Kramer will speak to the history of the HIV/AIDS crisis and corresponding evolution of the LGBT movement, and detail how it's impacted the LGBT community over the last 35 years.

Kramer co-founded the Gay Men's Health Crisis in 1982, an organization that has become the world's largest private group assisting people living with AIDS. While Kramer is known for being outspoken, and at times controversial, his work educating the LGBT community on the AIDS epidemic is widely respected.

Kramer's work with ACT UP, a group he co-founded in 1987, is widely considered one of the reasons public health policy and the perception of people living with AIDS changed over the years as people began to remove the stigma behind the disease.

Kramer also wrote the critically acclaimed play, "The Normal Heart," a look at the AIDS crisis in its early years. The play went on to become a Broadway show and was recently adapted as an HBO film in 2014.

According to WAM CEO Hugh Beswick, securing Kramer for the new AIDS exhibit launch was extremely important to the museum.

"Larry Kramer is brilliant, controversial and often difficult. Every person we contacted about this exhibit advised us that the story of AIDS cannot be told without Larry Kramer — like him or not, he was behind the key events which led to where we are today," Beswick said. "He also addresses more fully than others the role of stigma in hindering the resolution of this

pandemic. WAM was founded by Steve Stagon on the premise that the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS is almost worse than the disease itself."

Beswick says the museum created the new exhibit to educate people, and Kramer is uniquely qualified to help them do just that.

"This new exhibit means that WAM is broadening its impact and attracting the attention of national and global organizations. Beswick said. "It also details individuals who are keys to the past, present, and future of HIV/AIDS. Larry Kramer has been at the heart of the AIDS story." *SFGN*

For more information about The World AIDS Museum and Educational Center, or the opening of their AIDS Crisis in America: 30 Years of ACT UP - A Convergence of Disease, Art and Human Resilience, please call the museum at 954-390-0550, or email them at [hughbeswick@comcast.net](mailto:hughbeswick@comcast.net).

Visit [SFGN.com/Kramer](http://SFGN.com/Kramer) to read SFGN's exclusive interview with Larry Kramer. "A good activist is someone who is angry and frightened at the same time," Kramer told SFGN. "The one thing that pisses me off are gay people who aren't willing to fight for their rights."

## DISNEY CARTOON FEATURES GAY & LESBIAN KISSES

▶ Brittany Ferrendi

Kisses. Four of them, to be exact. On a recent episode of Disney XD's "Star vs. the Forces of Evil," four same-sex couples engage in kisses in a concert crowd.

The scene begins as protagonist Star gets snubbed by her love interest at a boy band concert. She looks around to see couples surrounding her making out to the music — including what appear to be four same-sex couples.

This marks the first time the network has aired any sort of same-sex cartoon kiss. The studio first included same-sex couples in a 2014 episode of Good Luck Charlie, which showed off a character's lesbian parents without bringing attention to their gender or sexuality.

Disney XD isn't the first production to show LGBT inclusivity in cartoons. Last year, Nickelodeon introduced interracial gay parents in the television show "The Loud House." The network's cartoon "The Legend of Korra" also featured a lesbian couple between two of the show's main characters.

Cartoon Network has also made headway



in LGBT inclusion through the show "Steven Universe." The coming-of-age cartoon features crystal gem humanoids who identify as females — some of which engage in what appear to be same-sex romances. *SFGN*

Check out the video at [YouTube.com/watch?v=9n5ACBivlcg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9n5ACBivlcg)



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**L**

**Lesbian**

**LEGO'S WOMEN OF NASA INCLUDES SALLY RIDE**

(SFGN) LEGO's new "Women of NASA" playset, includes Sally Ride, the first lesbian in space, Pink News reports. Astronaut Sally Ride, the first American woman, and youngest American ever in space, came out posthumously, in her obituary, in 2012.

"Dr. Ride is survived by her partner of 27 years, Tam O'Shaughnessy," read a line in the New York Times.

Ride and O'Shaughnessy, a childhood friend from California, coauthored a series of children's books to get kids interested in science. O'Shaughnessy is Executive Director of Sally Ride Science, a company that develops science teaching materials for K-12 children in the U.S.

The Women of Nasa set was designed by Maia Weinstock, a science writer, who won LEGO's Ideas competition. "What [Ride] did to support women and girls in the STEM fields is remarkable," Weinstock told the Post.

"I knew I wanted to include her because she's already fairly famous, so that would



Lego's likeness of Sally Ride.

help the set gain some traction, but also because of all of the work she's done post-NASA, to encourage young people to go into science and [engineering]," she said. **SFGN**

**B**

**Bisexual**

**BRANDI BURGESS LAUNCHES VIDEO WITH HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN**

(SFGN) Brandi Burgess launched a new video through the Human Rights Campaign, Alabama. Burgess is bisexual and the daughter of conservative radio host Rick Burgess of "the Rick and Bubba Show."

In the video, Brandi talks about her experience coming out to her father, which she did in an op-ed on AL.com in January.

Rick Burgess responded on his radio show the next day saying, "I told (Brandi) before and I'll say it again you're my daughter and I will always love you. But I love you enough to tell you the truth. I'm not going to come up with some version of love that really isn't love at all, that pats you on the back to justify you all the way to hell."

Brandi says her father's conservative Christian values and public persona led her to feel as though she were living two lives.

"I kept most of my life really private for a long time and I think it's really dangerous



Brandi Burgess.

when we live in boxes and in shadows and for me it took me a long to see how that damage was manifesting," she said. "I think as an LGBTQ person sharing your story has enormous impact and I think telling your story to step into your own identity and claim it is empowering on so many levels."

The video is available on YouTube. **SFGN**

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## Transgender

## SUPREME COURT REMANDS GAVIN GRIMM CASE TO APPEALS

(SFGN) The Supreme Court announced Monday that it would no longer hear the case of Gavin Grimm vs. the Gloucester County School Board, scheduled for March 28. The case was expected to set precedent for federal oversight on matters of antidiscrimination protections for public school students based on gender identity.

The order remands the case to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. The decision comes after the Trump administration rolled back the Obama-era protections, arguing that federal involvement was an over reach, and the issue was best left up to each state.

Joshua Block, an ACLU attorney representing Gavin said in a statement:

*Nothing about today's action changes the meaning of the law. Title IX and the Constitution protect Gavin and other transgender students from discrimination. While we're disappointed that the Supreme Court will not be hearing Gavin's case this term, the overwhelming level of support shown for Gavin and trans students by people across the*

Gavin Grimm Suits Up for the Supreme Court, ACLU



*country throughout this process shows that the American people have already moved in the right direction and that the rights of trans people cannot be ignored. This is a detour, not the end of the road, and we'll continue to fight for Gavin and other transgender people to ensure that they are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.*

The Fourth Circuit could, in turn, send the case back to Virginia trial court. **SFGN**

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## MAN ARRESTED IN KEY WEST SCOOTER ATTACK

John McDonald

A North Carolina man was arrested and charged with a hate crime for perpetrating a scooter attack on two gay men in Key West.

The Onslow County Sheriff's Office took Brandon Ray Davis, 30, into custody on March 1. He is awaiting extradition to Key West where he faces a felony charge of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

According to a police report, Kevin Seymour and Kevin Price were riding bicycles on Duval Street when they spotted Davis driving erratically on a scooter. When the men alerted Davis he had almost hit a vehicle, Davis launched into a tirade against the men, calling them "fags" and knocking Seymour to the ground.

Davis allegedly attempted to justify this behavior by announcing, "you live in Trump country now." Also Davis, allegedly told Seymour "I'll cut you up" if he contacted the police.

Detectives with the Key West Police



Department were able to identify Davis partly through the scooter rental agency where he left a copy of his driver's license. The victims noted the scooter's license plate before the suspect fled the scene.

As to the hate crime charge, "probable cause exists to believe there was evidence of prejudice in Davis' attack of Seymour," said Alyson Crean, public information officer for the Key West Police Department. "(Davis) used explicit bias language in reference to their sexual orientation. Davis then attacked Seymour without any provocation."

The Jacksonville (N.C.) Daily News reports Davis is fighting extradition and out of jail on a \$10,000 bond. **SFGN**



## VANDAL: NEW DANCE CLUB IN WPB

'A Darker Shade of Gay' on March 9

Ryan Yousefi

On March 9, Vandal Warehouse, a new LGBT-welcoming club, bursts on the West Palm Beach nightlife scene, and with it comes some exciting entertainment options for not just the gay crowd, but those of any sexual orientation that are looking to have a good time.

The club, located at 1109 Old Okeechobee Road in West Palm Beach, kicks off the fun with an "A Darker Shade of Gay" event on Thursday. Club owner Greg Maliff-Ortiz told SFGN the event will be the jumping-off point for what he hopes is an exciting new nightclub option for the community.

"As we get started, we're theming nights. An event we just held featured DJs competing to bring the dance floor alive," Maliff-Ortiz said. "Our hope is to let everyone know we are more than just a gay-friendly nightlife option, but also a partnership that loves all people, regardless if you're gay, straight, lesbian, trans, curious, etc. We're trying to promote a new and exciting venue that has never been available in West Palm Beach."

Vandal — open to the public on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. with an after party scheduled until 7 a.m. — will exist as a bottle club on most nights. Patrons can bring their bottles, sign an agreement on the way in, and they'll hold it for

you while you party. The club will offer various specials on mixers and "storage fees" most every night.

"Every night will be open to all," Maliff-Ortiz said. "Sure, there will be themed nights catering to specific crowds to start, but that won't be all we are about. We're just trying to get everyone accustomed to a bottle club and what it means. At the end of the day, once you're a member, you're part of our new exciting dance club that caters to everyone."

Unfortunately, Maliff-Ortiz and Vandal haven't received the warmest welcome as they announced their opening on the West Palm Beach scene. In fact, Maliff-Ortiz was recently kicked out of a competitor's establishment for inquiring about a possible cross-promotion partnership in the future.

"It's sad," Maliff-Ortiz told SFGN. "I'm only trying to provide a new open space for everyone to have a great time without driving south all the time. What hurts the most is that I was following the rules. Although I don't understand why we can't all get along as a community, I respect others wishes. I was hurt by it, yes, but I'm determined more than ever to provide our community with a fun and safe environment." Guests are sure to be more welcoming than the competition once Vandal gets up and running. That all starts March 9. **SFGN**

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# NOTED GAY ATTORNEY PASSES

▶ John McDonald



Tributes poured in Tuesday as word spread of the passing of prominent Broward County attorney Arthur B. Smith. He was 71.

Smith was a partner in the law offices of George Castrataro.

“As my friend, Arthur was always there for me,” Castrataro said. “He was always willing to share his opinion and his advice with little regard for popular opinion or political correctness. Art’s sharp wit was always just a sentence away and his humor was amongst his greatest attributes. His loyalty and dedication to his friends was uncompromising.”

Smith and Castrataro became business partners in 2010. Castrataro said Smith taught him many important lessons.

“He modeled behaviors that emphasized our clients as top priority and he never let a case go unresolved even into his last hours,” Castrataro said. “Art was a smart, capable and well-liked lawyer whose dedication was impossible to challenge. Art believed in improving the community and worked to create and support countless non-profit organizations. Art’s clients all share a universal love for his style and approach to practicing law and conducting business.”

Attorney Robin L. Bodiford met Smith in the mid 1990s when the two collaborated on estate planning. Bodiford described Smith as a “rangy guy with the demeanor of a Mr. Smith goes to Washington sort of sweetness.”

“He was kind, gentle and a trusted lawyer to our community,” Bodiford

said. “Over the years he proved himself to be a supporter of the gay rights movement, even if he didn’t care to take a front row seat.”


Fort Lauderdale Vice Mayor Dean J. Trantalis said Smith’s generosity allowed the Pride Center at Equality Park to blossom into the facility it is today.


“We worked together in fashioning the grant from the Graves Foundation, an effort which helped bedrock the permanent home of the Center and allow it to open its doors to the many thousands that have found comfort and refuge within it,” Trantalis said. “His presence will be missed.”

Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Smith was the fourth oldest of 15 children. A celebration of life will be planned in the coming weeks. *SFGN*



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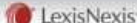



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## GMHC: TRUMP'S PROPOSAL WOULD KILL THOUSANDS

John McDonald



Repealing the Affordable Care Act would bring certain death to those living with HIV/AIDS, warned a leading global prevention, care and advocacy organization.

On Wednesday the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) released a statement rebuking U.S. President Donald J. Trump's call to repeal and replace Obamacare.

"Let us not mince words," GMHC Chief Executive Officer Kelsey Louie said. "The Trump Administration's proposals would lead to the completely preventable deaths of thousands of Americans at risk for HIV/AIDS and other diseases. They must be stopped."

Trump addressed a joint session of Congress Tuesday evening, calling former President Barack Obama's signature piece of legislation "unsustainable and collapsing."

"Tonight, I am also calling on this Congress to repeal and replace Obamacare with reforms that expand choice, increase access, lower costs and at the same time provide better healthcare," Trump said.

Louie said across the board cuts to domestic programs would have devastating effects to people living with HIV/AIDS.

"These shocking cuts would gut federal programs that help house and treat those living with HIV/AIDS and that prevent thousands of new infections every year," Louie said. "These irresponsible cuts would come just as we are finally poised to make real progress in containing the HIV/AIDS epidemic."

In his Capitol Hill address, Trump said government mandated healthcare was "never the right solution." He cited skyrocketing premiums, a lack of viable insurance companies on the exchanges and patients losing access to their doctors as proof of an imploding "disaster."

The disaster, Louie believes, lies in a repeal of the ACA.

"The President's promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act would endanger the lifesaving services GMHC provides our clients, and could result in the loss of affordable, accessible health care for at least 3.4 million New Yorkers," Louie said. *SFGN*



## A DIFFERENT KIND OF LADIES NIGHT

A lesbian takeover at Mina's in Miami

Ryan Yousefi

On every third Thursday of the month, Mina's Mediterraneo on Northeast 79th Street is giving Miami a new, and very welcomed, kind of ladies night. OK, very welcomed may be an understatement. From jump street, the Lesbian Takeover event at Mina's has been an enormous success.

"Bridget Hieronymus (the organizer) approached me to host a meetup style event she was going to host on Facebook called 'A Different Kind of Ladies Night.' Based on the RSVPs she estimated a turnout of about 70 people. By 8 p.m. there were easily 250 women in The Garden." Mina's owner Yasmine Kotb told *SFGN*.

"That sort of turnout said it all."

Mina's Mediterraneo restaurant — a quaint and cozy inside with a garden setting outside — specializes in a vast variety of Middle Eastern cuisine. From the first look, Mina's doesn't scream Lesbian Night, but that's exactly what is thriving there once a month.

Since the beginning, "A Lesbian Takeover at Mina's: A Different Kind of Ladies Night" has been a success, and it's only gaining steam as the positive reviews by the LGBT community continue to come in.

"The response was extremely positive — it's

a laid back atmosphere with no cover and the music isn't overly loud so people can easily chat. Folks have actually been thanking us for hosting the event as there aren't many consistent LGBT options in the Miami area," Kotb said. "It's also a little different since people can enjoy a meal together; people enjoy one of two dining areas, then head to The Garden for drinks after or simply do one or the other.

It's a very diverse crowd, so it seems that everyone is very comfortable in the setting."

If nothing else, The Lesbian Takeover at Mina's provides guests with an opportunity to munch on some classic Mediterranean cuisine and enjoy drink specials starting at five bucks. The night isn't

just meant as a singles night, it's meant as a networking and mingling event for the lesbian community in a setting that couldn't be more comfortable.

According to Kotb, the crowds couldn't be more welcoming, and the atmosphere at her monthly 'Ladies Night' has quickly taken on a sort of pseudo-family atmosphere.

"It's special every week simply because it's a diverse, good spirited crowd that seem to always enjoy themselves! We are starting to see both familiar faces and new ones every month." *SFGN*

"THAT SORT OF TURNOUT SAID IT ALL."

- Yasmine Kotb

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# SAGE TO HONOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT UPCOMING LUNCHEON

Ryan Yousefi

Michael Vita, Ron Wudarsky, Emma Hinman, Rex Coston, Rick Overton among honorees

**S**AGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment) of South Florida will hold its Annual Luncheon Meeting and Awards Ceremony on March 19, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, located at 1100 SE 17th Street Causeway in Fort Lauderdale.

South Florida's SAGE affiliate is the oldest SAGE chapter in the U.S., and the only one that is independent and self-funded. This year, South Florida SAGE plans to honor a few of their finest members for their Exceptional Spirit of Volunteerism at a special awards luncheon that will be open for the public to attend.

SAGE has already announced five of the awards and the corresponding recipients; Michael Vita "Spirit of SAGE," Ron Wudarsky "The President's," Emma Hinman "Female Volunteer of the Year," Rex Coston "Male Volunteer of the Year," and Rick Overton "Donor of the Year." Other awards will also be given out in between entertainment, drinks, and food. Tickets to the luncheon are \$27, and are limited to seats available.

The luncheon is an annual event for SAGE, but according to the group this year is extremely special because they will be honoring those who keep their group running. Various awards will be given out to volunteers based on their service.

"The highest recognition is called the Spirit of SAGE Award,

and is presented to a General Member who has contributed the most of their time and efforts not just to SAGE of South Florida, but to other LGBT organizations." Carl Galli, President of SAGE said. Galli also says in addition to the most prestigious awards SAGE plans to give out at their annual luncheon, there will also be recognition pins and badges to given to members who have been a part of the SAGE family for five, ten, and twenty years.

The celebration of South Florida SAGE volunteers is especially timely this year following the formation of SAGE Miami late last year. The SAGE Miami program was put in place to help enhance the quality of life of local LGBT elders through programs that gather the community, offer counseling and case management services, and provide SAGE-certified training in cultural sensitivity to those in organizations that care for LGBT elders. The program is now open to all LGBT seniors aged 55 and higher in Miami-Dade County.

Back in November of last year, Donna Dambrot, Program Manager of Sage Miami, spoke to SFGN about the new SAGE Miami program, and how vital a role it would play in the South Florida LGBT community.

"The need for this program is critical," Dambrot said. "LGBT seniors find themselves confronting traditional challenges of aging, while at the same time encountering issues particular to

the LGBT community. Lacking traditional sources of support and caregiving, a greater likelihood of living alone, higher rates of poverty and pronounced cultural and social isolation are just some of the realities of the LGBT elder community. Loneliness, housing and healthcare issues are particularly acute challenges."

The SAGE volunteer awards ceremony will also double as a celebration of the groups 23rd year of service to the LGBT community and its allies. SAGE has continually supported the community with an assortment of events, such as their LGBT-themed movie nights, Computer Club, Men's Night Out at Tropics, concerts, discussion groups, Broadway shows, and many other activities that foster LGBT community togetherness.

"We want our guests to feel like guests. Not to feel obligated to contribute anything beyond their seat price." Galli said. "Because of our donors, we are able to subsidize part of the cost so everyone may come and celebrate not just our success, but also our award recipient's honors."

Tickets to this year's SAGE luncheon include an all-inclusive three-course plated meal seated in an Embassy Suites rainbow themed atmosphere. The luncheon will include entertainment from various artists as well as a keyboardist.

"I personally think of SAGE of South Florida as a family of friends." Galli said. "I've said many times to our members, and mean it more so today; Take a look at your friends, and see who you might not have known if you had not joined SAGE. We do not just present activities for our members. We actively promote participation from the entire community." **SFGN**

**"I PERSONALLY THINK OF SAGE OF SOUTH FLORIDA AS A FAMILY OF FRIENDS."**

- Carl Galli  
PRESIDENT OF SAGE

For more information about the SAGE awards luncheon please call the SAGE office at 954-634-7219 or visit SageWebsite.org for more details.

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST DIRECTOR REVEALS 'GAY MOMENT' IN REMAKE, ACTOR CLARIFIES

▶ Brittany Ferrendi



**M**ove over Elsa, our chance at a gay Disney character may come sooner than we think.

Live-action Beauty and the Beast Director Bill Condon told Attitude Magazine that Gaston's (Luke Evans) manservant LeFou (Josh Gad) has "a nice, exclusively gay moment" in the film surrounding his master.

"LeFou is somebody who on one day wants to be Gaston and on another day wants to kiss Gaston," the director said. "He's confused about what he wants. It's somebody who's just realizing that he has these feelings."

The director added "And Josh [Gad] makes something really subtle and delicious out of it. And that's what has its payoff at the end, which I don't want to give away. But it is a nice, exclusively gay moment in a Disney movie."

Condon later came out to say he thought LeFou's sexuality "has been a little overstated," according to USA Today.

Gad has spoken out about the director's "gay moment" reveal, pointing out that "there

was nothing in the script that said 'LeFou is gay.'"

"I hope that it's a surprise to audiences to some extent, although I don't think it is anymore," Gad said, adding that either way "I'm honored to have that moment as part of my character's arc."

Beauty and the Beast premieres on March 17. Check out a scene from the upcoming film below — and interpret LeFou's lyrics however you like. *SFGN*



## STONEWALL'S NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL TAKES TOUR OF MUSEUM

'It really inspires you to see what you're fighting for'

▶ Michael d'Oliveira

**A** year after the National Advisory Council [NAC] was formed, its members took a tour of the Stonewall National Museum & Archives.

"It really inspires you to see what you're fighting for. Many of us [on the NAC], while we're committed to the cause, haven't seen what we need to get the juices flowing," said Deb Dagit, NAC co-chair.

The NAC, made up of 20 members from Washington D.C., South Florida, New York, Massachusetts and California, is an advisory board with a wide range of expertise which Stonewall hopes to tap.

"It's a way for them to leverage our background and expertise . . . in fundraising, activism," said NAC member Chuck Wolfe.

The tour was held on Feb. 25, the day the NAC held its annual meeting.

Robert Lee, chief librarian, answered questions and talked about the archives, including the role that donors play in the enhancement of the selection. "We're always looking for those nuggets we don't have."

Paul Fasana, chief archivist, said a lot of material is given to Stonewall by the families of deceased loved ones who collected LGBT books, photographs, and even erotica.

"They don't know what to do with it." The archives also include shirts, buttons,

political materials, pulp fiction, bar rags, and newspapers and magazines. "There's over 100 years of LGBT history. It's impossible to make it all accessible," Fasana said.

Robert Delehanty, Stonewall board member, and Emery Grant, director of community engagement, said the overall goal of the NAC is to develop a strategic plan to create a national presence and recognition for the organization. "This is an important part of our three-year strategic plan to grow the organization's national footprint," said Grant.

At the first meeting in May of 2016 in Washington, D.C., the NAC decided Stonewall needed to focus on branding, development, and increasing the amount of money raised, including corporate donations.

The second meeting, held after the tours of the library and gallery at the Hampton Inn in Fort Lauderdale, was about achieving the goals laid out last year.

"How do we move forward on those" is the purpose of the second meeting, said

Chris Rudisill, Stonewall executive director. Task forces for each goal have also been established. "[The meeting also] gives them a chance to really connect with the folks doing the work day to day . . . help them to better connect to the organization. They've really integrated with our board as well as with the staff," Rudisill said. *SFGN*

**"WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THOSE NUGGETS WE DON'T HAVE."**

- Robert Lee  
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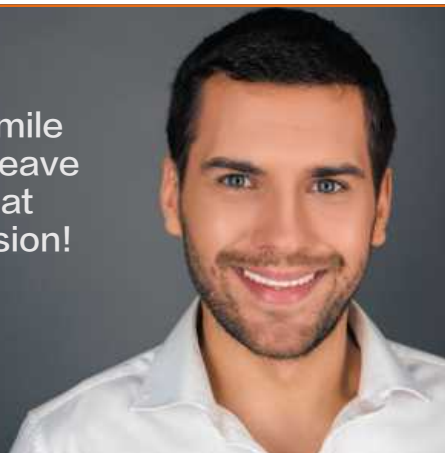
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# BLACK WOMEN RISE

► Ryan Yousefi

Gathering looks to empower black LGBT women in a Trump-led world

If there is one thing that has been consistently obvious since the Presidential election, it's that people, of all shapes, sizes, colors, and sexual orientations, don't want to be heard, they demand to be heard.

If there was ever a time to stand up for what you believe in, and at the same time help educate others on what your cause is, it's right here, right now, at this moment. It's indeed time to rise up and for what you believe in.

This month, a group of prominent African-American women, many with LGBT ties, will do that very thing.

West Palm Beach will host the Black Women Rise (BWR) Conference on March 17–18 at the Embassy Suites, 1601 Belvedere Road. The gathering of women will address issues of importance and interest to not only LGBT women or black women, but anyone that finds the topics of healthcare, legal, economic, education and other community-oriented discussions of interest.

Speakers, entertainers, and presenters will take part in events throughout the weekend gathering with the goal of empowering black women, including those who identify with the LGBT community, at a politically-charged time where our country is increasingly divided, and organization and knowledge of how to act on certain subjects are needed most.

"There is a resurgence of white dominance which is white centered, anti-black and anti-LGBTQ. Everything we have ever fought for is under attack." Black Women Rise event organizer Denise Walker tells SFGN of the climate this

year's BWR gathering takes place. "Civil rights is taking a back seat to white supremacy. The biggest hurdle is just being heard. We are living in a time where it does not matter that we are the LGBTQ community. This administration will see that we are back in the dark and discriminated against without laws or courts that will back us up. If we don't mobilize and fight back — be it at the ballot box or public outcry — we will not be heard. This conference is going to draw every kind of women the supporters as well as the angry, ones who don't want us to mobilize, the racist will also show their ugly faces."

Before November's Presidential election, Donald Trump promised to "stand by" the LGBT community, but that quickly promised proved to be empty. Just weeks into his first term Trump's administration reversed an executive order under President Obama that directed schools to allow transgender students to use the bathroom of their choosing, according to the gender they identify with. The move has alarmed many in the LGBT community as to what may be next.

"As an African-American lesbian, I am very much worried about the direction that President Trump and this Republican-led Congress is taking this country," said Paulette Armstead, an out-lesbian and Moderator and Panelist on the BWR Political Panel told SFGN. "Trump talks about making America Great Again and America First. For me, this is political talk for him to set the agenda and take actions to overturn, erase, and dilute the gains and rights which have been made in the areas of healthcare, education, employment, civil rights on behalf of women,

African-Americans, LGBTQ, disabled, and others."

Armstead continued, "I am concerned that Trump has done nothing to denounce and speak out against the white nationalists and their hateful rhetoric. This country will become more divided along lines of race, gender, class and sexual identity. One of the biggest hurdles for us in this current political climate is to continue to push back against Trump and his policies. This includes action by the people via holding more rallies, protests and putting pressure on our elected officials to do the right thing for all citizens."

BWR gathering coordinators told SFGN the weekend will be full of LGBT-relevant information. As of now, 14 of the 18 workshops planned have presenters who themselves are members of the LGBT community, including two of which are transgender.

Nadine Smith, CEO of Equality Florida and Aryah Lester, Chair of the State of Florida Health Department's Transgender Work Group, will be leading a Panel discussion titled: "LGBTQ issues in the Black Community." They will speak to how LGBT black people find their footing when hostility and rejection come from within our own families and faith communities.

Paulette Armstead will also moderate a

"Black Women in Mainstream Electoral Politics" discussion that hopes to drive home the importance of members of the LGBT community participation in politics as candidates, community organizers, voters, and campaign workers so that they can help enact policies, programs, and laws to ensure equality for all citizens in all areas of life.

Outside of making their own community more informed and better equipped to handle all the obstacles life will inevitably throw at them in the near future, the BWR gathering hopes to get a better grip on how to identify who is with them, rather than who is against them. Finding African-American men and women willing to support one another will be a major goal moving forward.

"Perhaps the biggest challenge is identifying credible allies who are willing to observe and educate themselves on ways to support their Black sisters," said Delores Walters, a Cultural Anthropologist who will be a presenter at BWR tells SFGN. "Black women and men have paved the way to minimize marginalization in our society for women, LGBTQ people and now various others targeted by the current administration."

Walters added, "Now, especially, we must continue to support the next generation of activists, and allies." *SFGN*

Registration will be based on a sliding pay scale depending on how much you can afford (\$125-\$250). Students and youth activists can attend at a special discount rate of \$99. Tickets to just the Saturday night show starring Karen Williams, Nedra Johnson, and Ubaka Hill with the Drumsong Orchestra will cost \$30-50. Contact toniajr@blackwomenrise.net or visit BlackWomenRise.net for more information.





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NEWS palm beach

## LGBTQ DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS OF PALM BEACH ELECTS OFFICERS

Group prepares for PrideFest

▶ Donald Cavanaugh

At its regular monthly meeting on Feb. 21, the Rusty Gordon LGBTQ Democratic Caucus of Palm Beach re-elected President Wayne Whitson; Vice President Steven Licari; Secretary Kevin Muth; and Treasurer Davilyn Whims. Elections are held in odd numbered years and positions are for two-year terms.

The Rusty Gordon LGBTQ Democratic Caucus of Palm Beach was created in 2011 to honor local pioneer lesbian feminist Rusty Gordon whose list of accomplishments in support of equality for everyone was impressive. Unfortunately, it was cut off prematurely when she died in 2009 at age 67.

"Rusty's was an early voice for equality," said President Wayne Whitson. "I'm honored to be able to help pick up some of the work she did in the political arena in Florida and particularly in Palm Beach County."

The Caucus is a chartered affiliate of the Florida LGBTQ Democratic Caucus and the Florida Democratic Party and is assigned to District 5, a geographical segment of the state consisting of Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie,



Indian River, Brevard, Okeechobee, Highlands, Glades, and Hendry Counties.

Membership in the Caucus runs from January 1 to December 31 and renewals are still coming in from the group's reminder mailing in January.

"We expect an increase in membership with all that's going on in politics right now," Whitson said.

"And, of course," he continued. "We'll be at PrideFest (March 25 & 26) where we'll be registering people to vote, signing them up to vote by mail and inviting them to join the Caucus." *SFGN*

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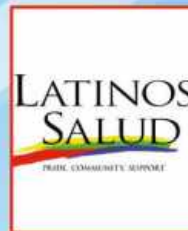
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## LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS PASS ON PRIDE

LGBT Republican group feeling 'ostracized'

John McDonald

They waited on a call that never came. “We feel ostracized from our own community,” said Vince Foster, President of the Miami Log Cabin Republicans. “It’s like you are abandoned if you stray from the herd.”

The LGBT Republican group said it was not invited to participate in last weekend’s Fort Lauderdale Pride festivities and has heard nothing from the organizers of Miami Beach’s Pride either. That’s just fine with Foster.

“We’re focused on securing LGBT rights in the workplace and housing and working with our allies in the House and Senate to make sure that happens,” Foster said.

Andy Eddy, spokesman for the Broward Log Cabin Republicans, told SFGN no one from Pride Fort Lauderdale’s board reached out to his chapter to be a part of last Sunday’s event.

Tens of thousands of people attended Pride Fort Lauderdale’s beach event as organizers declared this year’s event to be a smashing success.

Pride Fort Lauderdale President Miik Martorell said politics was the last thing on his mind.

“It was not a political event,” Martorell said. “We didn’t ask for it. That divides people.”

However, in interviews leading up to Fort Lauderdale Pride, Martorell did note it was the first Pride event in America since the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

In an article published by SFGN on Feb. 15, Martorell said: “This is the first time to send a signal out and say: ‘We’re here. We’re not going anywhere. We’re not afraid. We’re not

going to crawl into a corner. It’s very tricky because as a non-profit we have to walk a fine line. Obviously, we’re celebrating the freedoms we have. You don’t have to be a democrat or republican or independent to say we deserve the same rights as everyone else.”

While Log Cabin chapters passed on Pride festivities, the Dolphin Democrats, Florida’s oldest LGBT political club, did have a presence on the beach Sunday.

Dolphins board member Tim Ross said his organization made the first move in purchasing booth and vending space.

“We pay attention to our community,” Ross said. “They (Pride FTL) didn’t reach out to us, we reached out to them. Maybe if the Log Cabin Republicans had their finger on the pulse of the community like they say they do then they would have been there too.”

Foster said outreach on Pride’s part would have been helpful to know the organization was accepting of all.

“Had we been invited we would have jumped at the opportunity to cultivate relationships,” Foster said.

But that’s not how it works, said Martorell. “We didn’t send out engraved invitations to the community,” Martorell said. “We advertised it. All they had to do was go to the website and sign-up. If they are not paying attention, we can’t be blamed for that.”

Ultimately, Foster said skipping Pride is probably the safest route for Log Cabin Republicans.

“We’re all sick and tired of being called self loathing,” Foster said. SFGN

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# REP. LOIS FRANKEL AND CROWD VENT ABOUT TRUMP, GOP AT COMPASS TOWN HALL

Chris Persaud

Democratic Congresswoman Lois Frankel and about 200 constituents spent Monday night agreeing with each other about how awful they believe President Donald Trump and Republicans are.

The Republican effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The alleged tied between Trump and Russia. Trump's Supreme Court nomination. The anti-Muslim travel ban. No major Trump/GOP-backed issue avoided criticism and insults from the crowd or Rep. Frankel (FL-21) at her town hall at Compass, the LGBT community center in Lake Worth.

"I think we made history for the first town hall this year at which a politician gets cheered," she proclaimed a little after 6 p.m., when the event started. "Let's see how long that lasts." It lasted for the two

hours the town hall was scheduled.

While Republican town halls have attracted hundreds of furious constituents, Frankel's attracted around 200 sympathizers. It helps that her district, which covers most of mid and south Palm Beach County, leans heavily Democratic. Plus, local liberal group Palm Beach Indivisibles hosted and advertised this town hall.

The town hall was less about arguing issues and more about asking what regular people and Congressional Democrats should do to fight the agenda of Trump and the GOP. Compass CEO Tony Plakas read questions constituents wrote on cards.

A question by West Palm Beach resident Katelyn Miller asked if Senate Democrats should filibuster the hearing

of Neil Gorsuch, Trump's Supreme Court nominee. Frankel replied, "What I would say is if I was in the Senate, I would obstruct in every single way, Donald Trump's nominees. Unless I was certain they were going to be independent and opposite of his point of view." Most of the crowd cheered and clapped.

Miller told SFGN, "I liked her answer. I worry that the Senate Republicans will get rid of the filibuster and should Ruth Bader Ginsburg retire or Anthony Kennedy retire, or something happens to him, [Trump's] nominations will just skate on through." Democrats have 46 seats in the Senate, with two Independents who caucus with them. Republicans hold 52 seats.

Lake Worth resident Echo Steiner wrote, and Plakas read, "Do you support the Electoral College?" Trump won the 270

votes from the Electoral College needed to win the Presidential election, despite getting around 2.9 million votes less than Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.

Frankel said she does not support the Electoral College. "The Electoral College does not favor the Democrats," she said. "The last two elections Republicans won, they lost the popular vote. I think we should go with the popular vote." President George W. Bush won the 2000 election that way, but won reelection in 2004 with the majority of both the popular vote and the Electoral College.

Lake Worth kindergarten teacher Lisa Harris wrote, "How do we stop [Secretary of Education] Betsy DeVos from dismantling public schools?"

As expected, Frankel's response drew cheers. "There's no question what the



**"HE [STEVE BANNON] IS A RACIST. HE IS A MISOGYNIST. AND I HAVE NOTHING GOOD TO SAY ABOUT HIM."**

- Lois Frankel

President wants to do — and what she wants to do — is take public money and put it in private schools," she said. Harris replied, "Hiss!" in support of Frankel's statement and against the idea of taxpayer-funded charter schools. She liked her Congresswoman's answer. "It was what it needed to be," she said, "I wanted to get her to talk about Betsy DeVos."

Boynton Beach resident Susan Small was one of a few attendees to get to use a microphone to talk about what she called the militarization of police.

"I remember being stopped for running a stop sign when I was 25 in Brooklyn," she said. "The police treated you with respect. You had the right to question them. But now they are very militaristic. And they are not educating the youth, of any color."

Frankel's response was more cautious than her statements putting down Trump and his administration.

"From the federal point of view, I think grants for training, to encourage community policing, especially local governments where you have the jurisdictions over police" are part of the solution, she said.

Small was dissatisfied with Frankel's answer. "She said it's training, I say it's psychological testing," Small told SFGN. Small said she voted for Frankel.

Frankel recalled meeting Trump at his Palm Beach home, the Mar-a-Lago. "I saw Donald Trump recently and I was telling him he needs to start listening to different points of view," Frankel told her audience, "And he said 'the people love what I'm doing.' That's exactly what he said to me. I was about to respond but the Secret Service lady jumped in front of me."

On White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon, Frankel said, "He is a racist. He is a misogynist. And I have nothing good to say about him."

Frankel spent much of the town hall putting down Trump and Republican positions, but she did say immigration is an issue on which Democrats and Republicans might work together.

"Many Republicans are amenable to

immigration reform," she said. Frankel mentioned Miami-Dade Hispanic Republican representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27), Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25). And for other Hispanic Republican Congressmen, she said, "I can tell ya they are very sympathetic to it."

One issue Frankel avoided commenting on was what she thinks of state legislators' efforts to pass a bill allowing the state to buy thousands of acres of Everglades. The goal is Everglades restoration and cleaning up Saint Lucie River. "I don't wanna get in between [State Senator] Joe [Negron] and the Democrats in the state," she said. "Not to avoid the question. I'll just say I think we have an excellent delegation in Tallahassee."

Compass emptied at 8 p.m. when the town hall was scheduled to end.

Palm Beach Indivisibles, which hosted Frankel's town hall, is part of the larger Indivisible movement, a left-wing movement that started after President Donald Trump was elected last year. At its heart is the Indivisible Guide, written by anonymous authors claiming to be former Congressional staff members.

The Indivisible Guide instructs readers how to copy the success of the right-wing Tea Party movement, which successfully organized and elected extreme conservatives in the 2010 midterm elections. The guide explains how to find other people fed up with Trump and the Republicans, how to organize an Indivisible group, and how to pressure local members of Congress.

Liberals following the Indivisible Guide have stormed Republican town hall meetings, jeering and booing senators and representatives. Freshman Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL-18) faced a furious crowd of around 500 on Friday in Fort Pierce. The Indivisible chapters of Palm Beach County and Martin and Saint Lucie counties organized that event. On February 21, two Florida Republican Congressmen, Dennis Ross of Lakeland and Daniel Webster of Clermont, left their town halls early when enraged crowds showed up. **SFGN**



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# ‘WHEN WE RISE’ DOESN’T

▶ **Rebecca Juro**  
rjuroshow@gmail.com

It’s almost always a good thing to see stories of LGBT lives and history appear in mainstream media. Unfortunately, as is so often the case when presenting politically-charged historical narratives in the mainstream, especially to majority straight audiences, the writer’s own biases are often easy to detect.

Such is the case with “When We Rise”, a four-part miniseries ostensibly on the history of the LGBT community from the 1960’s to the recent legalization of same-sex marriage which ran recently on ABC.

Very early on, the series falls into an all too familiar trap which it never really escapes from. While supposedly about the entire LGBT community, virtually the entire focus of the series is on gays and lesbians exclusively. Trans people do pop up from time to time, but with only a few minor exceptions in support of the gay and lesbian characters.

Only one truly trans-relevant issue is even touched upon during the entire series, when the family of a trans woman killed in a car accident who still considers her a man is confronted by members of the church where her funeral is being held and told they would refer to her as “she” because that’s how she lived her life. It’s a poignant moment, but one that fills just a minute or two of screen time.

In addition to trans people and issues being relegated to minor supporting status, bisexuals, as we’ve all come to expect from these kinds of “LGBT” histories, are completely invisible throughout.

The missed opportunities are endless. The Human Rights Campaign under then-President Elizabeth Birch is presented as an organization chiefly concerned with scoring big-name celebrities like President Clinton to keynote their galas rather than serious activism. The series does take note of bigotry against women and blacks within the gay rights movement, but apparently author Dustin Lance Black didn’t feel it relevant to include HRC’s staunch opposition to including trans people in federal anti-discrimination legislation which Birch had firmly and publicly supported.

In later episodes, federal anti-discrimination legislation is mentioned and discussed, but without a word about the protests taking place nationwide over HRC’s support for leaving trans people excluded from those protections in order to make the legislation easier to pass to protect gays and lesbians exclusively.

It seems that Dustin Lance Black did indeed learn a lesson from the tepid and disdainful reception of the movie “Stonewall” from

the community for its whitewashing and ciswashing of that moment in LGBT history but he didn’t learn it quite well enough.

Trans characters do appear, and thankfully are actually played by trans actors, but only rarely do they impact the story in significant ways. People of color have a much more key role in “When We Rise” than in “Stonewall”, and it’s perhaps notable and certainly surprising that every trans character in the series is a person of color.

There’s no acknowledgement of the trans community at all in “When We Rise”, not even at points when an accurate retelling of LGBT history would seem to demand it. Trans people are only presented individually, in ways that directly support the stories of gays and lesbians, never as a community unto itself, fighting collectively for our own social and political agenda.

For all its failings, “When We Rise” is certainly well-written and well-acted for what it is, with parts which will bring you to tears unless you’re made of stone. At the same time, however, if you’re looking for a real dramatic retelling of LGBT history, you’ll have to look elsewhere. Like “Stonewall” and so many

others claiming the “LGBT” label, this series is really only about the history of gays and lesbians, with a few trans people thrown in mainly for PC and cultural seasoning and nary a bisexual to be found anywhere within it.

Even though I knew going in that there would be trans people included in “When We Rise”, I found myself sorely disappointed. This series broke no new ground, casting gays and lesbians front and center with trans people presented in ways that mostly seem like afterthoughts, in much the same way we were presented in mainstream media 10 or even 20 years ago.

It’s my hope that someday we’ll see a real history of the LGBT community in the mainstream, not just yet another history of gays and lesbians with the LGBT label slapped on in the hope of gaining undeserved PC cred. It’s time that all of our communities had their stories told and told properly. “When We Rise” isn’t it. It’s just one more in a long string of narrowly-focused gay and lesbian histories that tries to pretend it’s more than it really is.

Worth watching? Sure, as long as you understand what you’re watching and don’t get your hopes up. *SFGN*

**TRANS PEOPLE ARE ONLY PRESENTED INDIVIDUALLY, IN WAYS THAT DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE STORIES OF GAYS AND LESBIANS, NEVER AS A COMMUNITY UNTO ITSELF, FIGHTING COLLECTIVELY FOR OUR OWN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL AGENDA.**



Rebecca Juro is a nationally-published freelance journalist and radio talk show host who is the Media Correspondent for The Advocate website. Her work has appeared in the Huffington Post, the Washington Blade, Gay City News, the Albany Times Union, and The Advocate magazine, among others. Rebecca lives in Philadelphia and shares her life with a somewhat antisocial cat.



# SPEAK OUT

SFGN Staff

SFGN's "Speak OUT" is a weekly feature giving a regular voice to South Florida LGBT leaders.

What are your thoughts on the ABC Miniseries "When We Rise"?



“Watching the series was like seeing a movie after having read the book, and, in some of our cases, having written a chapter in the book that got edited out. The series was great, but living the book was better. ‘When We Rise’ told the story of gay liberation in San Francisco, through the eyes of Cleve Jones. The script was beautifully done by Dustin Lance Black, and the four episodes were jam packed full of LGBT actors or allies.”

— Brian McNaught, noted columnist, author and LGBT activist



“This brought up emotions and memories. The series seems well done and as accurate as a television series can be. It’s a good start to share OUR story and timely with the current state of affairs in U.S. government.”

— Robert Hadley, community activist, Pride Center Health Educator

“‘When We Rise’ was an interesting look at the personal and political struggles faced by a number of LGBT activists who pioneered the LGBT rights movement in the 20th century. One of the pioneers portrayed in ‘When We Rise’ is Gilbert Baker who designed the Rainbow Flag, or Pride Flag. It was a great honor to present Gilbert with a proclamation in 2013 on behalf of the City of Miami Beach proclaiming that day “Gilbert Baker Day” in Miami Beach.”

— Michael C. Gongora, former Vice Mayor of Miami Beach



“Truly inspiring! I think every LGBTQ youth should see it. It’s great to finally have our stories told. As someone who was alive during this time period and was for the most part oblivious to what was going on... it’s great to see the story told. I just watched episode 3, and as someone who lived through the darkest days of the HIV epidemic here in Miami I am pleased to see part of the history I lived through on the silver screen.”

— Luigi Ferrer, bisexual activist and director of health services at Pridelines

SPEAK OUT

Visit [SFGN.com/SpeakOut](http://SFGN.com/SpeakOut) to see more of this week’s responses. Send an Email to [Jason.Parsley@sfgn.com](mailto:Jason.Parsley@sfgn.com) if you know of a LGBT community leader that should be or wants to be a part of this list.

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# THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF PARENTING WITH A DISABILITY

► Belo Cipriani

Having a disability does not prevent anyone from being a capable and loving parent. Yet, it does present a set of unique challenges — challenges that Nicole Schultz-Kass, a 37-year-old blind mother from Woodbury, MN, feels are often misconstrued by people.

“It seems sometimes that people see a parent with a disability and assume that the person must be less capable, must behave in a way younger than his peers, or that his children must help him. These things are simply untrue,” Schultz-Kass said.

Schultz-Kass was born with a condition called oculocutaneous albinism — an inherited genetic condition that causes a lack of melanin pigment in the skin, hair, and eyes, and is accompanied by visual impairment. Her husband is able-bodied, and she uses a guide dog for mobility.

Schultz-Kass admits the challenges around parenting with a disability are definitely there; however, they do not impact the quality of parenting, nor do they affect the child in a negative way.

“Truly, I think the most significant difference as a blind parent, as opposed to someone with no disability who is a parent, is in transportation, and the way we plan and execute travel plans with children, since we are unable to drive. Some activities involve more planning and travel time, as well as oftentimes using public transportation with kiddos in tow,” she said.

In addition to having transportation issues pop up from time to time, Schultz-Kass also shares that overall mobility can present some problems — especially during pregnancy. She said, “The most difficult thing about being pregnant and blind was that my body was changing throughout that entire nine month period, and I was constantly adjusting in terms of mobility, balance, and other areas of travel, to keep myself and babe safe when running around town.”

But despite the daily hurdles her disability brings about, the cheerful mom feels both her daughters, ages 4 and 11, are growing to have an exceptional understanding of differences — different abilities, and different concepts of beauty, respect, and empathy for others — all characteristics

that may not have developed at such a young age if they did not have a parent with a disability.

“When our children were very young,” Schultz-Kass said, “we utilized babywearing in order to keep our children close, safe, and secure. In terms of baby playing, I used various methods, including closing off certain spaces, childproofing all areas, and, as our children became more mobile and independent, we would stay in close proximity.”

“I utilize magnifying technology,” continued Schultz-Kass, “and tools and some text to speech products for reading food preparation directions.”

For Dr. Heather French, a lesbian and Dean at Holy Names University in Oakland, CA, magnifiers and other tools for the blind stir up fond memories of her childhood in Maine. She shares, “Something very concrete that stands out to me about my mom was that she would read to me, and taught me to read before kindergarten by her using a high-powered magnifying glass to see the text of a children’s book.”

French, 42, who, along with her seven siblings, was raised by a legally blind mother, and a father that later in life became hard of hearing, feels that the experience of being raised by a parent with a disability made her a more aware adult. She also feels her mother’s impaired vision brought about some very neat and unique experiences.

“I can recall a few times when friends visiting our house would be shocked by my mom’s keen hearing (she could hear us whispering to each other from the next room), or when my mom’s keen sense of smell would get me in trouble (I wasn’t allowed to wear makeup before high school, and my mom could smell when I was wearing compact powder),” she said.

When asked about any drawbacks about being raised by a parent with a visual disability, French notes the challenges of getting to places. She said, “My mother could not drive. My father often worked nights or would work on job sites far from home. Since he was the only one who could drive, and he was often working or sleeping during the day, it was considered



an occasion to go anywhere.”

It was not until she became an adult that French realized she did not know much about her home state, and she began to explore and travel. With her son, she took the five-hour car ride to Quebec, Canada from her hometown, which she never took as a kid.

French relates her successes as a parent to her mother’s ability to thrive as a stay-at-

home mom, despite her challenges.

“I was a single parent for some time when my son was young,” said French, “and although I wouldn’t change a thing, I can say there were definitely challenging times. Seeing my own mother’s resilience to life’s challenges, and recognizing how she did the very best she could given her situation, has absolutely put my own parenting in perspective.” *SFGN*



Belo Cipriani is a disability advocate, a freelance journalist, the award-winning author of *Blind: A Memoir and Midday Dreams*, the spokesperson for Guide Dogs for the Blind and the national spokesman for 100 Percent Wine — a premium winery that donates 100 percent of proceeds to nonprofits that help people with disabilities find work. Learn more at [www.belocipriani.com](http://www.belocipriani.com).



Community

# Iconic Bar Stars Mark and Gary Going Strong on the Drive at Southern Nights

By Pier Angelo

Coming from the green fields of Iowa and the history laden countryside of Pennsylvania, Mark Hess and Gary Wentzel have their feet firmly planted in the sandy soil of Fort Lauderdale. It was here the two bartenders met at "Cathode Ray's" infamous Monday night beer blast, a mere twenty-six years ago.

"We were there with separate friends who introduced us to each other" Hess said. "From there we went to 'The Copa' and continued our conversation about 50's and 60's cars." Wentzel added, "You just don't run into too many people who can share your enthusiasm about a 62' Chrysler Imperial."

The more time they spent together, the more they found they had a lot in common, and that's how it all began.

They have been together 25 years, 7 of which as a legally married couple. The two have been bartending on the drive for nearly 30 years. Hess started in Wilton Manors at the world famous Chardees and Wentzel at a fun small neighborhood spot named "Club Classics."

When asked about those early years, Hess answers "We were bartending on the Drive when there wasn't much to it, even Burger King had closed down."

Wilton Manors turned around and more

and more businesses opened and the small quiet town reinvented itself into the gay hot spot it is today.

"In addition to meeting lots of people, we've made lots of lasting friendships with many of our patrons," Wentzel added. "People from all over the world" Hess quipped.

It seems that in Hess' case, he has come full circle. They both have joined the team of the newly opened Southern Nights which occupies the space where Chardees once was.

"It's a familiar feeling walking through these doors after so many years" he said. Both he and Wentzel will be teaming up to bring their skills and personalities to happy hour at Southern Nights.

"We enjoy the happy hour crowd, I guess that's because we enjoy happy hour ourselves" Wentzel laughed.

While reflecting on their successful longevity on the drive, the duo excitingly look forward to bringing their expertise and talent to their new family at Southern Nights. Martini's, friends, conversations and Hess and Wentzel, what could be a better way to end your workday or start your evening off?

Cheers! Happy Hour is here again. **WWMG**

**"WE ENJOY THE HAPPY HOUR CROWD, I GUESS THAT'S BECAUSE WE ENJOY HAPPY HOUR OURSELVES."**

- Gary Wentzel



# Build the Wall, Build the Wall, Build the Wall



By Sal Torre



So, what's the hold up?

Residents here in Wilton Manors have joked for years about pulling up the bridges of the Island City at night to keep out the undesirables, the homeless, and the criminals coming in from surrounding areas.

Now some residents have embraced our President's plan to build a wall. Chants rise up at city meetings, neighborhood association gatherings, and town hall meetings, "Build the wall, build the wall!" The chanting reverberates through the halls along with the boasting on how they are going to get the cities of Oakland Park and Fort Lauderdale to pay for the construction of our new border wall.

While we are still in LaLa Land, we might as well bill them for a few new clay tennis courts, a parking structure, some art installations, and a street light at NW 20th Street and Andrews Avenue. This dark and dangerous corner of our city allows the illegals and criminals to slip into our Westside neighborhood to rob, plunder, and disrupt our way of life, which is just better here.

Looking beyond the borders of our Island City, things do seem a bit scary out there. If you turn your gaze northward towards Washington DC, dark storm clouds are visible on the horizon. As the new administration and the new majorities in the House and Senate settle in, it's hard to feel any comfort in how the next four years may play out, taking into consideration the roller coaster ride of the first one hundred days. One word stands out in my mind as I review all that is taking place: hypocrisy. As the new administration rounds up illegal immigrants for deportation, as border guards wait in front of churches on a Sunday morning to seize hard-working family members, as innocent citizens and visa holders are detained at airports, there seems to be no mention of the government going after employers who for years have hired and made enormous profits from illegal immigrant workers.

A border guard was quoted in a recent New York Times article, "What part of illegal don't you understand? These people broke the law by entering the country illegally and should not be tolerated or excused."

I might not have a problem accepting this 'law and order' justification if those same border guards were at the gates of

corporate America, arresting CEO's and other corporate honchos for also breaking the law, knowingly employing illegal immigrants for years and making enormous profits from their illegal activity.

What part of "illegal" doesn't the U.S. government understand? Start rounding up the poultry processing plant owners throughout Maryland and the Carolinas, the farm owners across the United States, factory owners, and the wealthy 1 percent who hire illegal immigrants in their factories and in their homes. Then perhaps the whole 'law and order' crowd wouldn't seem so hypocritical.

"What part of illegal don't they understand?" should become the new battle cry. The last time I checked, perjury, sexual harassment, insider trading, and treason were also crimes; but that hasn't stopped the new power elite and their hypocrisy at the highest levels.

"Don't do as I do, do as I say," especially if you are an illegal immigrant, have a Muslim sounding name, or the latest victim labeled as another enemy of the American way of life. Let's make America great again by lying to Congress, by having secret meetings with Russian officials, by making sweetheart deals, and by conducting shady business practices. Oh, but don't question our behavior. It's just the liberal media making a fuss about nothing.

The new order is needed to deal with all the illegal immigrants committing crimes while pretending to spend long hard days picking tomatoes in Immokalee. Don't mention the bathroom issue at our schools either, that liberal media will have child molesters in our kids' bathrooms along with all those gays and transgender types. On top of it all, those radical Muslims, all 1.5 billion of them, a quarter of the world's population, are looking to destroy our way of life. If these new cronies start bringing back military parades and goose-stepping, you know it will be too late for us all.

Bringing myself back to the enclave of Wilton Manors, one can say that all politics are local. However, if Florida House Bill 17 passes, there will be very little local politics left. Imagine local control being placed in the hands of Rick Scott and his circle of elites. Be very vigilant, Wilton Manors, and protect our great way of life right here in good ole Wilton Manors, so that we can continue chanting, "Life is just better here!" **WMG**



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# Community Observations: Where Next?

By James Oaksun



In my last column, I took my 10 best community candidate areas here in East Broward and appended some statistical information about the number of single family homes within 15 minutes' walk of the "community center," and provided data about the values of those homes.

The information table is included again this week for your reference.

Now, some things should be readily apparent as you look at the data. First, practically all of Wilton Manors (except perhaps for a small piece in the far southwest corner) could be considered as actual or at least potential "community". This is likely no surprise to those of us who live and work here. And could bode well for the future of the Island City.

But here is what is a little troubling to me.

When you look at the "cost of entry" – the single family house prices in these areas – you have to wonder about the nature of the community possible there. Is it diverse? Robust? Are different ages and classes amply represented?

Or does that even matter?

Consider that in order to purchase, say, a \$400,000 home – a mid-range but by no means grand home in any of these areas – the financial requirements would be significant. In addition to the mortgage (assuming the

home were not purchased for cash), there would be substantial annual property taxes, as well as hazard and flood insurances.

Rare would be the circumstances where a \$400,000 house, if not bought for cash, could be acquired by a single person or couple who did not have an income of at least \$100,000 per year.

So let's take another statistical meander over to the U.S. Census website, and see how many households in Broward County have incomes in six figures.

According to the Census, the 2015 median household income in Broward County – half the households above, half below – was \$54,000. That's not enough to afford to have the median house in one of our target communities though. You need six figures for that.

Perhaps a bit surprisingly, in 2015 there were 155,000 households here in Broward – roughly 23 percent of the total – where the household income was in six figures.

So yes, there is a significant market cluster than can afford to experience the benefits the community provides, at the current price levels. But not a wide cross section. Does this raise ethical questions? I suppose no one has a

Information on Single Family Homes Within Potential Community Cores

City and Address	# of Homes	Price Range (\$000)
Hollywood 1735 E Young Cir	1800	300-500
Pompano 2511 E Atlantic Blvd	1600	325-725
Ft Laud 2501 E Sunrise	1100	600-1400
Ft Laud 601 S Andrews	1700	300-650
Lighthouse Pt 3700 N Fed Hwy	2900	200-550
Ft Laud 3400 N Fed Hwy	2100	400-725
Wilton 2633 N Dixie Hwy	2600	300-500
Wilton 100 W Oak Pk Blvd	2200	275-425
Deerfield 150 S Fed Hwy	1600	275-450
Ft Laud 1415 E Sunrise	2000	325-625

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right to live in a particular place. But what role can a Realtor – or real estate leader – play in enriching the life of the world around them?

Probably there are areas in the 10 target communities that could be reviewed for different types of housing, and newer, innovative methods of development. There is no shortage of ideas and, as we will see as we continue the series, no real shortage of capital with which to implement these ideas. We will expand on this in the next column. **WMG**

*James Oaksun, Broward's Real Estate Geek(SM), is Broker-Owner of New Realty Concepts in Oakland Park. In addition to having degrees from Dartmouth and Cornell, he is a Graduate of the Realtor Institute (GRI).*

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## Commission Moves Forward on Changes to Sign Code

By Michael d'Oliveira

Sign pollution was a big part of the conversation surrounding the proposed changes to the city's signage regulations. Commissioners approved the changes at their Feb. 28 meeting but will have to vote on the issue again to make the changes official.

"This is only one part of a greater puzzle," said Vice Mayor Justin Flippen. He added that some people describe some parts of the city's code of ordinances as "archaic" and in need of updating.

The proposed regulations include the elimination of neon signs from the list of prohibited signs but only allows those lighted signs to be turned on during business hours. In 2016, Wilton Drive business owner Nick Berry said that neon signs are a necessity. Without them, owners would lose an effective advertising tool. "You won't even see that it's a bar. That it's a restaurant," he said.



The new regulations also limit the size of the signs, both lighted and non-lighted. The size of each illuminated sign is also limited to four square feet.

City staff also suggested that each business, depending on the square footage of the building they occupy, be allowed a maximum of four signs. One every 10 feet. Commissioner Julie Carson said she viewed four allowed signs as "maybe too much." Her fellow commissioners agreed and set the limit at a maximum of three signs. **WMG**

## Commission Approves Affordable Housing Program

But the money won't go far

By Michael d'Oliveira

More than 10 years after the city established its Affordable Housing Program, commissioners have decided to implement it. The program was established in November of 2005 and is funded through impact fees - .25 to .50 cents per square foot on renovations and new construction.

Now, \$285,000 has been accumulated and commissioners want to use it.

"It's not a huge, incredible amount of money but this is a start," said Vice Mayor Justin Flippen.

The city will issue two requests for bidders to administer the programs - \$150,000 for homebuyers and \$50,000 for rental assistance. The rest will be saved to be utilized at a later date when the fund is replenished and reaches \$200,000.

But with such a relatively small amount of money, Mayor Gary Resnick said he wants to spend as little as possible on management fees for whatever organization or entity is chosen to run the program.

"We don't have a lot of money. They'll eat it up in administrative fees," Resnick said. He suggested city staff look at what other cities, such as Pompano Beach and Fort Lauderdale, are doing with their affordable housing programs. Flippen said staff should "cast a wider net" and look at programs beyond the borders of Broward County.

Although he voted for the program, Commissioner Tom Green expressed his preference for putting all the money into home ownership. Green said he was against rental assistance because he wasn't sure when the city would stop assisting someone with their rental payments. Green said later that he views the program as one which will



help residents purchase \$100,000 condos and not \$900,000 homes.

Commissioner Julie Carson expressed her support for including the rental component. "There's a lot of need for that."

But commissioners all agreed that the program does not have much money to last long before they have to wait again for funds to replenish.

"It ends when it's over," said Carson. "It wouldn't last long. That's for sure," said Commissioner Scott Newton. **WMG**

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# COMMUNITY CENTERED DIRECTIONS

A Newsletter by Compass LGBT Community Center of Palm Beach County



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Spring 2017 Issue

## TWENTY YEARS

### Tony Plakas

When I moved to Palm Beach County to work for Compass in 1997, we were a very different community. Nearly all of Compass' funding derived from federal and state grants focused on HIV prevention, education and care for those living with HIV. Compass also had a small grant from the Palm Beach County Children's Services Council for youth, but it was mainly a mental health program and the youth were required to be "case managed" through mental health assessment and regular meetings that were more support group than social group.

As my 20-year anniversary approaches, it is difficult not to reflect on that time. The world was a very different place for Compass, Palm Beach County and the world. From inside the agency, six of us communicated from

within a windowless building surrounded by a fence we locked upon closing each night, sharing one computer and an e-mail address. Our federal government was reinforcing laws like Don't Ask, Don't Tell and the Defense of Marriage Act during the darkest days of the AIDS epidemic, and with the exception of groundbreaking work done by the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council to assure non-discrimination in public housing, virtually no other protections existed barring discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Yet even on my first day I was introduced to allies. Compass had friends and people who supported our programs from the state and local Department of Health, an array of social service providers who assured the best quality of care for our clients, and even more conservative public entities who cautiously worked to give us seats at tables. Within a year I was privileged to serve on our local HIV/AIDS Community Planning Partnership and to represent Palm Beach County at the state level as part of the HIV/AIDS Florida Community Planning Group.

As a 24 year-old, out, young gay man I found this community and the opportunities presented to me to be exhilarating. As I grew, so did Compass. As our programs diversified, so did our support. With every new door that opened more people stepped forward to pledge their allegiance to Compass' cause and to those within our community.

I am proud to have served Compass for two decades, but I am more proud to have the privilege to represent the collective years of talent, compassion and commitment of the many people who are a part of our ongoing story. I know Compass' model works because it worked for me and so many people I hold dear. It isn't rocket science: provide an environment where people – young and old - feel accepted, protected, and nourished. Surround them with an ever-expanding loving community, and in time you get to tell stories of success like you will read on the pages that follow.



## OUR MISSION

Compass aims to diminish stereotypes by challenging long-standing misconceptions about the character of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

We accomplish this by emboldening our youth, promoting pride in our community, and acting as an educator, advocate, health service provider, and focal point for community organizing.

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Smart Riders Raise Nearly \$125K

# ABOUT COMPASS COMMUNITY CENTER

In 1988, a local group of community-centered men and women joined our nation's efforts to educate the public about the spread of HIV by starting the Stop AIDS Project of South Florida, Inc. With federal funding and strategic grassroots organizing, friends, families and co-workers opened their homes and businesses and facilitated meetings to identify those living with HIV, and to equip the larger community with knowledge and skills necessary to protect themselves from contracting the virus.

As the Stop AIDS program grew over the following four years, the board of directors – along with volunteers – recognized the role that stigma, bias and discrimination played in the transmission of HIV and identified a critical need to provide a safe space for youth and adults who were struggling with issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity. With private contributions and local funding from the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, that group of volunteers established Compass as the gay and lesbian community center of Palm Beach County in 1992.

Over the course of the next decade, Compass continued to prove itself as a leader in HIV prevention and care efforts, and as an organizer of information and referral services for gay and lesbian youth and adults who needed assistance at home, at work or in school as

they navigated their way toward empowered, healthy, productive lives.

Compass is the largest gay and lesbian community center in Florida and the Southeast United States and one of the largest and most respected of its kind in the nation. More than 25,000 people utilize its 14,000 square foot facility, and more than 17,000 referrals are fielded by more than 12,000 volunteer hours graciously contributed by hundreds of community-centered individuals each year.

In 2017, Compass and its family proudly celebrate more than 298 years of service to Palm Beach County, South Florida and the many constituents who have donated their time, money and expertise to advance one united mission: to diminish stereotypes by challenging long-standing misconceptions about the character of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Compass accomplishes its mission each day by emboldening our youth, promoting pride in our community, and acting as an educator, advocate, health service provider, and focal point for community organizing. As good neighbors, effective partners, and respected participants in our civic responsibilities, Compass promotes awareness of the caring nature of our diverse community, and continues to make history doing so.



Adriene Tynes of Nonprofits First presents Compass Staff and Board of Trustees with Certificate of Accreditation of Excellence in Nonprofit Management.

*Photo courtesy of Michael Woods.*

## COMPASS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT FOR TENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Compass achieved Accreditation for Excellence in Nonprofit Management for the tenth consecutive year, by Nonprofits First. The accreditation process requires agencies to meet or exceed over 800 standards including nonprofit administration, board governance, finance, strategic planning, risk management, charitable solicitation, human resources, and volunteer management. Accreditation stands to reassure community members and stakeholders in Compass' demonstrated accountability, sustainability, and commitment to excellence.

Nonprofits First® was established in Palm Beach County by a coalition of funders and other community partners to strengthen the operational capacity of local nonprofit organizations. The program helps organizations achieve their mission by overcoming administrative challenges, ensuring compliance with mandatory and best practice standards, and improving efficiency. Achieving Accreditation in Excellence in Nonprofit Management enables Compass and its peer organizations to manage risks, identify financial trends, and most importantly, demonstrate accountability and management excellence to funders and other stakeholders.

"This acknowledgment underscores that Compass continues to provide stellar, lifesaving services while simultaneously meeting and exceeding the highest standards in nonprofit management and best practices," Tony Plakas, Compass' CEO explained, "Achieving accreditation for excellence in nonprofit management is the way our staff and board collectively demonstrate our commitment and passion to the generosity of our funders, donors, and volunteers."



TLC DOCUSERIES STAR AND CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR

# JAZZ JENNINGS

## TO GRAND MARSHAL COMPASS' PRIDEFEST PARADE

Voted Best LGBT Event of the Year for two consecutive years by the readers of South Florida Gay News, Compass' Annual PrideFest of the Palm Beaches is expected to break record attendance this year. The weekend long festival, emceed by local celebrities Melissa St. John and RaeJean Cox, will take place on March 25-26 in Bryant Park in Lake Worth, from noon to 6:00 pm.

Transgender Activist, Jazz Jennings, will shine as Grand Marshal of Compass' "We the People" Pride Parade on Sunday, March 26th. Jazz Jennings is a world renowned author, speaker, award winning activist, and the star of the TLC docuseries, "I am Jazz".

The "We the People" parade will feature floats and marchers celebrating pride in the LGBT community in light of the current political climate nationwide. The "We the People" Parade, sponsored by Wells Fargo, kicks off at 11:30 am heading east on Lake Avenue and directly into Bryant Park on March 26th.

With a number of marches on Washington and around the country taking place throughout the year, and an LGBT-specific March on Washington

scheduled for June 11th of this year, Compass reminds you that in Palm Beach County, we March in March!

Following the Trump Administration's move to revoke federal protections for Transgender students, Jazz Jennings will lead the parade of community members committed to protecting Transgender youth because "We the People" means everyone.

"Our community has plenty to celebrate this year, but we also have a lot to march about," Compass CEO, Tony Plakas explained, "This year's parade is sure to be our biggest parade to date."

The two-day LGBT Pride festival features live music, entertainment, vendors, food and beverage, and fun for the whole family.

**PrideFest of the Palm Beaches is hosted, planned, and produced by Compass Community Center, the LGBT Community Center of Palm Beach County. To learn more about Compass and PrideFest of the Palm Beaches, visit [www.compassglcc.com](http://www.compassglcc.com) or [www.facebook.com/compasscenter](http://www.facebook.com/compasscenter).**



## ABOUT JAZZ JENNINGS

Sixteen year old Jazz Jennings, is an honorary co-founder of the Transkids Purple Rainbow Foundation. Jazz speaks at universities, medical schools, conferences, conventions and symposiums all over the country. She's also a Youtube Vlogger, a youth ambassador for the Human Rights Campaign and an advocate for GLAAD.

When she was six, Jazz appeared on 20/20 with Barbara Walters. Jazz and her family now have their own docu-series, "I Am Jazz," now on TLC.

Jazz is no stranger to discrimination. For 5 years she wasn't allowed to use the girls restroom in her school. For 2 1/2 years Jazz was banned from girls' soccer in her state. After a long battle, the United States Soccer Federation ordered her home state to lift the ban. As a result of the discrimination that Jazz was forced to endure, the USSF created a policy to include all transgender athletes who want to play soccer in the United States of America.



# 5TH ANNUAL GAY CHILI COOK OFF RAISED \$3000 FOR COMPASS YOUTH

Once again, Penny's at the Duke hosted the 5th Annual Gay Chili Cook Off this year. We extend our sincere gratitude to all who came, cooked, judged, volunteered, donated, danced, and performed at the annual benefit for Compass Youth Program.

This year, the Mad Hatter Lounge won the people's choice for best chili! Other competitors included the 2016 champions, H.G. Roosters, as well as Rhythm Cafe, Love Tokens, PJ's Bowl of Red, and Eric Pearson cooking for Compass Youth Group. Performances includes RaeJean Cox, Velvet Lenore, Rianna Patrone, and Nicole Saphire.

The cold and rainy weather made it the perfect day for chili, dancing, and good times at Penny's at the Duke. The event raised more than \$3,000 for Compass' Youth Services. Contributions from events like the Gay Chili Cook-Off support the programs and services Compass provides for LGBTQ youth including the annual Equality Prom and Lavender Graduation Ceremony.



Photos Courtesy of Wanesco Images



# EQUALITY FLORIDA HONORS COMPASS AS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER IN EQUALITY AT PALM BEACH GALA

Equality Florida awarded Compass the Community Partner for Equality Award at their Annual Palm Beach Gala on February 19th, in recognition of Compass' contributions as the only direct service provider for the LGBT community in Palm Beach County since its inception in 1988.

In presenting the Community Partner in Equality Award to Compass' Executive Director, Tony Plakas, Allan Hendricks said,

"Compass is our community center. Where do we go when there's a challenge to our community? Where do we go when a young person desperately need fellowship and help? Where do we gather for events, exhibits, meetings and celebrations? Over the years we have seen Pridefest, Stonewall Ball and other events grow into a staple events here in Palm Beach County. This not only bring us together as a community, it brings the larger community together with us. It promotes love and understanding with our fellow citizens. It turns acquaintances into friends and friends into allies and advocates. Compass is our community center."

Kim Mazauskas, the Anti-Bullying Coordinator for the School District of Palm Beach County, was awarded the Voice for Equality Award for her tireless efforts to protect students in Palm Beach County Schools. Kim is a longtime friend of Compass and a true ally for LGBTQ youth.

Through grassroots organizing, coalition building, and lobbying, Equality Florida works to protect Floridians from harassment and discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

With gratitude, Compass accepts this recognition as a Community Partner in Equality, and remains committed to serving the LGBTQ community in Palm Beach County.



▲ Photo courtesy of Equality Florida.



▲ Compass Board Treasurer, Michael Woods, with the Voice for Equality Award Winner, Kim Mazauskas. Photo courtesy of Carol Porter and Equality Florida.

# CITY OF LAKE WORTH CELEBRATES PRIDE MONTH AT CITY HALL

Each year, the Lake Worth City Commission raises the pride flag and proclaims March as LGBTQ Pride month in the City of Lake Worth in honor of Compass' PrideFest of the Palm Beaches. This year was no exception. Mayor Pam Triolo, City Commissioner Andy Amoroso, and Compass CEO Tony Plakas addressed the crowd which included Captain Baer and representatives of the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, Compass staff, and local community members.



Photos courtesy of Jamie Foreman-Plakas

**2017**  
**Miss Palm Beach Pride Pageant**  
 Monday, March 13, 2017  
 Doors open at 6:30 pm • Show starts at 8 pm  
 at The Kelsey Theatre  
 700 Park Ave • Lake Park

**KELSEY THEATRE** **COMPASS** **MICHAEL'S**

**TICKETS**  
 VIP TABLE for 10: \$300 (includes entry for 10 and 2 bottles of wine)  
 Preferred Seating: \$20 (includes 1 drink ticket)  
 General Admission: \$10  
 Contact The Kelsey Theater at (561) 328-7481  
 or email: [events@thekelseytheater.com](mailto:events@thekelseytheater.com)  
 \*Compass will receive a percentage of the proceeds.

**CATEGORIES**  
 Presentation: Self Expression • Talent • Evening Gown  
 Winner • 1st place runner up • 2nd place runner up

Pre-Registration Entry Fee: \$75 by March 1st.  
 After March 1st: Registration fee: \$100

VELVET LENORE • Miss Palm Beach Pride 2016



@CompassCenter



@CompassCenter



@Compassglcc

# NORTON & KRAVIS ARTS & CULTURE MENTORING HIGHLIGHTS

## LGBTQ+ YOUTH AT COMPASS

Since 1992, Compass has served as the only direct service provider for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and non-binary youth in Palm Beach County. In addition to Compass' Social Support Group for LGBT youth and allies, and Transcendence, the Transgender Youth Support Group, Compass also offers a one-of-a-kind mentor program.

In partnership with the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach Opera, and United Way of Palm Beach County, Compass links LGBTQ youth to trusted adult mentors from our community. Mentorship at Compass includes a commitment of 4 hours, face-to-face time at the center for homework help and a listening ear from a trained and trusted mentor for our LGBT youth between the ages of 12-18.

The Mentor Program takes chaperoned trips to the Kravis Center to view multicultural musical and theatrical performances from around the globe. The Norton Museum of Art just recently hosted a season art project and in-house art exhibition of our youth program's own work at the center. Palm Beach Opera launched its pilot program, Opera OUT Loud, with Compass Youth in an effort to highlight the contributions of the LGBTQ community in Opera and expose young people to the artform.

Through social-support, mentorship, arts & culture, comprehensive sexual health education, community service learning, and leadership development, Compass' array of services give LGBTQ youth the tools to lead healthy, happy, and successful lives.

To learn more about Compass' mentoring program or to apply to be a mentor, visit [www.compassglcc.com](http://www.compassglcc.com) or email [youth@compassglcc.com](mailto:youth@compassglcc.com).

Compass Youth and Mentors tour the Norton Museum of Art



**YOUTH GROUP** LGBTQ teens and allies ages 12-19 meet every Wednesday & Friday, 5:00-7:00 pm. Make new friends and discuss the issues that matter to YOU! Open group, join any time!

**TRANSCENDENCE** Transgender Youth Support Group, ages 12-19. This is a closed group; for more information contact: [youth@compassglcc.com](mailto:youth@compassglcc.com).

**MENTORING** Compass' Mentoring Program explores arts & culture throughout Palm Beach County. One-on-one and group mentorship with a trusted adult, homework help, field trips, group activities, and so much more!

**QUEER ALTERNATIVES** Social Group for LGBTQ young adults ages 18-27 meets every Friday at 5:00.

**PFLAG** Parents, Friends, and Families of LGBT people meet at Compass on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, 5:00-7:00.

**YOUTH DROP-IN CENTER & YOUTH COMPUTER HOURS:**  
Monday - Friday from 3:00-7:00 pm

### REIGNING QUEEN, VELVET LENORE, WILL CROWN THE NEXT MISS PALM BEACH PRIDE

Crowned Miss Palm Beach Pride in 2016, Velvet Lenore will pass the torch to a new queen on Monday, March 13th at the Miss Palm Beach Pride Pageant at the Kelsey Theater in Lake Park. Local female impersonators will compete in multiple categories, including self expression, talent, and evening gown.

During her reign, Miss Palm Beach Pride will perform at PrideFest of the Palm Beaches, will be featured at a variety of Compass Community Events, and will crown her successor in 2018.

The one and only Velvet Lenore leaves fabulous shoes to fill for the next queen in line. This evening will be unforgettable and competition will be fierce. To learn more about the Miss Palm Beach Pride Pageant or to purchase your tickets, contact the Kelsey Theater at [events@thekelseytheater.com](mailto:events@thekelseytheater.com).



▲ Miss Palm Beach Pride 2016, Photo courtesy of Wanesco Images



# COMPASS ENTOURAGE VOTED BEST SOCIAL GROUP IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

## 5TH ANNUAL EQUALITY PROM WILL BE HELD "UNDER THE SEA" MAY 26TH

This year's Equality Prom will be a "Coral Kiki" with a whimsical under the sea theme. In 2013, Compass hosted the inaugural Equality Prom, inspired by a gender nonconforming youth group member who was told she could not wear a tuxedo to her high school prom.

Since then, Compass Youth fundraise, with the support of our dedicated local community, to plan and produce a free and inclusive Equality Prom at Compass Community Center. Equality Prom promises the right of passage experience in a safe and judgement-free environment for students from all over Palm Beach County.

Music, dancing, food, photos, performances, and fabulous costume attire make Equality Prom a night to remember, year after year. This year, Compass Youth have chosen Coral Kiki as theme. Under the Sea decor and aquatic-inspired attire will set the tone for another magical evening.

**For more information or to register you or your GSA to attend Equality Prom, email Amanda Canete at [Amanda@compassglcc.com](mailto:Amanda@compassglcc.com).**



**Coral Kiki**  
FRIDAY, MAY 26TH  
7PM-11PM

**Free Admission.**  
Be your fabulous self and dress to impress!  
Aquatic Attire Encouraged!

To register, or for more information contact Amanda at [amanda@compassglcc.com](mailto:amanda@compassglcc.com) or call 561.533.9699

Mandatory Pre-event meeting for all attendees  
Wednesday May 24th  
at 5pm in the  
Compass Youth Drop-in Center.

Hosted By Compass Community Center  
201 N. Dixie Hwy | Lake Worth, FL 33460

YOUTH EQUALITY PROM

Voted Best Social Group in Palm Beach County by the reads of South Florida Gay News, Compass' Entourage is the leading social group for LGBT people between the ages of 18-29. Entourage is a safe space for young adults to meet new people and learn more about their community.

Through a grant from the Florida Department of Health, Entourage builds upon the evidence based Mpowerment program to organize and educate young gay, bisexual, and transgender men in Palm Beach County.

"We have built a safe space for open, honest conversation about sex, relationships, regular HIV testing, and how to be out, loud, and proud," Dylan Brooks, Compass' Mpowerment Coordinator explained.

Rex Barnes, 26, found Entourage on Facebook, said, "Entourage has been a real eye-opener for me. It's introduced me to so many more aspects of LGBT life than just the bar scene and I have made friends who will be with me for the rest of my life."

**Entourage meets on Friday nights from 5:00-7:00 at Compass and hosts quarterly social events throughout the community. To learn more about Entourage, visit [www.compassglcc.com](http://www.compassglcc.com), [www.facebook.com/entourage](http://www.facebook.com/entourage), or email Dylan Brooks at [Dylan@compassglcc.com](mailto:Dylan@compassglcc.com).**



EVERYONE HAS A STATUS  
do you know yours

Compass Community Center

Free HIV Testing Hours  
Mondays: 4:00 - 7:30  
Tuesdays: 1:00 - 5:30  
Thursdays: 4:00 - 7:30

Also available by appointment.



# PrideFest

Lake Worth & the Palm Beaches 2017

March 25 & 26



#PalmBeachPride  
#IamWe

12 - 6 pm @ Bryant Park

MARCH  
25&26

## SUNDAY PARADE

11:30 AM ON Lake Avenue

Tickets: \$8 Pre-sale • \$10 at the gate



[www.compassglcc.com](http://www.compassglcc.com) • 561-533-5699

Contributions benefit Compass, Inc., a not for profit tax exempt organization. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF Compass, Inc., (CH4727), MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES AT [WWW.800HELPFLA.COM](http://WWW.800HELPFLA.COM) OR BY CALLING TOLL FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



# RED HAT BRUNCH IN HONOR OF NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

March 10th is the 12th Annual National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The purpose of the observance is to raise awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls. Compass commemorates this day with the annual Red Hat Brunch, a fun, interactive, and informative event for women and girls.

Today, women account for 20% of new HIV diagnosis in the United States. Organizations all over the country host events to raise awareness about the gaps in access to HIV care that many American women still face, encourage women to get tested, and encourage women to seek treatment if they test positive.

Compass invites women and girls, health care providers, and community members for brunch, photobooth, networking,

HIV testing, an educational session, and so much more. The Red Hat Brunch is sponsored by Janssen Therapeutics and AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

**Positively Dynamite**, *Compass' social-support group for women living with HIV, have taken the lead on planning and preparations for this event. Join them March 10th for brunch and wear a red hat to honor the*

**Positively Dynamite meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at noon at Compass. For more information, email Patrice Huntley at [patrice@compassglcc.com](mailto:patrice@compassglcc.com) or call 561-533-9699.**



**NATIONAL Women and Girls HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY**

The purpose of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, observed each year on March 10th, is to raise awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls.

**Share KNOWLEDGE! Take ACTION!**

**COMPASS 3rd ANNUAL RED HAT BRUNCH** MARCH 10 2017  
NATIONAL WOMEN & GIRLS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

# PRIDE BUSINESS ALLIANCE MIXER IS BEST MONTHLY EVENT IN PBC

Voted best monthly event in Palm Beach County by the readers of South Florida Gay News, Compass' monthly Pride Business Alliance mixer is the premier networking event for diverse and progressive professionals, entrepreneurs, and corporations. Hosted each month at a new and interesting venue, the mixers are an opportunity to check out a new location, enjoy cocktails and light bites, meet like minded people, and grow your business.

Compass' Pride Business Alliance, formed in 2005, was founded with the initial goal of providing the community with a curated directory of gay and/or gay-friendly businesses and professionals. The mission of the Pride Business Alliance is to promote a unified and thriving, LGBT and LGBT-friendly business and professional community throughout Palm Beach County. Membership includes free entry to mixers, access to the Member Perks Tent at PrideFest, and a listing in Compass'

digital and printed Business and Resource directory which serves as the go-to guide for anything and everything for the Compass community in Palm Beach County.

Twelve years later, the Pride Business Alliance, or PBA as many of our members refer to it, is a vast and diverse referral network. Becoming a member of the PBA sends a message to your clients, patrons, employees, and constituents that your business is inclusive in the services you provide and in your hiring practices. Compass also offers consulting on an individual basis to help businesses and providers better serve the LGBT community in Palm Beach County.

**To learn more about the Pride Business Alliance or to host a mixer, contact our team at [events@compassglcc.com](mailto:events@compassglcc.com) or join us at one of our upcoming mixers!**



## LGBTQ SENSITIVITY TRAINING FOR YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS

Are you or your business ready to learn more about becoming more LGBTQ inclusive?

Compass offers trainings and consulting to increase your understanding of gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and help you create a safe and inclusive environment for all people. Whether you are an educator seeking to create a safe space in your classroom, or service provider aiming to better meet the needs of your patients or clientele, Compass will provide you the information and tools to be a better ally to the LGBTQ community.

**To learn more about upcoming trainings or to schedule a private consultation, email compass at [compass@compassglcc.com](mailto:compass@compassglcc.com).**



## Pride Business Alliance Mixers - Save the Date!

- ▶ Wednesday, March 22 – 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
The Social House in Lake Worth
- ▶ Wednesday, April 26 – 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
Bike America in West Palm Beach
- ▶ Wednesday, May 24 – 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
Fine Aesthetics in Delray Beach
- ▶ Wednesday, June 21 – 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
Grandview Gardens in West Palm Beach
- ▶ Wednesday, July 26 – 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
Hyatt Place in West Palm Beach
- ▶ Wednesday, August 23 – 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
McMow Art Glass in Lake Worth



Sean Rush Atelier and J&G Beauty Loft  
Photos courtesy of Wanesco Images

# SMART RIDERS RAISE NEARLY \$125K FOR DIRECT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

In 2016, Compass was selected as a benefitting agency of the SMART Ride, the two-day, 165 mile charity bike ride from Miami to Key West. The SMART Ride was inspired by a dream to make a real and significant difference in the lives of those infected, affected, and at risk for HIV/AIDS.

Since 2003, the SMART Ride has raised over \$8 million, donating 100% of funds raised to select AIDS Service organizations in the state of Florida. In November 2016, The SMART Ride raised \$1,073,880 and donated \$123,105.63 to Compass Community Center to support its work in HIV prevention and HIV health services.

SMART Riders must raise \$1,250 to participate in the SMART Ride. After the two-day ride, following a celebration near the Southernmost point of the United States, riders have the opportunity to designate their funds to specific organizations or to the overall pot to be distributed evenly.

Compass staff and volunteers traveled from Lake Worth to Miami, Miami to Key West, and all the way back again to serve as Support Crew for the ride.

**To make a donation, to register for the SMART Ride, or to sign up to volunteer visit [www.thesmartride.org](http://www.thesmartride.org).**



▲ Photo Courtesy of Christina Collins.



▲ Designated SMART Ride HIV Testing Room at Compass Community Center



◀ Compass Staff and Crew at the SMART Ride Award Ceremony.

▼ Compass staff and volunteers working as crew and riding in the SMART Ride.



## STRONGER THAN MOST, WEAKER THAN FEW.

*A Poem by Christina Collins  
Compass Case Manager and SMART Rider*

*I ride for those who don't  
I ride for those who can't  
I am stronger than most  
Weaker than few  
I ride for one to become two*

*The first 50 miles I ride for myself  
For we are all selfish creatures who must prove to themselves self-worth  
The next 50 miles I ride for you  
For without you I would have no reason to ride  
The next 50 miles I "Will" to ride. I will to finish. I will to be alive.  
I have been broken, I have been beaten, I have dignified my self-worth and understanding strikes my brow  
The last 15 miles I still ride for those who don't and those that can't.  
I see the irony now, I see how we are connected and I enjoy the ride  
The finish is near and a parade is promised.*

*I wonder why we must ride in a parade, for the people who see us have no clue  
Then I see it. I see all 500 riders, I realize why  
It is not who rides but that we ride together.  
We ride through the streets, the sidewalks, and the bridges to prove to us and to everyone*

*The rider in the end may be broken but a bunch of broken riders becomes a collective that works together as a team and we will block up your roads to prove it  
Yes We ride for those who are not here, for those who don't and those who can't.  
We the collective few ride so others can live another day, can have a life and live to the fullest.*

*For we are stronger than most, weaker than few.  
So WE will ride until we are through*

## MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Membership and contributions enhance Compass' funded programs by providing financial resources for community center activities and special events held outside of the scope of our funded, direct service programs.

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

—	\$35	Member
—	\$100	Couple/Family
—	\$250	Supporter
—	\$750	Advocacy
—	\$1,500	Leader
—	\$2,500	Innovator
—	\$5,000	Visionary

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as you would like it to appear in all published materials, plaques and signs:

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to remain anonymous

I am interested in quarterly or monthly payments, please contact me to set that up.

### METHOD OF PAYMENT

Checks enclosed payable to Compass

Visa | MasterCard | Discover | American Express

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_ / \_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed form to:**  
Compass | Attn: Membership  
201 N. Dixie Hwy.  
Lake Worth, FL 33460

Questions? 561.533.9699 or [compass@compassglcc.com](mailto:compass@compassglcc.com)



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## COMPASS COMMUNITY CENTER

**201 North Dixie Highway  
Lake Worth, FL 33460**

Phone 561.533.9699 | Fax 561.586.0635  
[Compassglcc.com](http://Compassglcc.com) | [Compass@Compassglcc.com](mailto:Compass@Compassglcc.com)

## HOURS OF OPERATIONS

### Community Center Hours

Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturdays 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

### David Bohnett CyberCenter Hours

Monday - Thursday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Fridays 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Rapid HIV Testing Hours

Mondays & Thursdays 4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

First Thursday of the month  
the Department of Health provides Hepatitis A & B  
Vaccinations, Hepatitis C & Syphilis Testing, Tetanus  
Shots & Flu Shots (seasonal)

Submitted photo.



## Commission to Consider Raising Trans Flag

By Michael d'Oliveira

In response to the Trump administration's recent actions regarding the transgender community, activist and transgender ally Michael Rajner asked commissioners to fly the Transgender Flag as a show of support.

"I think it's time this city stand behind the transgender community by raising the flag," said Rajner at last night's commission meeting. After he was done speaking, Rajner presented a Transgender Flag, provided by To The Moon owner Antonio Dumas, to the city and laid it across the dais.

Rajner made his request because of the Trump administration's decision to rescind the Obama administration's guidelines that advised public schools to allow transgender students to use the bathroom that corresponds to their gender identity. The Trump administration stated that bathroom guidelines should be left up to each individual state.

Commissioner Julie Carson said flying the Transgender Flag would be good for the community and said it would be similar to the commission's decision to fly the Pride Flag at Jaycee Park.

"I think it would be a wonderful thing to do. Flying the Transgender Flag along with the Rainbow Flag would help to unify our community and demonstrate we are diverse and accepting of all, including the transgender community," Carson said. Asked if she would want to fly the Transgender Flag under the Pride Flag, Carson said "that would be a real appropriate place for it.

In October of 2015, the commission

voted unanimously to fly the Pride Flag permanently at Jaycee Park.

Assistant City Manager Pamela Landi said city staff members could decide to fly the Transgender Flag on their own but will "seek direction" just like they did with the Pride Flag. Carson said she may propose flying the Transgender Flag at the next commission meeting on March 14.

Vice Mayor Justin Flippen said he's open to considering Rajner's request and he's supportive of ways the city can reaffirm its support for the transgender community to make sure the "T [in LGBT] is not left out."

But Mayor Gary Resnick and Commissioner Scott Newton think the Pride Flag is already a symbol of inclusiveness and support that includes the transgender community. "It represents everybody. Everybody who supports equality. That can be straight people who support equal rights. I think [the Pride Flag] more represents an idea [than a group]. I don't see the need to fly more flags," Resnick said.

Newton said flying the Transgender Flag could encourage all sorts of groups to want their own flag flown. "Where do you stop?" Asked how flying the Transgender Flag would be a different precedent than flying the Pride Flag, Newton said flying the Pride Flag was an acknowledgement of "what the gay community has done in this city" similar to naming a street after a resident who has contributed to the city.

SFGN was unable to reach Commissioner Tom Green in time for publication. **WMG**

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- ▶ Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida: Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care
- ▶ Surgical Weight Loss Center of Excellence

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# Officials Hope Shuttle Service Alleviates Parking Woes

Shuttle will be running in four to six weeks

By Michael d'Oliveira

It's not a new parking lot but commissioners hope the city's new free shuttle service will have the same impact and alleviate the parking problems along Wilton Drive.

At their Feb. 28 meeting, commissioners approved the implementation of the shuttle service at an estimated cost of about \$7,000 for the 90-day trial period.

There will be eight stops – city hall, the Shoppes of Wilton Manors, Strawberry Plaza, the parking lot at 2309 N. Dixie Hwy., the Northeast 8 Terrace parking lot, Northeast 7 Avenue on the north side of the street, the Zig Zag Building, and Richardson Park. Signs will be placed at the corresponding stops.

When implemented, an estimated four to six weeks from now, the service will operate Thursday to Sunday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. City staff said the hours could be increased if needed at a cost of \$17 per hour.

The goal is to take some of the pressure off the parking lots at the south end of Wilton

Drive. "We will make riders aware of the lesser-used parking lots at NE 8th Terrace and at 2309 N. Dixie Highway and encourage them to park there and ride the shuttle at busy times rather than parking at City Hall or Richardson," wrote Finance Director Bob Mays in his report to commissioners.

Commissioners also approved an employee parking permit program which consists of 12 spaces in the back of the Hagen Park lot, eight spaces at the Woman's Club, and five spaces at the Northeast 8 Terrace lot. There would be a monthly fee of \$42 per permit and the spaces would be reserved for employees.

Mayor Gary Resnick suggested the city use "kid gloves" when the employee parking program starts. He wants others to have enough time to learn that the designated spots are for employees only. Mays said warnings will be issued and signage would be implemented.

The goal of the employee permits is to get



employees to use those spaces and free up spaces on the street to be used by customers. By not having employees take up prime parking spaces for the entire length of their six to eight hour shifts, those spaces could be used more often by others.

Vice Mayor Justin Flippen said solving the parking problems along Wilton Drive would require a "multi-faceted" approach. "There's no simple, one way to address parking in the city."

Commissioner Tom Green said the city could also use the shuttle to help bring another form of public transportation to the city – one of the Tri-Rail stations planned along the FEC railway. Wilton Manors, along with Fort Lauderdale and Oakland Park, could be one of the cities that gets a commuter rail station. "We can put on our application that we have this service," said Green.

The shuttle and the employee permits were two of the recommendations put forth by the parking study authored by Lanier Parking Solutions, the firm hired by the city to administer its parking program. But so far, the shuttle and permit programs are the only two suggestions approved by the commission.

Other recommendations included the construction of a garage at Hagen Park, re-establishing a valet service [which was unsuccessful previously], and an expansion of the payment in lieu of parking fee to include a monthly payment option. Currently, property owners and developers have to pay a one-time fee if they choose not to provide the required number of parking spaces. **WMG**

# Parking Firm Contract Extended By Two Years

Michael d'Oliveira



Commissioners unanimously approved a two-year contract extension with Lanier Parking Solutions, the city's parking firm. The contract was extended to March 31, 2019. Commissioners did not open the contract to bidding but will have to do so in 2019. The original contract was for five years and was extended by two years in 2015. This is the last contract extension they can approve.

"Over the last 6-1/2 years of the agreement, Lanier has provided excellent services to the City.

Their local staff has shown expertise in daily management and enforcement, and especially with their ability to deal cordially but firmly with unhappy customers. Their staff's customer service skills have resulted in the settlement of the vast majority of parking customer concerns without having to escalate those concerns to the attention of city staff or to the city commission," wrote Bob Mays, the city's finance director and parking contract administrator, in a report to the commission.

City staff also recommended an extension because of cost savings.

"The city reimburses Lanier for the actual costs of managing the parking program, and in addition pays them an incentive management fee of 3.30 percent on meter revenue and 4.95 percent on citation revenue. For FY16 the incentive management payment was \$29,000 and the reimbursement payment was \$304,799. The reimbursement payment for FY17 is expected to be lower [about \$260,000] due to reduced costs for administrative personnel," Mays wrote. **WMG**



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# Around Town

By Michael d'Oliveira

## Art Gallery 21 Presents "The Way We Worked"

Art Gallery 21, in partnership with the City of Wilton Manors, Central Area Neighborhood Association of Wilton Manors, The Pride Center at Equality Park, Stonewall Museum & Archive and The Humanity Project, will host the traveling Smithsonian exhibit "The Way We Worked." The exhibit will feature rare videos, interviews and photos taken over 150 years. Viewers will be able to explore how the opportunities provided by work became central to the American dream. The exhibit will be on display from Friday, March 24 through Saturday, May 6, from noon to 8 p.m. at Art Gallery 21 at the Woman's Club of Wilton Manors (600 NE 21st Ct., Wilton Manors, FL 33305). [WMG](#)

## Deutch Staff Outreach

Every first Wednesday of the month, the staff from Congressman Ted Deutch's office will be available at Wilton Manors City Hall to discuss federal-related issues such as healthcare, veterans affairs, Social Security, the IRS, and more. The staff members will be available from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, contact Congressman Deutch's Deputy District Director Theresa Brier at 954-972-6454 or [theresa.brier@mail.house.gov](mailto:theresa.brier@mail.house.gov). [WMG](#)

## Community Spirit Awards

The Wilton Manors Community Affairs Advisory Board is looking for nominations for its second annual Community Spirit Awards. The Community Spirit Awards are held to recognize residents and business owners "for their spirit of giving." Nominations should be 250 words or less and include the type of work done by the volunteer, how long they've done it, and how it has impacted the community. The chosen honorees will be recognized at the city's annual volunteer appreciation event on May 13 and a future commission meeting. The deadline to submit a nomination is March 31. To download a nomination form, visit [WiltonManors.com](http://WiltonManors.com) or call John Goodnight at 954-390-2120. [WMG](#)

## Egg Hunt

Wilton Manors' annual Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Clement's Catholic Church, 225 NW 29 St. Children ages newborn to 13 can search for thousands of colorful eggs that Mr. Cottontail has filled with goodies. There will be a bounce house, pony rides, entertainment, pictures with Mr. Cottontail, and more. Visit [WiltonManors.com](http://WiltonManors.com) or call 954-390-2130 for more information. [WMG](#)

## WMBA Expo

Looking to support local businesses? The Wilton Manors Business Association will hold its annual Business Expo on Monday, March 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hagen Park Community Center, 2020 Wilton Drive. The event will include local businesses setting up booths and showcasing their products and services. Some will also give away free items and samples. "We're so excited about this year's Expo," said Karl Lentzer, president of WMBA. "We have a dynamic mix of businesses, from retail to services, all of whom are local. Our members all work together to shape our city and bring the most benefit to our residents." The event is free and open to the public. There will also be a presentation from The SCORE Association, a non-profit association dedicated to entrepreneurial education and the formation, growth and success of small businesses. To sign-up for a table, email [expo@wiltonmanorsbusinessassociation.com](mailto:expo@wiltonmanorsbusinessassociation.com). [WMG](#)

## Police Vehicle Purchase

At their Feb. 28 meeting, commissioners approved \$47,618 for a police vehicle to be used for the K-9 unit. The cost of the 2017 Ford Interceptor is \$26,961. Additional equipment and other costs bring the total cost to \$47,618. The money used to purchase the vehicle and equipment is from the city's Law Enforcement Trust Fund. [WMG](#)

## City Hires Firm for Northeast 26 Street Project

Wilton Manors is moving forward on improvements to Northeast 26 Street between Dixie Highway and Federal Highway. At their Feb. 28 meeting, commissioners approved a \$130,785 contract with Chen & Associates, an engineering firm the city has hired on multiple occasions, to design the project. Funded by a \$963,665 grant, the project will include the addition of bicycle lanes and crosswalks and improvements to sidewalks and drainage. The public is invited to give its input during the design phase of the project from April 2017 to August 2018. Bidding on the construction work will take place between September 2017 and February 2018 and construction will take place between November 2018 and May 2019. [WMG](#)

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## RAISE THAT FLAG WILTON MANORS

► Michael Rajner

Like many gay men, I was unaware of the incredible injustice inflicted on transgender individuals and wasn't always an ally of the transgender community. In 2005, I first engaged in HIV/AIDS activism and befriended several transgender individuals who helped educate me on the complexity of their hardship and struggle, and the intersectionality of our struggles.

Over the last 10 years, I was proud to be part of advocacy efforts to advance non-discrimination protections for transgender people in the cities of Oakland Park, Pembroke Pines and Wilton Manors, in the Broward County's Human Rights Act and at the Broward County School Board. These protections have helped transgender people thrive in our local community by giving them the legal remedy should they be a victim of discrimination. We have also been able to expand access to critical healthcare for transgender people for their unique medical needs.

During the 2015 session of the Florida Legislature in Tallahassee, we were successful to fight back against legislation that wrongly targeted our transgender brothers and sisters and attempted to criminalize them for using a public restroom consistent with their gender identity. It's something that many of us take for granted.

Most recently, the 45th President of the United States reversed critical guidance that President Obama had issued to public schools on restrooms for transgender youth. Transgender youth already face extraordinarily high rates of suicidal ideation, bullying and violence. This week, the Supreme Court of the United States remanded Gavin Grimm's case against the Gloucester County School Board to be reconsidered by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

In Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach

Counties, we're lucky to have a public school district that continues to affirm our transgender youth and their right to safely access the restroom. But this isn't the case nationwide.

This year, the Florida Legislature is considering legislation that would completely wipe out the advances we have made at the local level to enact LGBT non-discrimination protections.

Additionally, Florida House Speaker Richard Corcoran just appointed John Stemberger to the Constitutional Revision Commission that will place constitutional amendments on the Florida ballot. It's feared that Stemberger will attempt to embed a statewide constitutional ban that would prevent transgender people from accessing a public restroom and advance a misguided sense of religious liberty that would override LGBT non-discrimination protections in employment, housing and public accommodation. As a refresher, Stemberger is the man who led the effort to pass Florida's Marriage Protection Act which banned marriage equality.

It wasn't long ago when a national gay rights group attempted to advance workplace protections that intentionally left the transgender community behind. In 2017, while we've made some collective advancement for the LGBT community, in many other places, we are still fighting to make sure our transgender brothers and sisters are included, similar to the struggle of our LGBT brothers and sisters of color.

I hope the Wilton Manors City Commission can understand why I feel it's time to also raise the Transgender Flag which I presented them with at last week's city commission meeting during public comment. While the Rainbow Flag is inclusive of the transgender community, we owe it to them to shine more light on their struggle. *SFGN*

## Editorial Cartoon

By Andy Marlette



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# WINTER PARTY FESTIVAL

A glimpse into the annual winter gathering in Miami that marks a week of fun to raise some funds.

J.R. Davis



To see many more photos, visit South Florida Gay News on Facebook.

## MARDI GRAS COMES TO WILTON STATION

On Feb. 25, Wilton Station's W-Club was transformed into a festive New Orleans style Mardi Gras destination. The vibrant gold-purple-green colors swirled throughout the venue with beads, bobbles and feathered masks adorning the beautiful people who came to celebrate. The Mardi Gras is now added as an annual event. Wilton Station's Social Committee plans the social event themes for the community and provides programs and activities that encourage and create social interactions for residents of Wilton Station designed to build community and camaraderie among residents. They've also hosted a Memorial Day Pool Potluck, A Fall Oktoberfest BBQ, and a Holiday Party. *SFGN*






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# I'M NOT GAY. YOU'RE NOT GAY. WE NEVER WERE GAY.

► Tony Adams

We are entering a “post-gay” era in which we can finally shed that very restrictive and inaccurate label “gay.” It never fit any of us correctly. It served cultural and political purposes that have now faded, and I am glad finally to come out as post-gay. You should too.

Some of you will remember the days when “the love that dare not speak its name” meant that folks had a problem with talking about sex acts they found shocking and improper. They did not have the words to deal with the prickly subject of those who had same-gender sex. By the time the word “gay” finally managed to

become useful in media and in conversation, it had already devolved into a pejorative. It had also become synonymous with homosexual males, to the exclusion of lesbians. Hence the more inclusive – and perpetually growing – descriptive LGBT.

Concurrently, the worldwide battles for equality for gay or queer or LGBT people had startling results in countries like Italy where most men shun the descriptive “gay” even though they will have sex with each other at various times throughout their lives. Most Italians do not really want gay rights. Same-sex attraction seems to them to be a natural and occasional choice, but not a career or a legality. They see heterosexual marriage also as a natural event that would never stop them from sometimes having sex with their boyfriends. They wonder why Americans in particular make such hoopla over gay rights. (There is certainly a gay movement in Italy but it has never been as strong as in neighboring European countries.) Put simply, for many Italian males, sex acts do not equal sexual identity.

I believe the Italians may be on to something. By comparison, if I walk into a Baskin-Robbins, survey the 31 flavors offered, and chose pistachio, am I to be

labeled forever a “pistachio-lover” by the person next in line who likes vanilla? Baskin-Robbins offers 31 flavors to allow for a different choice every day of the month, should you be so adventurous. The having of sex is no different. Some people like it one way and some another. The adventurous among us will allow ourselves a sexual variety. We learn what we prefer by experience. Never had chocolate? Try it.

Let's drill down into this concept of sexual fluidity to apply it to the word “gay.” At Island House Key West where I am often a guest, I see a wide variety of sexual appetites all huddled incorrectly under the large umbrella of gay. I have watched the having of almost every kind of male-on-male sex imaginable, thinking that I would never want to have a certain percentage of the sexual buffet available to me.

I have occasionally tried some type of sex for the sole purpose of seeing if it might stir something within me that had previously been self-designated as unappealing or repulsive. Sometimes I surprise myself, and I am glad for having had the exploration. Often, my reaction to having tried some previously un-tasted

flavor is that I am filled with pity for those who go through life allowing themselves only one type of sex. Their self-imposed restriction seems pointless, ridiculous and unnatural.

Because I have come to see firsthand the wide variety of sex acts that men will perform under the label gay (Need I list them?) and because I enjoy only a small percentage of them, I do not like being called gay. It implies so much about me that is simply not true. I would actually prefer to be called a “slut” which is the currently popular insult for the sexually adventurous.

I first realized how lame the word gay is 30 years ago when I came out to my mother. She received the disclosure with all the usual tearful histrionics leading to acceptance. However, a few months later,

**I HAVE OCCASIONALLY TRIED SOME TYPE OF SEX FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF SEEING IF IT MIGHT STIR SOMETHING WITHIN ME THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SELF-DESIGNATED AS UNAPPEALING OR REPULSIVE.**



she said, “I’m OK with you and Chris being gay until I get in my mind the image of what you actually do with each other.” I responded by saying, “I don’t know what you are imagining and I’m not even going to ask you, but do not be making assumptions. What you think we do may not be anything like what we really do!”

Her understandable myopia about what it means to be gay is shared by almost everyone. The farthest most people go in differentiating between gay men is to know that there are tops and bottoms, but they do not allow for the possibility of versatility, let alone for the endless other types of sexual behavior pegged gay. This is tiresome and I would like to see it end by retiring the word gay.

I am not gay. You are not gay. We are not gay. We are, at any given moment, those who enjoy freely choosing sex in a variety of ways with a variety of partners. If they were honest, straight men in prison would tell you that. If they were honest, straight

men in the locker room would tell you that. If they were honest, straight men who are soldiers far from home would tell you that.

Call us all horny, but don’t call us gay.

I am heartened to observe that the youngest among us are embracing sexual fluidity with ease. These kids are simply not afflicted with the sexual nonsense that warped the upbringings of their parents. Perhaps this is why the number of gay bars continues to plummet. They served a purpose that is expiring.

In conclusion, you and I are not gay because the sex we want on Monday may be different from the sex we want on Tuesday. The sex we want as newlyweds may be very different from the sex we want with our spouse or with others decades later. I’d rather you called me enlightened. I’d rather you called me adventurous. I’d really rather you just called me frisky. Let’s leave it at that. And should we ever have sex, I hope to be surprised by what you do.

Boring is the worst label of all. *SFGN*

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haven't forgotten our roots, Pride Factory still continues to carry graphic tees, lubricants and pride items.

This year Pride Factory plans to celebrate by giving customers the opportunity to save and to win. During month of March, stop by and sign up for your chance to win one of many prizes being awarded. Every day brings one new winner, with more winners each Saturday. Additionally, Pride Factory will be offering in store sales and discounts the entire month of March.

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-Virginia Woolf

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Submitted photos.



Rick Karlin

# A FISH TALE

When you grow up in a mixed religion (Jewish-Christian) household, with grandmothers from both sides in close proximity, you can develop with some strange ideas. For example, my Jewish grandmother used a lot of Yiddish terms. Some, like oy and schmuck, I figured out pretty easily. Then there were words I thought were Yiddish because my Jewish grandmother used them, but my Christian grandmother did not. I was almost 20 before I discovered that the word “spatula” and the term “far-fetched” were not Yiddish. They certainly sound like they should be.

Then there were the traditions. My family eats kreplach (a sort of Jewish ravioli) on Christmas Eve. Most folks have them in soup, we have them pan-fried like pot-stickers. And, they're served alongside my mother's signature crab and bacon dip...made with Velveeta! As my Jewish grandmother would say, “It's a shonde!”

Another skewed perspective happened around this time of year. Since Passover and Easter coincide (the Last Supper was a bunch of Jews at a holiday seder after all) the traditions of the two holidays melded in my mind. Christians forgo red meat during Lent, the period leading up to Easter. We seldom ate fish growing up; my mother had had her fill during the depression.

But, during Lent, my mother cooked a lot of fish (mostly canned tuna, but still, technically fish). Meanwhile my Jewish grandmother would bring home gefilte fish from the deli for Passover (she didn't make it herself, that much of a cook she wasn't). So, with all that seafood showing up at the same time, for the longest time I thought Passover meant a sale on fish.

During college I worked as a sous chef at

one of Chicago's top seafood restaurants and that's when I learned to love seafood and how to make gefilte fish. Whether you're focusing on fish for Lent, health reasons (the form of protein that's best for your body) or just because it tastes good, here are a few recipes that quick, easy and delicious. So, nu, grandma, who's the fish maven now?

## GRILLED HARISSA-CRUSTED SWORDFISH

This spicy Middle Eastern paste is bold enough to match the meaty swordfish and it helps keep the flesh moist. You can buy it prepared, but it's easy to make in a food processor and will keep for a couple of weeks if refrigerated.

### INGREDIENTS

*Harissa*  
2 red Fresno chiles  
2 red peppers  
2 Tbs. coriander seeds  
2 Tbs. cumin seeds  
3 cloves garlic, crushed  
1 cup olive oil  
2 Tbs. tomato paste  
Peel if one preserved lemon  
4 swordfish steaks, 6-8 ounces each  
vegetable oil

### DIRECTIONS

To make harissa:  
Broil chiles and peppers on all sides over a grill until blackened.  
Place in a covered bowl and allow to sit in their own steam for at least 15 minutes. When cooled, the peels will slide right off if you rub them with a paper towel.  
Over medium heat, in a small dry skillet, toast the coriander and cumin seeds.  
Place seeds, peppers, preserved lemon peel,

garlic, olive oil and tomato paste, in a food processor and blend until smooth.  
Transfer to a small bowl; season with salt and pepper.

### TO GRILL THE FISH:

Pat four swordfish steaks with a paper towel until dry, season with salt and pepper.  
Place in a large dish and generously spread two tablespoons of the harissa over one side of the fish.  
Place in a dish harissa side up, cover and chill at least 1 hour (can be done 24 hours in advance).  
Heat grill to medium high heat.  
Pat bottom side of swordfish dry and place dry side down onto a pan or plate coated with a little oil.  
Place fish on hot grill.  
Cook about three minutes.  
Flip and cook the side with the harissa, about three more minutes.  
When cooked correctly, the flesh should be about as firm as the flesh at the base of your thumb.  
Transfer to a platter and serve with additional harissa.

### OLIVE OIL-POACHED TROUT

Poaching ensures a moist piece of fish. All you'll need for a sauce is the leftover olive oil and the juice of a couple of lemons. Add some crusty bread and a tossed salad and you've got a complete meal. If you're unsure about removing the bones from the trout, this recipe also works wonderfully with skinned halibut, cod or monk fish.

### INGREDIENTS

3 cups quality olive oil  
4 6-7-ounce skin-on trout fillets  
Lemon wedges (for serving)  
Flaky sea salt

### DIRECTIONS

Pour oil into a large skillet to come the side of the pan about half an inch up (enough so that at least half the fish will be beneath the surface of the oil).  
Heat slowly until an instant-read thermometer registers 160°.  
While doing this, let the fish come to room temperature. This is an important step, if the fish is too cold it will drop the temperature of the oil too much.  
Carefully slip fish into oil, skin side down if using trout.  
Maintain temperature at 160°, you might need to adjust the heat for a few seconds after you add the fish.  
Cook until just opaque on surface, about 3-5 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fish.  
If using a thick fish, carefully turn over using two spatulas and cook an additional 3-4 minutes.  
Using a fish spatula, transfer fish to a baking sheet, placing skin side up.  
Blot away excess oil with paper towels.  
Squeeze lemon juice over both sides of each fillet, season with a pinch of sea salt. Serve with additional lemon wedges and some of the olive oil for dipping bread. **SFGN**

For more fishy recipes, including Cod Curry and Tuna Burgers, read the rest at [SFGN.com/food](http://SFGN.com/food)





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# SFGNITES

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 9 - MARCH 14, 2017 [WWW.SFGN.COM](http://WWW.SFGN.COM)

▶ J.W. Arnold  
[jw@prdconline.com](mailto:jw@prdconline.com)

## THU 3/9

### FUNDRAISER

Celebrity guest servers will headline "A Night of Stars," the official fundraiser kick-off for the 14th annual SMART Ride tonight at Lips, 1421 E. Oakland Park Blvd. Performances by Nicolette and her girls will support the 165-mile ride from Miami to Key West, with funds benefiting a number of local and statewide HIV/AIDS service organizations. Tickets are \$50 at [TheSMARTRide.org](http://TheSMARTRide.org) and include dinner.

## FRI 3/10

### HISTORY

Author and playwright Larry Kramer, a founder of Gay Men's Health Crisis and ACT UP, will be interviewed by former Vanity Fair editor Kevin Sessums tonight at 8 p.m. at the Sunshine Cathedral, 1480 SW 9th Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. The event is part of a weekend celebrating the 30th anniversary of ACT UP and includes a book signing on Thursday and Poz Millennials Summit on Saturday. Info at [WorldAIDSMuseum.org](http://WorldAIDSMuseum.org).

## Opera



## Friday 3/10

OPERA

Palm Beach Opera presents Verdi's "Rigoletto," the tragic story of a hunchbacked jester and a lecherous duke as powerful forces unravel a plot filled with deception, passion and vengeance. Michael Chioldi returns to the Kravis Center in the title role on Friday and Sunday, with Alexander Krasnov making his Palm Beach Opera debut on Saturday evening. Antonello Allemandi conducts. Tickets start at \$20 at [PBOpera.org](http://PBOpera.org).

*Submitted photo.*

## SAT 3/11

### CONCERT

Are you a serious "Game of Thrones" fan? The "Game of Thrones" Live Concert Experience comes to the BB&T Center in Sunrise tonight at 8 p.m. Using state-of-the-art technology and a full symphony orchestra, composer Ramin Djawadi will take the audience on an amazing, immersive journey through the Seven Kingdoms of this Emmy Award-winning HBO series. Tickets start at \$35.25 at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).

## SUN 3/12

### FUNDRAISER

Shake your booty and at the same time support Island City Stage, the Wilton Manors-based LGBT theater company, at the Un Masquerade T-Dance tonight at 4 p.m. on the rooftop of McSorley's, 837 N. Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd. A portion of ticket sales benefits the theater company. Cocktails by Absolut and don't miss the giveaways and raffles, too. Tickets \$8 in advance at [LGBTQTDance.Eventbrite.com](http://LGBTQTDance.Eventbrite.com).

## MON 3/13

### CONCERT

Michael Feinstein returns to the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach to sing the songs of Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis, Jr. The program, "The Crooners," will also feature Tony Award-nominated conductor Larry Blank and the Kravis Center Pops Orchestra, who will accompany Feinstein in chart-topping classics like "Swingin' on a Star," "Young at Heart" and "I've Gotta Be Me." Tickets start at \$30 at [Kravis.org](http://Kravis.org).

## TUE 3/14

### CONCERT

This is a big week for music with a little something for everyone. If you dig R&B, tonight at the Broward Center in Fort Lauderdale, Patti LaBelle will sing her electrifying renditions of "Lady Marmalade" and "New Attitude," and her chart-topping hits, "If You Only Knew," "When You Talk About Love," "The Right Kinda Lover" and more. Don't miss this legendary diva. Tickets start at \$60 at [BrowardCenter.org](http://BrowardCenter.org).



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Auditions will be held at Sunshine Cathedral  
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# A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING

The Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus knows you love Broadway, and March 18 will be **A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING!** Join us for an evening of theatre songs from Hello Dolly to Book of Mormon!

As if that weren't enough, the FTLGMC will be joined by our special guest Sharyn Peoples, one of our favorite local stage divas!

SATURDAY  
**MARCH 18, 2017**

8:00PM • All Saints Episcopal Church  
 333 Tarpon Drive, Ft. Lauderdale, 33301



**SPECIAL GUEST  
 SHARYN PEOPLES**



TICKETS ARE \$40 VIP OR \$25 FOR GENERAL ADMISSION, AND ARE AVAILABLE BY VISITING [THEFTLGMC.ORG](http://THEFTLGMC.ORG) OR BY CALLING (954) 832-0060.



Funding for this organization is provided in part by the Broward County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

Jorge Martin's opera, "Before Night Falls," based on the life of gay Cuban poet and dissident Reinaldo Arenas, will receive its regional premiere at Florida Grand Opera. Submitted photo.



## COMPOSER SPEAKS ABOUT 'BEFORE NIGHT FALLS' AT FGO

J.W. Arnold

Seven years have passed since Fort Worth Opera staged the world premiere of Jorge Martin's opera, "Before Night Falls," and on March 18, Florida Grand Opera will finally mount the second production.

"A second outing for a new opera is possibly more remarkable than a world premiere," said Martin. "That's one reason I'm very, very grateful."

Martin, who was born in Santiago de Cuba in 1959 and emigrated with his family to the U.S. in 1965, based his opera on the memoir of the same name by gay Cuban dissident and author Reinaldo Arenas.

"I read the book shortly after it came out in 1993 and I got the rights to set it to music in 1995, before the estate gave the rights for a film adaptation, so I got there first," the composer recalled.

Martin was attracted to the central character, Arenas, who was "full of life" and managed to escape Castro's Cuba during the 1980 Mariel Boatlift.

"That was an amazing story, but there were so many events in his life that I thought would be great for the musical stage. It had the potential for good musical theater," he said.

In 2000, director Julian Schnabel released the critically-acclaimed feature film that starred Javier Bardem and Johnny Depp.

"Unfortunately, opera takes longer than a movie—15 years—which by the way is long, but not unheard of in the opera world," explained Martin.

The composer struggled to find the right librettist to craft the words of his opera.

"After several attempts, I decided this could drag on forever, so I decided to try my own hand at it. I drew up my own scenario, like a movie storyboard, and then I asked the translator to help me," Martin said, noting most of the opera is sung in English.

He took great care to ensure the work was historically accurate ("It had to be legitimate."), but also incorporated the requisite drama to engage audiences. "Workshopping" then took another three months as musical elements were

added and then Martin began "shopping" the work to leading opera companies.

Martin approached Florida Grand Opera (FGO) a decade ago, but the previous administration showed little interest in the new work. That disappointment fortunately led Martin to Fort Worth.

"Amazingly, who would have thought Texas? I'm glad the premiere was in Texas, because if it played in Texas, it will play anywhere," he said. "That audience doesn't have that strong of a connection to the story, meaning it has to fly as a work of art. It's not propaganda, it's art, a story about a gay Cuban. I'm a gay Cuban."

But he's glad the work is now seeing new life in Miami, a city with both large Cuban and gay communities and he credits the foresight of FGO general director Susan Danis, who has not only embraced the traditional opera repertory, but pursued opportunities to stretch her audience's understanding of the genre, mounting powerful productions of Marvin David Levy's "Mourning Becomes Electra" and Mieczyslaw Weinberg's "The Passenger."

"My fear is that people who tend to pigeon hole will say it's for Cubans, or for gays, or that sort of thing. It's not. It's like saying 'Carmen' is for whores or French people," he said. "The thing about theater and art is getting outside of yourself and into other people's situations. Opera has these outrageous characters—Japanese princesses, Russian czars—why can't you have a Cuban rebel?"

Ironically, after his flight to freedom, Arenas became disappointed and bitter. While a persecuted dissident in his native Cuba, the poet was a cause célèbre, a political chip in the Cold War, but he became just another outspoken exile in the U.S. After being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 1987, he later committed suicide by an intentional overdose of drugs and alcohol.

"Interest waned in him. His talent is always recognized, translated into a ton of languages, movie and now an opera. I don't think he would have ever thought he would have an opera made about his life. His estate was amused, but I showed them," Martin concluded. **SFGN**

Florida Grand Opera presents Jorge Martin's "Before Night Falls" on March 18, 19, 21, 24 and 25 at the Arsht Center in Miami. Tickets start at \$12 at [FGO.org](http://FGO.org).

# SOMETHING ROTTEN!

BROADWAY'S HILARIOUS  
NEW SMASH!

Direct from Broadway with 10 Tony Award nominations,  
**SOMETHING ROTTEN!** packs the most gut-busting laughs on Broadway

**T**he laugh lines in the Broadway hit *SOMETHING ROTTEN!* flow from different sources.

Some come at the expense of William Shakespeare, the rock star of his day, here played as a world-weary writer who finds being famous so much more enjoyable than actually coming up with new ideas.

Some are pointed at musical theater itself, a veritable feast for fans and geeks who adore *Rent*, *Cats*, *A Chorus Line*, *Chicago*, *Les Misérables*, *Annie* and dozens of other iconic musicals from the Broadway canon.

Others are bawdy, with the judgmental Puritan leader Brother Jeremiah helplessly slipping into sexually-tinged double entendre, and his daughter Portia experiencing a sonnet read by her writer-beau Nigel Bottom as if it were their first time (and not in a literary sense).

The show's humor, the work of brothers Karey and Wayne Kirkpatrick (score), Karey and John O'Farrell (book), director-choreographer Casey Nicholaw and music arranger Glen Kelly, has been tested, vetted and carefully calibrated so that theatergoers can have a good time whether they know a lot or only a little about Shakespeare and/or musical theater.

O'Farrell recalls, "We'd be sitting around, trying to write a song or a scene, and Wayne and Karey would say, 'You know that song from *Sunday in the Park With George*?' And I'd say no. And I'd say, 'You know that thing in *The Taming of the Shrew*?' And they'd say no," O'Farrell recalls.

"We were conscious of not wanting to be so inside that you could only get it if you had seen the most obscure musicals," Wayne Kirkpatrick says. "We went broad, purposely. We referenced not only the musicals that inspired us, but also musicals people would know even if they hadn't seen them, or maybe they'd only seen the movie. The same with Shakespeare. Everybody knows some Shakespeare lines. There are a lot of what we refer to as his 'hits', that everybody is going to know."

The end result is a show so fresh and funny, audiences of all ages and backgrounds love it. "It doesn't matter how much you know," director/choreographer Casey Nicholaw confirms. "My nieces and nephews say it's their favorite show that I've done and they don't know any of the references."

O'Farrell concludes, "If it works as a musical for people who don't know musicals or Shakespeare, then I'm happy. It's about show business and putting on a show. The show works on many levels, but the main level it works on, I hope, is that it's just a great fun night out."



**SOMETHING ROTTEN!** comes to the Broward Center  
**March 21 – April 2, 2017.**  
**Tickets on sale now!** Learn more at [BrowardCenter.org](http://BrowardCenter.org).

Photo: Rob McClure.  
Credit Joan Marcus.

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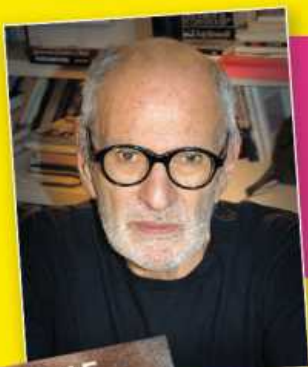
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The American People  
Larry Kramer



Mississippi Sissy  
Kevin Sessums

## PRE-EVENT BOOK SIGNING Party

Thursday, March 9<sup>TH</sup>  
6:30 - 8:30 PM  
World Aids Museum  
& Educational Center  
1201 NW 26th Street #111  
Wilton Manors, FL 33305

## POZ Millennials SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, March 11<sup>TH</sup>  
Noon - 5 PM

World Aids Museum & Educational Center  
1201 NW 26th Street #111, Wilton Manors, FL 33305



A&E screen savor

# 'Moonlight' Shines Bright

Gregg Shapiro



Based on gay playwright Tarell McCraney's play "In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue," screenwriter/director Barry Jenkins' Oscar-winning "Moonlight" (A24), which took home Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor and Best Adapted Screenplay awards, is nothing less than a breathtaking cinematic achievement. Presented in three separate chapters, "Moonlight" tells the heartrending story of Chiron – as a child, a teen, and an adult —growing up gay in Miami's Liberty City neighborhood.

In the chapter titled "Little", Chiron (Alex Hibbert) is rescued from school bullies by drug kingpin Juan (Mahershala Ali), and fed and comforted by Juan's girlfriend Teresa (Janelle Monae). Juan returns the painfully shy young Chiron to his single mother Paula (Naomie Harris) without so much as a thank you from her. Meanwhile, Chiron's best friend Kevin (Jaden Piner) takes it upon himself to try to toughen him up.

Chiron's living situation is increasingly unpleasant, so he begins hanging out at Juan and Teresa's. Juan takes him to the beach and tries to teach him to swim. At home, Chiron discovers his mother doing drugs with a strange man. Things come full circle when Juan catches Paula freebasing in a car with the crack she bought from one of his sales associates. What follows is a devastating confrontation scene where Paula makes fun of Chiron as Juan defends him.

Shortly after that, there is a scene at Juan and Theresa's, where Chiron asks Juan "What's a faggot?" To say that what follows is handled with grace and maturity is an understatement.

Set during his high school years, the "Chiron" segment finds Chiron (Ashton Sanders) relentlessly bullied by Terrel (Patrick

Decille). At this point, though Juan is dead, Kevin (Jharrel Jerome) is still his best friend. He continues to spend time at Teresa's as his home situation deteriorates due to Paula's increased drug use.

Essentially homeless and sleeping where he can, Chiron runs into Kevin at the beach. With a delicate touch similar to the earlier "what's a faggot?" scene, the sex scene that occurs is as erotic as it is sophisticated and artful. But such intimacy doesn't last long when Kevin is pressured to beat up Chiron by the ever-bullying Terrel. The next day at school, Chiron finally explodes and assaults Terrel, and is arrested.

In "Black," the third and final section, set in Atlanta, the adult Chiron (Trevante Rhodes) is a fierce and muscular force, with a mouthful of gold fronts. He has taken up where Juan left off in terms of running a drug dealing operation. As a nod to Juan, he even has a similar crown-shaped air freshener on his dashboard.

Kevin (Andre Holland) tracks Chiron down by phone and apologizes. He tells Chiron he was reminded of him when he heard a song on the jukebox at the diner where he is a cook. He invites Chiron to come down to Florida and see him. The call has an immeasurable effect on him.

Following an emotional visit with Paula, who is in rehab, Chiron heads to Kevin's place of work. From the moment of recognition that occurs between them to their reacquaintance, "Moonlight" shines brightly as it not only redefines gay cinema, but also black cinema in ways that have to be seen to be believed. Suffice to say, that there's not a false move or performance in the film. DVD special features include deleted scenes and three featurettes. **SFGN**

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Funding for this project is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council

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## MARCH 19-21

### AND THE TONY GOES TO...

The Symphony tips our hat to Broadway with a spectacular homage to Tony Award-winning musicals for a night to remember. A Chorus Line, Chicago, Hello Dolly, My Fair Lady, South Pacific and much more.

## APRIL 2-6

### UNTAMED SPIRIT

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5 in E Minor  
Mendelssohn: Hebrides Overture  
Peter Schickele: P.D.Q. Bach's Concerto for Simply Grand Piano and Orchestra  
Jeffrey Biegel, piano

Tickets & Info at [SouthFloridaSymphony.org](http://SouthFloridaSymphony.org)  
or 954-522-8445

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## MISS COCO PERU A GENTLE REMINDER *Coco's Guide to a Somewhat Happy Life*



Friday, Mar 17 - 8 PM



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**Onyx**

When you adopt from the Humane Society of Broward County all pets are spayed or neutered before going home. In addition, they receive preliminary vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs over seven months, feline leukemia test for cats, a limited 10-day health care plan courtesy of VCA Animal Hospital, a bag of Purina ONE food and more. The adoption fee for dogs over six months is \$100 and felines over six months are \$30. For more information call the shelter today at 954-989-3977 ext. 6. The Humane Society of Broward County is located at 2070 Griffin Road, just a block west of I-95 and opens daily at 10:30 a.m. To see who else needs a home visit [www.humanebroward.com](http://www.humanebroward.com)

## OLD SCHOOL SQUARE CREST THEATRE

An Evening with  
**LORNA LUFT**  
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APRIL 13-30



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PRESENTS

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MARCH 24 | 8PM

Lauderhill Performing Arts Center  
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Tickets: [www.lpacfl.com](http://www.lpacfl.com) | 954.777.2055

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Tickets: [www.gmcfsf.org](http://www.gmcfsf.org) | 954.763.2266

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

10-Year Anniversary of Robert Seeley and Robert Espindola's  
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Funding for this project is provided by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.



Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.



# Datebook Theater

Christiana Lilly  
Calendar@SFGN.com

# MARCH 9 - MARCH 14

## Top Picks

### LAST CHANCE: Shooting Porn!

Through March 12 at Empire Stage, 1140 N. Flagler Drive in Fort Lauderdale. Based on Ronnie Larsen's 1997 documentary, the film has been adapted for the stage and takes the audience behind the scenes of a porn shoot and the drama that ensues. Contains male nudity and simulated sex scenes. Tickets \$35. Call 954-678-1496 or visit EmpireStage.com.

### Capitol Steps: What to Expect When You're Electing

Through March 19 at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach. Politics take a humorous turn with music from your favorite whacky politicians. Tickets \$40. Call 561-832-7469 or visit Kravis.org.

### Vaclav Havel's "Audience" and "Protest"

Through March 12 at the Miami Theater Center, 9806 NE Second Ave. in Miami Shores. In "Audience," Ferdinand Vanek is out of jail and now works in a brewery, where he's driven to alcoholism and insanity. In "Protest," his alter ego works to convince a friend to sign a petition renouncing their country's regime. Tickets \$15 to \$30. Call 305-751-9550 or visit MTCMiami.org.

## BROWARD COUNTY

### \* Stayin' Alive

March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Coral Springs Center for the Arts, 2855 Coral Springs Drive in Coral Springs. A Bee Gees tribute band fit with video clips, photos, and the band's best hits in an intimate concert. Tickets \$28.62 to \$76.32. Call 954-344-5990 or visit CoralSpringsCenterfortheArts.com.

### \* Ryan Adams

March 10 at 8 p.m. at Parker Playhouse, 707 NE Eighth St. in Fort Lauderdale. Adams' started humbly with Whiskeytown and has since grown a prolific solo career. Tickets \$43 to \$53. Call 954-462-0222 or visit ParkerPlayhouse.com.

### \* A Jew Grows in Brooklyn 2.0

March 10 to 12 at the Coral Springs Center for the Arts, 2855 Coral Springs Drive in Coral Springs. Jake Ehrenreich will have you cracking up about his Jewish upbringing, from family history to summers in the Catskills. Tickets \$39.22 to \$71.02. Call 954-344-5990 or visit CoralSpringsCenterfortheArts.com.

### \* Game of Thrones Live Concert Experience

March 11 at 8 p.m. at the BB&T Center, One Panther Parkway in Sunrise. Composer Ramin Djawadi brings the world of "Games of Thrones" to life with a 360-degree orchestra. Tickets \$35.25 to \$95.25. Call 954-835-7000 or visit TheBBTCenter.com.

### \* Patti Labelle

March 14 at the Broward Center, 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. The queen of rock and soul, her most iconic songs include "Lad Marmalade" and "The Right Kinda Lover." Tickets \$60 to \$135. Call 954-462-0222 or visit BrowardCenter.org.

### Friday Night Sound Waves Music Series

Fridays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at The Hub, Las Olas Boulevard and A1A in Fort Lauderdale. Enjoy live, outdoor music spanning genres and tributes every Friday evening through November. Free. Visit FridayNightSoundWaves.com

## PALM BEACH COUNTY

### \* Legendary Ladies of Sound: Side by Side

March 10 to 12 at 2 and 8 p.m. at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. in Lake Worth. A night of cabaret with Meri Ziev and Kelly Dilorenzo. Tickets \$25. Call 561-586-6410 or visit LakeWorthPlayhouse.org.

### The Sugar Bean Sisters

Through March 19 at the Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. in Lake Worth. Willie Mae and Faye Nettle have grand plans to leave behind their lives as spinsters when a bird-like woman appears in the town of Buster Swamp. Tickets \$23 to \$38. Call 561-586-6410 or visit LakeWorthPlayhouse.org.

### Free Friday Concerts

Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Delray Beach Center for the Arts, 51 N. Swinton Ave. in Delray Beach. Enjoy live music from the comfort of your picnic blanket or lawn chair every week, for free! Returns in October. Call 561-243-7922 or visit DelrayArts.org.



\* Patti LaBelle  
Photo: Facebook.

## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

### Outdoor Music Series

Third Thursdays at the Perez Art Museum Miami, 101 W. Flagler St. in Miami. Come out for live music from DJs and musicians by the bay. Drink specials available. Free with museum admission. Call 305-375-3000 or visit PAMM.org.

### The Big Show

Fridays and Saturdays at 9 p.m. at Just the Funny Theater, 3119 Coral Way in Miami. A collection of comedy mixing the likes of improvisation and sketches. Tickets \$12. Call 305-693-8669 or visit JustTheFunny.com.

\* Denotes New Listing

## IN MEMORIAM



#OrlandoUnited: Every week, SFGN will pay tribute to one member of our community who was lost in Orlando.

MERCEDEZ MARISOL FLORES, 26

FROM THE STAFF OF SOUTH FLORIDA GAY NEWS



Joan Rivers impersonator Joe Posa, right, was reunited with the comedian just weeks before her untimely death. Submitted photo.

## JOAN RIVERS LIVES ON IN NEW SHOW AT EMPIRE STAGE

► J.W. Arnold

Nearly three years have passed since Joan Rivers unexpectedly passed away during elective surgery, but the sharp-tongued comedian lives on in a new show coming to Empire Stage in Fort Lauderdale.

Joe Posa has been “doing” Rivers for more than a decade and will be teaming up with former “Fashion Police” writer Tony Tripoli for a salute to Joan, “The Bitch is Back,” opening March 16 and running through April 9.

Tripoli, who calls Los Angeles home, was head writer for E!’s popular fashion review show for five years prior to Rivers’ death. He will open the show with some of the comedian’s signature jokes and poignant stories about their time together both on and off set. Posa, a Fort Lauderdale resident, then follows with an hour of comedy, some of her signature work and also some new material inspired by current events. The duo have already performed the show in 15 cities nationwide.

“Doing the show, it’s very cathartic, like church for Tony and I,” said Posa. “We feel her presence and it’s healing.”

Just two weeks, Posa attended Rivers’ first performance in Provincetown, Mass., an event he will never forget.

“When I met her that day, I told her I always ‘do her’ respectfully. She told me she could do her disrespectfully, too,” he recalled. “When she was alive, I didn’t have to be that edgy because she was there to do that. Now that

she’s not there to go there, I’ve definitely gotten edgier. She’s on my shoulder pushing me to do it. Her spirit is there to push me to go further.”

Posa has performed his act at many local bars and nightclubs, but he’s most excited about bringing the show to a theater. The new show includes a tribute video and the “fourth wall” between performer and audience offers a more formal setting.

At other performances over the past two years, hecklers would scream at Posa, “Hey, aren’t you dead?” He said audiences have had time to reconcile her death and are looking for the joy she brought to her work.

“Even now, they remember her as a trailblazer for women in comedy and how she began paving the way for so many,” Posa said. “A lot of people know she was funny and edgy and did ‘Fashion Police’ and had a lot to say about fashion. She was always so critical and judgmental and one-sided, but she could say what people were thinking.”

Posa paused for a moment and then added, “She was also compassionate, a survivor of suicide and show business and life. That’s my approach. She related to people and with that, she was able to be self-deprecating and understand the struggles of life.”

Joe Posa and Tony Tripoli appear in “The Bitch is Back,” a tribute to Joan Rivers, March 16 – April 9 at Empire Stage, 1140 N. Flagler St. in Fort Lauderdale. Tickets start are \$20 - \$35 at [EmpireStage.com](http://EmpireStage.com). **SFGN**

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## TOP PICKS

### 30 Years With ACT UP: An Evening with Larry Kramer

March 10 at 8 p.m. at Sunshine Cathedral, 1480 SW Ninth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. Larry Kramer, the leading voice of hope and change during the equality movement and AIDS crisis, talks about his writing and political activism. Tickets \$25. Call 954-390-0550 or visit WorldAIDSMuseum.com.

### Miss Palm Beach Pride Pageant

March 13 at 6:30 to 10 p.m. at The Kelsey Theater, 700 Park Ave. in Lake Park. Velvet Lenore runs the evening with female impersonators vying for the title of Miss Palm Beach Pride. Tickets \$10 to \$20. Call 561-328-7481 or email events@thekelseytheater.com.

### Support Our Cultural Arts Members Social

March 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Wolfsonian - FIU, 1001 Washington Ave. in Miami Beach. Support the arts in an after-hours event with curator Silvia Barisione and the exhibit "Modern Dutch Design." Free. RSVP to 305-673-4440, rsvp@gaybizmiami.com, or gaybizmiami.com.

\* Denotes New Listing

## BROWARD SUPPORT SERVICES

### GENDER BENDER YOUTH GROUP

Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at SunServe Campus, 1480 SW Ninth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. A group for LGBT youth 13 to 21 to discuss gender, gender expression, binary systems, friendship, family and whatever else comes up! Free. Visit SunServeYouth.com

### PFLAG

Tuesdays in Fort Lauderdale, Coral Springs and Southwest Ranches. A support group for parents of LGBT youth 13 to 21. Free. Visit SunServeYouth.com for dates and locations.

### SUNSERVE YOUTH GROUP

Tuesdays and Thursdays in Fort Lauderdale, Southwest Ranches, Coral Springs and Hollywood. A support group and night of fun for LGBT youth 13 to 21. Free. Visit SunServeYouth.com for dates and times.

### SURVIVOR SUPPORT

First and third Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Broward Health Imperial Point Hospital cafeteria, 6401 N. Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale. Find support from counselors and peers who have lost loved ones to suicide. Call the Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention at 954-384-0344 or visit FISPOnline.org.

## BROWARD COUNTY

### POZ Millennials Symposium

March 11 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Stonewall National Museum & Archives, 1350 E. Sunrise Blvd. in Fort Lauderdale. Panels of influential activists discuss the battle against AIDS. Free. Call 954-390-0550 or visit WorldAIDSMuseum.com.

### \* Bingo

March 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pride Center, 2040 N. Dixie Highway in Wilton Manors. A lucky Bingo night with a snack bar. Packages start at \$15. Call 954-463-9005 or visit PrideCenterFlorida.org.

### \* One Go Go: Un Masquerade T-Dance

March 12 from 4 to 8:30 p.m. in a Fort Lauderdale location to be announced after ticket purchase. Come together for

an afternoon and evening of dancing and drinks. Tickets \$8 benefiting Island City Stage. Visit <http://bit.ly/2m5Upuu>.

### \* "Know Your Rights" Information Session

March 15 at 6 p.m. at Broward College Building 3, Room 100, 3501 SW Davie Road in Davie. The Service Employees International Union discusses everyone's human rights, regardless of immigration status. Free. Call 954-560-0321

### \* Nasty Women: Women's Activism 101

March 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Pride Center, 2040 N. Dixie Highway in Wilton Manors. South Florida activists come together in honor of Women's History Month to share how you can make

# MARCH 9 - MARCH 14

a difference in your community. Free. Call 954-463-9005 or visit [PrideCenterFlorida.org](http://PrideCenterFlorida.org).

## PALM BEACH COUNTY

### \* LGBTQ Support Group

Fridays from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Faulk Center for Counseling, 22455 Boca Rio Road in Boca Raton. Join a support group for people ages 18 and older. Free. Call 561-483-5300 or visit [faulkcenterforcounseling.org](http://faulkcenterforcounseling.org).

### High Gloss WPB: The Art of Fashion

Through March 10 at The Box Gallery, 811 Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach. Celebrate where fashion and art intersect with wearable art, lifestyle accessories, fine art photography, and more. Call 786-521-1199 or visit [TheBoxGallery.info](http://TheBoxGallery.info).

### US Heroes: Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Raul Castro

Through March 17 at Palm Beach State College's BB Building, 2160 PGA Blvd. in Palm Beach Gardens. A series of paintings of the "three mass murderers of the

Cuban revolution," challenging what we know about the men and the theme of hero creation. Free. Call 786-521-1199 or email [RolandoBarrero@mac.com](mailto:RolandoBarrero@mac.com).

### Street Photography: Candid Portraiture

March 25, and April 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Old School Square Crest Theatre building studio 5, 51 N. Swinton Ave. in Delray Beach. Russell Levine leads a walk through the streets of Delray to instruct students on candid street photography. Fee \$75. Call 561-243-7922 or visit [OldSchoolSquare.org](http://OldSchoolSquare.org).

### Sharon Daniel: Secret Injustices

Through April 1 at FAU's Schmidt Center Gallery, 777 Glades Road in Boca Raton. Daniel's multimedia exhibit explores the criminal justice system and the prison industrial complex. Free. Call 561-297-2661 or visit [FAU.edu/galleries](http://FAU.edu/galleries).

### \* Chinese Lantern Festival: The Wild

Wednesdays through Sundays from 5:30 to 10 p.m. through April 9 at Sunset Cove Amphitheater, 20405 Amphitheater

Circle in Boca Raton. Be mesmerized by more than 800 lanterns in the shape of animals from around the world. Tickets \$22 for adults, \$25 at the door. Visit [ChineseLanternFestival.com](http://ChineseLanternFestival.com).

## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

### \* St. Pat's Wynwood

March 17 at 4 p.m. to March 18 at 2 a.m. The party that drew 20,000 people last year returns for a St. Patrick's Day party in Miami's arts district. Tickets \$19, including a beer, shot, party hat, Irish green necklace, and green light-up foam stick. Visit [StPatsWynwood.com](http://StPatsWynwood.com),

### Arsh Center Farmers Market

Mondays from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd. in Miami. Purchase fresh food from local farmers, including fruits, vegetables, meats, prepared foods, as well as chefs, live music, and cooking demonstrations. Free. Visit [ArshCenter.org/en/Visit/Dining](http://ArshCenter.org/en/Visit/Dining).

## Yoga

Tuesdays from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Jose Marti Park, 362 SW Fourth Ave. in Miami. Yogis 18 and older of all levels are invited to a practice lead by a certified instructor. Bring your own yoga mat, water, and towel. Free. Call 305-358-7550 or visit [BayfrontParkMiami.com/Yoga.html](http://BayfrontParkMiami.com/Yoga.html).

## KEY WEST

### Aqua Idol

Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Aqua Key West, 711 Duval St. in Key West. Support your local artists and vote for your favorite! Benefits Waterfront Playhouse. Call 305-294-0555 or visit [AquaKeyWest.com](http://AquaKeyWest.com).

### Hot Naked Hump Days

Wednesdays from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Island House, 1129 Fleming St. in Key West. Relax in the middle of the week with two-for-one drinks, free shots, videos and music, giveaways, and naked boys at the pool. Call 305-294-6284 or visit [IslandHouseKeyWest.com](http://IslandHouseKeyWest.com)

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## PERSONALS

**HOLLYWOOD-MISSED OPPORTUNITIES** - Any body know a red-head from Hollywood, 30's, slim build, smokes American Spirits & drinks Heineken. We meet last Nov @ Exxon on US 1 in Sheridan. I refused the ride home b/c I lived close I realized I made a mistake and didn't get contact and info. If you know him or are him please call Travis @ 954-654-0775.

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# Spectacular 2/2 right out of Architectural Digest!

This Palm-Aire, Pompano Beach condo has an impressive open kitchen, chef ready with s/s GE Profile appliances, custom granite counters & mosaic backsplash. Both bathrooms are "Spa Like" with tumbled marble throughout. Impact glass windows, sliders and door. Bosh washer & dryer complete this incomparable condo! **\$225,000**



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