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NEW EXHIBIT FOCUSES ON TRANS ELDERS

Meet the trailblazers who paved the way for the current generation of trans folk

Denise Royal

Before the word transgender was part of our vocabulary, brave people were deciding to transition and live their most authentic lives.

Today, these transgender elders and non-gender conforming older adults have amazing stories to tell. They are the focus of a groundbreaking new exhibition, “To Survive on This Shore.”

It’s currently on display at the Frost Art Museum FIU, part of Florida International University. This is the first time the exhibition is at a museum. The show continues through April 28.

Creators Jess Dugan and Vanessa Fabbre spent five years conducting extensive research throughout the U.S., taking photographs and interviewing trans elders who are underrepresented in our culture. Young trans people are increasingly better represented in mainstream media. But what about the trans trailblazers who are 60, 70, or 80 years old?

Dugan’s portraits of them are evocative, poignant, and moving. For the accompanying texts, Fabbre, a social worker and researcher with a background in LGBT issues and aging, conducted interviews to enhance the viewer’s connection to each subject’s story. Unlike most exhibits where the image is the focus, many museum goers spend as much time or more, reading the interviews as they do gazing as the portraits.

“In many cases, we were talking to people who transitioned prior to the widespread use of the internet, prior to the conceptualization of the term ‘transgender,’ and certainly prior to the existence of the trans community as it exists today. Some people had never even heard the word ‘transgender’ when they were figuring out their identity. Their life stories are from a significant period of transgender activism and experience in the United States. We wanted to make sure that this history was preserved,” said Dugan, in a pre-released statement.

Visit bit.ly/2IQZnIP for more reading.

To Survive on This Shore kicks off the museum’s yearlong commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which will culminate in the fall with Art After Stonewall (1969-1989), the first major museum exhibition about how the LGBT civil rights movement impacted the art world. SFGN
St. Patrick’s Day Weekend

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Throughout March, the Boston based Bisexual Resource Center will hold its sixth annual Bisexual Health Awareness Month. The focus of this year’s campaign will be bisexual representation in media, politics and advocacy, and its impact on everyday people’s lives.

According to Alexandra Bolles and Laura DelloStritto, co-leads of the Bisexual Health Awareness Month campaign, BRC is the oldest nationally focused bisexual (pansexual, fluid, queer) organization in the U.S. The organization advocates for everyone in the bi community, regardless of what label they use. DelloStritto, co-leads of the Bisexual Health Awareness Month campaign was founded in 2014.

Bolles noted that bi people are often left out of traditionally gay or straight spaces, resources and advocacy efforts.

“We receive less than one percent of the overall funding supporting the LGBTQ movement and experience significantly higher rates of physical, emotional, and social disparities than our gay and straight peers,” Bolles said. “All too often, people who are bisexual-plus are mistakenly or intentionally, mislabeled as gay, straight, or lesbian, or they are explicitly told that bisexuality-plus does not exist — this even happens in supposedly ‘LGBTQ’ spaces. This bisexual-plus erasure and repeated stereotypes work to invalidate bisexuality-plus people’s identities, undermines our experiences, and does great harm to our community’s health.”

That inaccurate representation and exclusion is the primary reason Bi Health Month was created and why the campaign continues each year. This year’s campaign is focusing on the lack of bi-plus representation in media, politics, advocacy, education, and health care.

“Our community needs accurate representation and affirming inclusion across these spaces in order to be able to fully thrive in all areas of our lives,” Bolles said.

DelloStritto pointed to some of the health needs faced by bisexuals which need addressing, such as lack of funding, lack of research on bisexual health, under or misrepresentation of bisexuality.

“Bisexuals-plus face increased rates of interpersonal violence, mental health struggles, obesity, poverty, bullying, and lower rates of disclosure of sexual orientation to health providers,” DelloStritto said. “The way the general public perceives bisexual-plus people is shaped by the often inaccurate ways we’re portrayed in the cultural narrative, which may sound abstract, but has real-world impact on how bisexual-plus people are treated and the opportunities afforded to us.”

DelloStritto hopes the month of March will be seen as a time for the people who identify as bi-plus to make changes in their life to improve their health.

“...and for our friends and family to learn more about our community’s health needs and how they can support us,” she added.

BRC is partnering with a number of organizations to celebrate the community and create informative content during Bi Health Month and beyond. Organizations include GLAAD, The Human Rights Campaign, The Trevor Project, the National LGBTQ Task Force, as well as leading bisexual advocacy groups like BiNetUSA, the Bisexual Organizing Project, local groups around the country, and celebrities such as bisexual actress Sara Ramirez (“Grey’s Anatomy”).

During the week of March 18, the BRC’s Instagram account will be taken over by actor David J. Cork and Dr. H. Sharif “Herukhuti” Williams, co-directors of “No Homo/No Hetero: Sexual Fluidity And Manhood In Black America,” an upcoming documentary. The film will explore the experience of being a black bisexual man in the U.S.

“We’re excited for them to take over the BRC’s Instagram (@ bisexualresourcercen) to discuss the importance of bisexual-plus visibility, particularly for Black bisexual-plus men, and how their film aims to foster unity at the intersection of racism, toxic masculinity, and biphobia,” DelloStritto said. “They’re in the process of raising money to complete their important film, so we encourage everyone to donate, if they’re able.”

Bolles and DelloStritto pointed out that people can join the campaign by following BRC on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Tumblr to learn more about improving bi-plus health and engage with the campaign.

They urge people to make a positive change for themselves and share it online using the #BiHealthMonth hashtag, by taking time for self-care and by celebrating your identity, by telling a friend who might not know its Bi Health Month and explaining why it’s important, by contacting BRC via email or on social media for content advice or to be listed as an official partner, or by donating to BRC.
Sunday, March 17, is a milestone for Julian Cavazos as he celebrates the one-year anniversary of reviving the iconic Marlin Beach hotel, not in bricks and mortar but in spirit and nostalgia.

There's no hotel, no pool, no ocean across the street, but with a new location and a revived spirit, the new event is now known as “Marlin Beach 2.0.”

According to the Broward County LGBT Community History Project: “the Marlin Beach hotel, completed in 1952, was the jewel of Fort Lauderdale Beach hotels. The hotel and dining room window were featured in the 1960 movie 'Where the Boys Are,' establishing Fort Lauderdale as the place to lay in the sun in the day and party at night.”

Cavazos' dream was to bring back the classic Tea Dance like it was at the Marlin Beach in the good old days.

“It's taking us back to the first gay resort on the beach in the late '70's,” said Cavazos, who has created a number of charitable events over the years in Fort Lauderdale.

“This is the first real Tea Dance in years. It's a dance party with the same music, with the experience of being outside [rather than in a bar] enjoying sunny South Florida weather.”

With the bricks and mortar of the old Marlin Beach now long gone, Cavazos found a suitable outdoor venue for his revived event; the place where he has launched many other events: Sanctuary Church on Middle River.

“The outside venue is beautiful. We will have tented bars and Bill Hillcrest, the former Marlin Beach hotel DJ.” Plus, there will be a “Mr. Marlin Beach” contest, with the winner getting $350 cash. (The runner-up gets $150.)

On March 17, the “Marlin Beach 2.0 Anniversary Tea Dance” will be offering free shots, prize giveaways, food and dancers. Lots of dancers.

“We’ve been very successful. There have been some growing pains,” he said. “Last summer was tough with so many events up against each other, but we’re doing well now.”

And, as usual, Cavazos has added his own personal touch, starting a non-profit organization for LGBT youth called “Julian's Fountain of Youth.”

“We’re quenching their thirst of knowledge, empowerment, and betterment for LGBT Youth.”

Not a bad way to salute a bygone icon.

WHAT: Marlin Beach 2.0 Anniversary Tea Dance
WHEN: Sunday, March 17, 2019, 3-9 p.m.
WHERE: Sanctuary Church, 1400 N. Federal Hwy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304
Free parking. Event takes place behind the church, facing the Middle River.
Turning five is always a big deal, whether you’re a sweet child or a destination hotel. It’s a right of passage; a sign you’re growing up and have found your place in the world.

The birthday party for this 5-year-old was Miami Beach’s Hotel Gaythering. The 25-room hotel celebrated its fifth anniversary in typical fashion, hosting a gala with the theme “Savage Love” Gladiators in high-fashion costumes and Instagram Live red-carpet coverage featuring Argentinian hunky hottie Bruno Alvarez Ladd and a Gayla costume party.

The Hotel Gaythering has become one of the go-to places on Miami Beach, with special events every day of the week, from Friday night’s “Bears and Hares,” featuring favorite gay woodland creatures playing off of traditional gay stereotypes, to a speakeasy-style sauna embedded behind the “red” door leading to a bath house and sauna.

The hotel gives the local LGBT community members what they need while also serving international and national travelers who want to be in a safe place. The Gaythering welcomes everyone with friendly open arms. The goal is to feel comfortable as gay travelers.

The hotel’s ownership is looking forward to breaking ground soon on an outdoor pool, right in the Gaythering’s front yard, as soon as Miami Beach approves the permits for construction.

Next up for the hotel: Miami Beach Gay Pride. The Gaythering expects to host international travelers and domestic vacationers ready to bask in the South Florida sunshine.
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Dana Zzyym, an intersex person from Colorado, applied for a U.S. passport in 2014. Their request was denied because they don’t identify with a gender binary. Zzyym took the case to court, represented by Lambda Legal, and Judge R. Brooke Jackson, ruled against the “binary-only gender marker policy” that the State Department used to deny Zzyym a passport gender-marked as “X,” according to the Washington Blade. Now, they will be able to get an accurate passport, unless the state appeals the case.

“Today, a federal judge has found that there is no defensible reason to delay the issuance of Dana’s passport until after the appeal,” said Lambda Legal Counsel Paul Castillo in the press release. “No law-abiding citizen should be precluded from leaving the country simply because of who they are.”

This was the third time Lambda Legal has won a case against the State Department over passport gender markers.

According to a study from porn website XHamsters, if you watch too much porn, “it might make you bi.” XHamster released the Report on Digital Sexuality on Feb. 26, and the main finding was that more than 22 percent of U.S. XHamsters users identify as bisexual. And those that were bisexual watched more porn than other groups.

“Now, while we like to think of ourselves as enlightened bunch, we’re not a particularly bi site, let alone a gay one ... So we wondered, is there something about watching porn that opens up users to the idea of a more fluid sexuality. The answer is ... it may,” the study says. “Porn fans who watched multiple times a day were more than twice as likely to identify as bisexual as porn fans who watched only once a week.” Female porn users were also more than twice as likely to identify as bisexual than male users.
Camila Diaz Cordova, a 29-year-old asylum seeker and sex worker, was beaten to death weeks after being deported from the U.S. back to El Salvador.

Cordova applied for asylum in 2017 to escape death threats from a gang called Barrio 18, according to Reuters. When she was deported back to El Salvador, she went back into sex work and was eventually kidnapped and beaten, according to Cordova’s friend. She died in the hospital on Feb. 3.

“We demand that the authorities investigate, clear up the case and find those responsible, regardless of who they are,” Rainbow Trans director Monica Linares told Reuters.

In 2018, a total of 19 homicides were reported on transgender women in El Salvador, according to rights groups. Researchers say these numbers are likely underreported.
MINNESOTA PASTOR TO CREATE SEXUALITY/ GENDER IDENTITY INCLUSIVE DENOMINATION

The United Methodist Church strengthened rules against gay weddings and ordinations. Now, clergy who marry gay people, or who are gay themselves will face penalties. Some methodist pastors are furious with the decision, and are now saying they'll create a new denomination.

Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard of Hamline Church in St. Paul, is one of the leaders who wants to create a new sect of Christianity. One that's more open to sexual and gender variations, according to Twin Cities Pioneer Press.

“Pastors like me are heartbroken, anguished, mad and frustrated,” Tollgaard said. “The outcome is the inevitable death of the United Methodist Church as it currently stands.”

A Methodist church in Minnesota was one of the first places in the country to marry a gay couple in 1971, and many Minnesota churches support gay marriage. SFGN

GAY MAN’S KILLER WILL FACE UP TO 20 YEARS IN DETROIT PRISON

Gavino Rodriguez, a gay man living in southwest Detroit, was robbed, beaten, murdered and burned by two men in 2013. Six years later, both of the men have been sent to prison.

Hameer Alkotait was sentenced to 18-20 years in prison Wednesday in connection to the murder of Rodriguez, according to Detroit News. His co-defendant, Andrew Czarnecki, was sentenced to life in prison. The case was prosecuted by Jaimie Powell Horowitz, a lawyer with Fair Michigan, an LGBTQ rights foundation.

Alanna Maguire, president of Fair Michigan, says she is excited to finally see justice served for the Rodriguez family.

“These cold-case murder convictions resulted from Detective Kevin Wight and the Detroit Police Department’s tenacious investigation of this brutal crime, and Special Prosecutor Jaimie Powell Horowitz’s determined prosecutions,” Maguire said in a statement. “We are grateful for their efforts, and we are committed to continue the fight for justice for the LGBTQ community in Wayne County.” SFGN

NEW FEDERAL JUDGE HAS TIES TO ANTI-GAY ‘HATE GROUP’

Allison Jones Rushing, 36, is one of the youngest and least experienced members of the federal judiciary. She also associates herself with anti-LGBT hate group, the Alliance Defending Freedom.

The Alliance Defending Freedom has previously attempted to ban same-sex marriage and criminalize homosexuality both in the U.S. and abroad, NBC News reports. Rushing interned for the group in 2005, and has spoken at ADF from 2012 to 2017, though she claims she doesn't support their anti-LGBT rights agenda.

Ian Wilhite, a spokesperson from Lambda Legal, an LGBT legal group, said Trump didn't confirm her despite her connections to the hate group, but because of them.

“Allison Rushing has supported and closely associated herself with one of the most extreme, anti-LGBT organizations operating in this country today, the Alliance Defending Freedom,” Wilhite told NBC News. “Rather than disqualifying her from consideration, this aspect of her record seems to have made up for all of the other deficiencies in her record.” SFGN

KANSAS GAY COUPLE’S CHILD BANNED FROM CATHOLIC KINDERGARTEN

Prairie Village’s St. Anne’s Catholic School banned the child of a gay couple from attending their kindergarten. Now, almost 1,000 people have signed a petition urging the church leaders to admit the student.

The school argued that though the church says to treat gay people with dignity, gay parents are inconsistent with the church's teachings, Superintendent Kathy O’Hara said. The petition points out that the school admits students who aren’t Catholic, which would go against their teachings, according to The Kansas City Star.

“Respectfully, we believe that the decision to deny a child of God access to such a wonderful community and education, based on the notion that his or her parent’s union is not in accordance with the Church’s teaching in Sacramental marriage, lacks the compassion and mercy of Christ’s message,” the petition says, according to the Star.

The school’s pastor, Rev. Craig J. Maxim, said he will consult the Archdiocese of Kansas City further on the decision. SFGN
“Game of Thrones” and American Red Cross are asking fans to “Bleed For the Throne” to get a t-shirt, and a chance to win a trip to the season 8 premiere, but FDA guidelines state men can’t have sex with other men for 12 months before donating blood.

“It’s kind of a bummer. Here’s this really great prize, but you can’t have it because you’re gay,” Erich Hazen, a Game of Thrones fan from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, told The Daily Beast.

Fans who showed up to donate blood before March 12 received an exclusive Bleed For The Throne t-shirt. Additionally, those who give blood at any Red Cross blood drive by March 17 will be entered to win a trip to the season 8 premiere of “Game of Thrones.”

Since 2015 the FDA rules have stated men cannot have sex with other men for 12 months before giving blood. That also applies to women who have been sexually active with bi men. Regardless, all samples are tested by the FDA for a number of infectious diseases, including HIV.

From 1983 to 2015 there was a lifetime ban on gay/bi men giving blood, which was put in place in response to the HIV epidemic.

“It bothers me that my perfect, healthy gay blood isn’t a viable option unless I abstain from sex for 12 months, and that’s not going to happen,” 29-year-old Joe Stanieich-Burke told The Daily Beast. “I consider this a right for gay men that is going widely unnoticed.”

The American Red Cross has since told The Daily Beast that people who are turned away can participate in the national contest by contacting the Red Cross Donor Support Center.
The proposed changes have alarmed HIV advocacy organizations as well as other health related groups. Currently Medicare Part D has six protected classes, which includes antiretroviral drugs used to manage HIV. “So this is a very pressing issue for [the] HIV population,” said Jesse Milan Jr., president & CEO of AIDS United. “Because as we age, our need for Medicare will continue to increase.”

According to AIDS United these protected classes ensure people living with serious, chronic, and infectious health conditions can access the specific treatments their medical providers prescribe to them without interference from insurance companies. The reason these classes are protected is because for these specific conditions any interruption in drug access would result in significant and rapid health decline.

The proposed rules change would give an insurance company the right to require a prior authorization before a particular prescription could be filled. It would also allow for policies like “step therapy,” where people are forced to start their treatment out with a lower priced drive and prove that it’s ineffective before being allowed to have the original drug a doctor prescribed to them.

“And so that’s really dangerous for people living with HIV, because it means your doctor has already decided based on all of your medical history, and all of your current medical conditions, which one of those [medications] is the absolute best for you,” Milan said.

Equality Florida, the statewide LGBT rights organization, wrote an op-ed in the Miami Herald also coming out against the change. “As the leading LGBTQ organization in the state, we are speaking out because this new policy will have a disproportionate impact on LGBTQ Floridians. The state is already struggling to curb HIV transmissions and new diagnoses among gay/bisexual men and transgender women, which remain stubbornly high,” Equality Florida wrote. “As the fight to end HIV continues, we all must support policies that make access to the right medications easier, not harder, for those living with HIV. Florida is at the center of the current fight against the HIV in the nation, and the Trump administration’s proposal threatens hard-fought progress and the lives of all Floridians.”

According to Equality Florida there are more people over the age of 65 living in Florida than any other state. Additionally there are more than 100,000 residents who are living with HIV in the state. “South Florida has one of the highest populations of people living with HIV over the age of 55 as well. So it’s really important for your readership,” said Kyle Murphy, Communications director for AIDS United.

Milan said that it’s already hard enough for healthcare advocates to link people to the care
they need as well as keeping those people in treatment.

“We don’t need any more roadblocks to prevent people from getting into HIV care,” he said.

The second issue is forcing people to try new therapies if they’ve already achieved viral suppression.

“Viral suppression, of course, not only leads to greater health and longevity, for people living with HIV have no chance to transmit the virus to someone else, the virally suppressed will have no chance of transmitting the virus to someone else,” he said. “You are putting your own viral suppression at risk.”

Ultimately if this change goes through it means the insurance companies would have more control over the doctor/patient relationship.

A similar rules change was proposed under the Obama Administration in 2014 but was more narrow in scope and did not directly affect the HIV community.

AIDS United was opposed to that change as well, because they felt it might lead to a change like the current one being proposed.

When asked why these types of rules changes have been proposed under a Democratic and Republican administration Milan said: “The argument from the administration is that this could be a way of reducing drug costs to consumers. But we don’t believe that is an effective way of assuring access to care and promoting the health and well being of people living with HIV.”

Murphy added, “this seems like low hanging fruit to people until they dig into the actual meat of the issue and realize there is a very specific reason why Congress carved out the six protected classes because this would have very serious implications on the health of these folks if they had any interruption in medications whatsoever.”

AIDS United is urging people who are concerned to visit https://p2a.co/KiyOA7 where they can send a message to their representative opposing the change.

If the Trump administration moves with the proposed change Murphy hopes Congress will intervene, but if not, they may decide to pursue legal action to stop it.

“All options are on the table,” he said.

The deadline for public comment was Jan. 25. Murphy said that new rules can be finalized in as little as 30 days or as many as 180. But typically they take between 60 and 90 days.

A slew of other health advocacy organizations have come out against the latest proposed changes including the American Academy of HIV Medicine; American Cancer Society; Cancer Action Network; American Kidney Fund; American Society of Clinical Oncology; Anxiety and Depression Association of America; Community Access National Network; Community Oncology Alliance; Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance; Epilepsy Foundation; HIV Medical Association; Leukemia & Lymphoma Society; Lupus and Allied Diseases Association Inc; Mental Health America; The Michael J. Fox Foundation; National Alliance on Mental Illness; National Council for Behavioral Health; NASTAD; National Kidney Foundation; The AIDS Institute; Transplant Support Organization; and Women Against Prostate Cancer.
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  - dofetilide
- Have or have had a kidney or liver problem. Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.
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Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page and visit BIKTARVY.com.
**EXPLORING LGBT NEWS EVENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE**

**ASIA**

**GAY ‘BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY’ SCENES TO BE REMOVED FOR CHINA RELEASE**

Chinese Queen fans will soon enjoy the release of “Bohemian Rhapsody,” but without some of the gay scenes throughout the movie.

The movie, scheduled to premiere in China later this month, will leave out some scenes with drug use, and Rami Malek’s, who plays Freddie Mercury, gay scenes, according to Yahoo News. One streaming site even censored Malek’s Oscar speech.

“Listen, we made a film about a gay man, an immigrant, who lived his life unapologetically himself,” Malek said, according to Rolling Stone. The streaming site, Mango TV replaced the words for “gay man” with “special group,” in the Chinese translation.

China has no clear-cut rule about gay content, but frequently censors movie releases with LGBT scenes. **SFGN**

**EUROPE**

**FRENCH POLITICIAN COMPARES GAY MARRIAGE OPONENTS TO TERRORISTS**

Marlene Schiappa, the French Secretary of State for “women-men equality and against discrimination” said the anti-gay marriage movement in France has surged homophobic violence up 64 percent from last year.

She said the movement, called Manif pour tous, or The Protest for Everyone, had similar ideas as Islamic terrorism, as French people are dying as a result of both groups, according to Life Site News.

“In France, gay bars have their windows broken, videos are shared on social media where you see couples being beaten up because they walk hand in hand. I don’t put the ‘Manif pour tous’ and Islamist terrorists on the same level, but I am underscoring that an ideological convergence does exist,” Schiappa said in an interview with a French conservative paper, Valeurs Actuelles.

Manif pour tous condemned her statement and demanded she apologize. She later wrote an apology on Twitter Feb. 22. **SFGN**

**SOUTH AMERICA**

**LGBT BRAZILIANS’ MENTAL HEALTH PLUMMETS WITH ANTI-GAY PRESIDENT**

When the proudly homophobic President Jair Bolsonaro took office in January, LGBT community members were worried their rights would be taken away. Two months later, watchdog groups are saying suicide among LGBT people has skyrocketed as a result.

There are no official figures, according to Grupo Gay da Bahia, the Brazilian watchdog group, but after scanning social media and obituaries, the death rate by suicide is much more prominent. LGBT Brazilians confirm it got much harder after Bolsonaro was elected.

“Not just the final suicide, the loss of life, but mainly the ideation, the desire to take one’s life, to kill oneself because of the way our own society sees the (LGBT+) population,”

According to Grupo Gay da Bahia, about 100 gay and transgender people took their lives in Brazil last year, almost four times the suicide rate in 2016. **SFGN**

**NORTH AMERICA**

**EVERY SCHOOL IN ONTARIO TO FLY GAY FLAG FOR PRIDE MONTH**

For gay Pride month in June, every public elementary school in Ontario, Canada will be required to fly the gay flag.

Everyone except one person on the Greater Essex Public School Board voted in favor of the policy, according to CBN News. The move is meant to encourage inclusivity in elementary school.

“When you’re in elementary school, and you’re just coming into adolescence, it’s a very vulnerable time,” said Julia Burgess, the board vice chairman, who introduced the motion. “You may not have a lot of peers like you. The Pride flag tells them we have their back.”

The only board member who voted against the policy said parents would be against it and it would confuse children about gender, but the gay flags will still fly in June. **SFGN**

**THE CITY OF HAMILTON IN ONTARIO, CANADA. PHOTO CREDIT: TOM FLAMMING, VIA FLICKR.**

**THE WORLD**

**GAY ‘BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY’ SCENES TO BE REMOVED FOR CHINA RELEASE**

**EVERY SCHOOL IN ONTARIO TO FLY GAY FLAG FOR PRIDE MONTH**

**FRENCH POLITICIAN COMPARES GAY MARRIAGE OPONENTS TO TERRORISTS**

**LGBT BRAZILIANS’ MENTAL HEALTH PLUMMETS WITH ANTI-GAY PRESIDENT**

**THE CITY OF HAMILTON IN ONTARIO, CANADA. PHOTO CREDIT: TOM FLAMMING, VIA FLICKR.**

**SÃO PAULO PRIDE. PHOTO CREDIT: BEN TAVENER, VIA FLICKR.**
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MEGHAN MCCAIN TO HEADLINE DIVERSITY HONORS EVENT

The 2019 lineup of honorees for the 5th annual Diversity Honors event has been revealed.

Meghan McCain – best known as the daughter of the late former U.S. Sen. John McCain and a member of the ABC daytime talk show The View – will lead a class that also features some South Florida notables.

The Diversity Honors is designed to be a celebration of “unity and inclusiveness” in the community and a chance to honor “those who are transforming lives by living authentically and advancing inclusiveness.”

McCain, a political blogger and bestselling author, will receive the Harvey Milk Foundation Lilla Watson Medal. Organizers describe her as a “marriage equality advocate.”

“Often said to possess the McCain ‘maverick gene,’ Meghan has no qualms saying what is on her mind and brags that she inherited [her] ‘dad’s heartburn-inducing ability to say what he thinks,’” organizers said in a statement. “A powerful voice for women and Republicans alike, McCain passionately advocates for women’s issues, social issues and marriage equality.”

Other honorees include U.S. Army Captain Jennifer Peace and Staff Sergeant Patricia King (Harvey Milk Foundation Valor Award); the Wilton Manors City Commission (The Pride Center Alan Schubert Award of Excellence); U.S. Rep. Ted Deutch, D-FL; Phill Wilson, founder of the Black AIDS Institute; and Tony Lima, executive director of SAVE (Safeguarding American Values for Everyone).

Past honorees include civil rights activists Dolores Huerta, Cesar Chavez, and Judy and Dennis Shepard; the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Gay-Straight Alliance; and transgender YouTube personality Ryland Whittington.

The Diversity Honors event will be emceed by NBC6 TV reporter Jamie Guirola, who was born and raised in Miami and is very involved with the LGBT community personally and through his work. He’s currently a member of the city of Miami Beach’s LGBTQ advisory committee.

“NBC6 provides a platform that allows employees to be community leaders and advocate for equality,” Guirola said. “I look forward to honoring the champions of LGBTQ equality in South Florida. I’m also excited to bring attention to the Pride Center and help it achieve its goals.”

As executive director of Miami’s SAVE, a longtime LGBT advocacy organization, Lima has become a recognized leader in advancing LGBTQ equality.

In 2015, SAVE successfully sued the state of Florida to legalize same-sex marriage, and in 2014 it passed comprehensive nondiscrimination protections for transgender individuals at the Miami-Dade County Commission.

“I’m honored and humbled by this important recognition,” Lima said. “The Pride Center is a wonderful organization and I respect the work they do in our community. I also have great respect for the Harvey Milk Foundation and their important work. I think it’s important to honor those doing the hard work on behalf of social justice for all of our marginalized communities.”

The city of Wilton Manors has become known as an LGBT hub and one of the gayest cities in the U.S. with an all-gay city commission comprised of Mayor Justin S. Flippin, Vice Mayor Tom Green, and commissioners Gary Resnick, Julie A. Carson and Paul Rolli.

Honoree Deutch represents Florida’s 22nd district in the House of Representatives, which is home to communities in Palm Beach County and Broward County, representing a significant portion of South Florida’s LGBT community.

While serving in the Florida State Senate in 2008, he helped to pass an employment non-discrimination bill through a committee for the first time in the state’s history. He currently serves as a vice chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus and is chair of the LGBT Aging Issues Task Force. Deutch has a history of supporting other LGBT rights and policy issues as well.

OTHER TRAILBLAZERS

Honorees Peace and King are openly transgender service members who were two of the panelists testifying during a congressional hearing on open trans-military service in February.

Wilson is the founder and former president and CEO of the Black AIDS Institute, based in Los Angeles. He previously served as AIDS coordinator for the city of Los Angeles and was the director of policy and planning at the AIDS Project Los Angeles, among a long history of work in the LGBT and AIDS communities.

Tickets are $250. Visit DiversityHonors.com for more information. More about the Harvey Milk Foundation can be found at MilkFoundation.org and The Pride Center can be found at PrideCenterFlorida.org.
“Queer Eye” star Bobby Berk went head to head with “The View” panelist Meghan McCain on Twitter over the Green New Deal, the progressive proposed legislation from Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) which aims to tackle climate change and economic inequality.

On a recent episode of “The View,” McCain brought up Republican concerns with the Green New Deal to guest Washington governor and 2020 presidential candidate Jay Inslee (D).

McCain claimed that the Green New Deal “would cost $93 trillion or, to every person in this room, $600,000 for each of your households.”

“We’re talking about $51 trillion, the elimination of planes, the elimination of cows, a railway, no planes. I guess nobody can go to Hawaii anymore,” she added.

Inslee responded that McCain’s information is incorrect and cited President Donald Trump as the source for the incorrect information.

“Let’s get this straight: That is not what’s proposed in the Green New Deal,” Inslee told McCain.

Berk noticed the exchange and called out McCain for being “everything wrong with journalism.”

McCain responded: “I am NOT a journalist, it makes me sad and scared so many people confuse this. I am a conservative political commentator – I represent the most conservative point of view in the country, which is my job every day on The View.”

“Blatant lies are not a point of view honey! There are just a way to rile the base just like Trump does. I used to have a lot of respect for you and not lump you on with the likes of him, but you were literally repeating his lies and are becoming no better,” Berk shot back.

McCain replied that she was “pointing out the financial implications” of the deal. She signed off by saying she won’t be watching “Queer Eye” anymore.
By just about any standard of measure, Pride Fort Lauderdale 2019 can be chalked up as a big success. More than 120,000 visitors from the U.S. and beyond experienced the 42nd annual Pride Fort Lauderdale festival, which took place from Thursday, Feb. 21 through Sunday, Feb. 24 in greater Fort Lauderdale. The 2019 Carnaval theme paid tribute to the diverse ethnic communities that call Fort Lauderdale home and to the Mardi Gras/Carnaval season and included the first parade ever held on A1A, along iconic Fort Lauderdale Beach.

“Greater Fort Lauderdale is a very welcoming destination, and I’m so proud of our community and hospitality industry for embracing diversity and inclusion and showing our local residents and visitors how welcomed they are here during Pride Fort Lauderdale and year-round,” said Richard Gray, vice president of Diversity and Inclusion of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The event-filled festival kicked off with an all-star fashion show at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Thursday, Feb. 21. Hosted by fashion guru Carson Kressley of “Queer Eye” and “Fashion Police,” and “RuPaul’s Drag Race” all-star Naomi Smalls, the event attracted nearly 1,000 fashionistas.

Before the Pride Fort Lauderdale parade stepped off on Saturday, Feb. 23, Pride Fort Lauderdale partnered with the South Florida Wine and Food Festival, being held the same weekend, to host a fabulous brunch at the Ritz-Carlton with performances by local drag queens and national stars. Later that afternoon, more than 50,000 people witnessed the very first parade of its kind in Fort Lauderdale history. The parade was led by the grand marshals; Miss Major Griffin-Gracy, a transgender activist who was in the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village during the historic 1969 police raid that sparked the modern LGBT rights movement, and Fort Lauderdale’s first openly gay mayor, Dean Trantalis.

Winning parade entries including Dillard High School (marching band category), Flockfest (best walking group), Wilton Manors Police Department (best decorated vehicle), iHeart Media/93.9 MIA (best float), and Trans Pride (best interpretation of Carnaval theme) joined dozens of others. Judges included Stacy Ritter, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau; Ina Lee, Travelhost Media Group; Rod Hagwood, South Florida Sun Sentinel; and SFGN publisher Norm Kent.

A number of restaurants and bars along the route hosted viewing parties including a “She Tea” women’s dance party at Spazio and a benefit for Latinos Salud at Cafe Ibiza. The largest event was a Bear Beach Bash which drew hundreds. Following the parade, many spectators and participants stayed for a Pride Block Party at 5th St. and A1A and enjoyed performances by local drag queens, musical acts and danced to music from DJ Dani Toro from Spain.

The festival concluded on Sunday, Feb. 24 with the traditional Pride Fort Lauderdale beach party. “American Idol” fan favorite Ada Vox and singer, choreographer and “RuPaul’s Drag Race” judge Todrick Hall headlined the festival. Approximately 50,000 people attended the festival. The weekend did not go without incident; during the festival there was an altercation between two individuals on the dance floor in which one person was stabbed. Police were on the scene in minutes and detained the alleged assailant, other than that there were only minor disorderly conduct complaints, most of which were easily resolved.

“I’m so proud of our community and hospitality industry for embracing diversity and inclusion.”

- Richard Gray

Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion of the Greater Fort Lauderdale CVB
WEARING RED HATS FOR WOMEN WITH HIV

Compass hosted its 5th annual Red Hat Brunch for National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS

Tammy Watson, 58, got sick in 2010. The doctors couldn’t figure out what was wrong with her. At that point, her husband was sleeping around. She was faithful. Their marriage was in turmoil.

She thought her husband was poisoning her. But in reality, seven years later, when she weighed 95 lbs., and was in the ICU about to die, she was diagnosed with AIDS.

“I was heterosexual, and married. I didn’t think AIDS pertained to me. I was ignorant. And let me tell you, ignorance is not bliss,” Watson said. “The one thing I have to say if I could say anything to the world is it doesn’t matter if you’re married, it doesn’t matter if you’re faithful, it doesn’t matter if you’re not married. It doesn’t matter. You should be tested.”

Watson is now in a trial study to help find a cure. She feels better than she has in 10 years, and she came to speak to a room full of women at Compass last Friday for National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Compass, Palm Beach’s LGBT community center, hosted the Red Hat Brunch, sponsored by CAN Community Health and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Every guest got a red hat decorated with flowers, feathers and sparkles.

The red hat signifies the color of the ribbon for HIV, and is a symbol of powerful women.

But Jackie Geratano, Medical Case Manager at Compass, said the event is about more than honoring women with HIV.

“A lot of the time, people assume this event is just for women, but it’s important for everyone to know the causes and struggles of the HIV population. Whether it’s women, men, African Americans, Hispanics, LGBTQ, we’re all in this together,” Geratano said.

Compass also showed a documentary about female activists called “Nothing Without Us: The Women Who Will End AIDS.” The theme of the year was Nothing About Us Without Us, meaning women should be involved in the legislation being created about them.

“This isn’t just a statement. This is a call to action. Those who are directly affected by policy should be the driving voices behind it,” said Director of Health Services Neka MacKay.

The brunch was provided by Big Momma’s House of Sweets, a cheesecake bakery. They served omelettes, biscuits and gravy, pastries, chicken, pasta, and fruit.

“I love Big Momma’s and anytime there’s food around at an event, it just brings people together,” Compass CEO Julie Seaver said.

This event has become Seaver’s favorite over the years, as in the past, it’s empowered women diagnosed with HIV, like Watson, to share their stories and motivate others.

“A lot of the time, women’s voices are diminished, and the fact that this event honors everyone, no matter their HIV status is great,” Seaver said.

Olga Sierra was one of the attendees and a Health Coordinator with Vita Nova, a resource to connect the youth with school, work, health care, and housing.

“We brought some of the youth in our program to the brunch so they can network and hopefully use the resources Compass has to offer,” Sierra said.

One of those resources is free HIV testing, something Watson is advocating for.

If she could impart just one piece of advice on someone it’s this: “Please, Please, Please get tested. Get tested once a year. We all have sex and there’s no shame in that. The spread of AIDS can be stopped if people would stop being afraid, and get tested.”

GUEST SPEAKER

... it doesn’t matter if you’re married, it doesn’t matter if you’re faithful, it doesn’t matter if you’re not married. It doesn’t matter. You should be tested.

- Tammy Watson

Rainbow Ball 2019

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Join the LGBTQ community to celebrate Palm Beach Pride on March 30 & 31, 2019, noon to 6 p.m. both days in Bryant Park, downtown Lake Worth.

6 p.m. on Sunday, March 31 in downtown Lake Worth along Lucerne & Lake Avenues.

Brunch, sponsored by CAN Community Health and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Every guest got a red hat decorated with flowers, feathers and sparkles.

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LOIS FRANKEL PRAISES EQUALITY ACT

"With the Democrats in charge I think you’ll see the Equality Act. I don’t think it’ll pass in the Senate, but we’re going to do a lot of things in the House to show the nation what our values are, and what the agenda should be. So I think you’ll be pleased." – U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel (D-Palm Beach County)
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) announced Thursday during her weekly news conference the Equality Act, legislation that would enact long sought-after federal protections against anti-LGBT legislation, would be introduced next week.

Pelosi said the Equality Act would be introduced in the same week as legislation intended to protect DREAMers, or young undocumented immigrants, and other immigrants from deportation in the aftermath of President Trump’s revocation of their protections.

“Next week, will be launching our Equality Act to end discrimination for the LGBTQ community and we will be launching our initiative to protect the DREAMers and temporary-protected status persons in our country,” Pelosi said.

Touting the new Democratic House majority’s achievement in advancing background checks for gun purchases and government reform legislation, Pelosi also said legislation for women workers ensuring equal pay for equal work and reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act would come later this month.

“We said these things during the campaign, and we’re getting it done and we are telling the public about the paths that we are on to get them turned into law to make a difference in the lives of the American people,” Pelosi said.

As it was previously introduced, the Equality Act would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act to ban anti-LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, jury service, education, federal programs and credit.

The bill also seeks to update federal law to include sex in the list of protected classes in public accommodation in addition to expanding the definition of public accommodations to include retail stores, banks, transportation services and health care services. Further, the Equality Act would establish that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act — a 1994 law aimed at protecting religious liberty — can’t be used to enable anti-LGBT discrimination.

After the news conference, Pelosi told the Blade “we’ll see” when asked when she’d bring legislation to a floor vote, but was confident the House would approve it. (The Republican-controlled Senate is a different story.)

“As we go along, it’s the tempo of the floor, but it is a priority for us,” Pelosi said. “I’m very pleased because we have a great deal of outside support for it, which I hope will help us pass it in the Senate. We most certainly will pass it overwhelmingly in the House.”

In previous years, the Equality Act was introduced in the House by Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.) and in the Senate by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.). The Washington Blade has requests in with those lawmakers’ offices seeking additional details about the introduction.
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Just two days after doctors reported a second patient had been ‘cured’ of HIV, another team is saying they’ve cleared any traces of infection in a third patient — and there’s a chance a fourth and a fifth case may soon follow.

Anne-Marie Wensing, of University Medical Center Utrecht, said the patient received a bone marrow transplant to treat his leukemia. The donor has a rare genetic mutation which has resistance to HIV.

Now, three months after they stopped taking antiviral drugs, tissue samples from the patient’s gut and lymph nodes show no infectious HIV, Wensing told New Scientist.

This patient underwent the same type of bone marrow transplant as the other two HIV-free patients.

Beginning with Timothy Ray Brown’s case in 2008, there was a 12 year gap between the announcement of the first and second patients reportedly being cured of their HIV infections.

Dr. Ravindra Gupta, a HIV biologist who co-led a team of doctors treating the third patient, said the man was “functionally cured.” But he also cautioned: “It’s too early to say he’s cured,” according to Gay Star News.

HIV advocates say bone marrow transplants are not a realistic procedure for people who live with HIV.

It is a risky procedure, normally only given as a last-ditch effort to fight specific cancers.

Two additional HIV patients still taking antiviral drugs have undergone the same bone marrow transplant procedure as the HIV-free patients, Javier Martinez-Picado of Barcelona’s IrsiCaixa AIDS Research Institute told New Scientist.

A coalition of 161 major businesses — including Apple, Coca-Cola and Target Corp. — has formed to urge Congress to ban anti-LGBT discrimination with passage of the Equality Act, the Human Rights Campaign announced Friday.

The initiative, known as the Business Coalition for the Equality Act, was first launched in 2016 with 60 members, but now includes nearly three times that number of businesses.

Forming a coalition organized by the Human Rights Campaign, these companies operate in all 50 states, have headquarters in 26 states, more than $3.7 trillion in combined revenue and more than 8.5 million employees in the United States.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) announced on Thursday the Equality Act, which would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include LGBT people, will be introduced next week. Capitol Hill sources have told The Blade the bill will be introduced on Wednesday.

Pelosi has already said passage of the Equality Act will be a priority for the New Democratic majority in the House of Representatives.

Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement the Equality Act is consistent with his company’s mission.

“At The Hershey Company, we recognize that our talented employees are our business edge, and that retaining our place as the market leader in our category requires the best talent,” Walling said. “To help us achieve our goal of recruiting the nation’s top employees, we know that we must foster a business culture that is welcoming to all, regardless of sexual orientation, or gender, or race, or other status. By the same token, if our nation is to compete on a global stage, our federal laws must ensure that all employees are treated with the same respect.”

By standing with the LGBTQ community and joining the fight to pass the Equality Act, these companies are demanding full federal equality for the more than 11 million LGBTQ people in this country who deserve to earn a living, raise their families and live their lives free from discrimination,” Griffin said. “These leading employers know that protecting their employees and customers from discrimination isn’t just the right thing to do — it’s also good for business.”

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TRUMP GLOBAL PLAN TO DECRIMINALIZE HOMOSEXUALITY HAS FANS AT CPAC

Attendees at the annual conservative confab suddenly love the gays

The Conservative Political Action Conference isn’t known for being a confab for supporters of LGBT rights, but this year brought surprise support for the Trump administration’s recently announced global initiative to decriminalize homosexuality.

Attendees at the recently held 2019 Conservative Political Action Conference who spoke with the Washington Blade — many of whom were wearing business suits and “Make America Great Again” hats as they moved from event to event — were uniformly in favor of the plan.

One such attendee, who wore a MAGA hat as well as a button on his lapel with the phrase “Socialism sucks” in a style mocking Bernie Sanders’ campaign logo, was Charlie Honkonen, president of the University of Maine College Republicans.

Honkonen told the Blade he “absolutely support[s]” the initiative, which was announced last month by U.S. ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell, the highest-ranking openly gay person in the Trump administration.

“I love gay rights,” Honkonen said. “I think gay people are great. I have no problem with them.”

Asked by the Blade how he could support the initiative while backing Trump and deriding Sanders, Honkonen said he sees no conflict with those positions.

“I think socialism has nothing to do with gay rights,” Honkonen said. “I think Donald Trump has always been a proponent of gay rights... You see the picture of him back in the campaign with the LGBTQ flag?... I don’t think he’s ever said anything that he’s led for me to believe that he’s against gay rights and I think this initiative proposed by his office shows exactly that.”

In an exclusive report last month to NBC News, Grenell announced the Trump initiative, which seeks to decriminalize homosexuality in the 71 nations where it is illegal.

The initiative seems focused on Iran, a longtime adversary of the United States where homosexual acts are punishable by death. The Jerusalem Post, a conservative publication in Israel, reported recently Iran executed a gay man in a public hanging.

Mike Cernovich, a conservative activist and filmmaker closely associated with the “Pizzagate” conspiracy theory against Hillary Clinton, told the Blade he supports the Trump initiative “in the abstract,” but has reservations about it.

“How do you make Iran or nations decriminalize homosexuality?” Cernovich said. “What do you do? So yeah, but is it a good idea? How are you going to tell Qatar quit killing gay people, right? I agree that it should be done, but what the plan looks like, we’ll see.”

Asked whether he’s generally in support of gay rights, Cernovich said opposing them has “never been a thing” for him as a libertarian.

“If you just start from the fundamental proposition that people ought to be able to live their lives largely unmolested by the government, then you would realize most things just aren’t your concern,” Cernovich said. “So, whatever consensual activities you’re engaged in, I’ve never in my whole life cared about that. To me, if I say, gay rights, that means the same thing as can I watch the TV I want to watch? It’s a question that never really made much sense to me. Of course, you ought to be able to.”

Theodore Milk, a 21-year-old student at the University of Jamestown, North Dakota, also said he supports the Trump administration global initiative.

“I don’t think gays should be persecuted,” Milk said. “At this point, I think it’s almost a human right to kind of be supportive and what your sexual preferences are (sic). I don’t think that should be something that should be persecuted around the world.”

 Asked whether he thinks being in support of the initiative is inconsistent with being a conservative, Milk said younger conservatives are changing the movement.

“It’s funny because I think there’s a branch of younger conservatives that are a little bit more socially liberal, a little bit more libertarian,” Milk said. “I think that’s just a fact of the times are changing. I think the Republican Party is changing a little bit, especially from my more youthful standpoint, conservatives are kind of shifting to be a little bit more socially liberal.”

Milk admitted “not all” conservatives are ready to accept gay rights, but insisted a sect of younger Republicans are coming into the movement with a different mindset as a result of the “changing of the times.”

James Dorsey, who’s 22 and from Hampton Roads, Virginia, said he “absolutely” supports the Trump administration global initiative.

“I don’t think that any human being should have to live in fear or live in shame of who they are,” Dorsey said. “I’m not a homosexual myself. I can’t say that I have many homosexual friends or family members, but, frankly, I think it’s a very archaic belief that people should be... persecuted for who they are and that’s about the most un-American thing I can think of.”

Dorsey said there’s a breed of conservatism that would agree “the movement is anti-gay, but that represents a misunderstanding of conservative principles.

“True conservatism I think, is ideologically opposed to those kinds of misconceptions about people,” Dorsey said. “I think that investing in a person and not the group is more conservative. I think that looking at someone based on the content of their character and not by the color of their skin and what they belong to, what their sexual preferences are, things like that. That’s about the most conservative thing I can think of, and that’s about the most American thing.”

The most prominent attendee at CPAC after President Trump — Vice President Mike Pence — has previously indicated through a spokesperson he supports Trump’s global initiative, even though Pence is notorious for his anti-LGBT record. (During his speech at CPAC, Pence again defended his wife and second lady Karen Pence for teaching at a Christian school that refuses to employ LGBT teachers or admit LGBT students on religious grounds.)
Cernovich, when asked about the Trump administration's anti-LGBT policies, reiterated his general support for LGBT rights, including transgender rights.

In contrast to the Trump administration, Cernovich said he supports allowing transgender people in the military.

“People should be able to live how they want to live,” Cernovich said. “So if you’re trans, you’re trans, you ought to be able to live your life without being fucked with. That’s just my general outlook.”

“If you can meet physical requirements and everything, then sure, yeah, of course,” Cernovich said.

Milk had a complicated response when asked about the other Trump administration anti-LGBT policies, including the transgender military ban.

“A lot of it has to do with when you don’t want the military funds going towards transgender problems and different things like that,” Milk said. “So, I think it’s a little bit deeper than I can give you a simple answer towards, but at the same time, I don’t think that’s overly persecuting against someone who’s transgender, but at the same time, I’m not someone that believes there’s five different genders or something like that.”

Quinton Zimmer, a 16-year-old high school student from Columbus, Ohio, also said he supports the Trump administration plan to decriminalize homosexuality, which he said builds on previous advancements of LGBT rights in the United States.

“I think we had a really big win for gay rights and homosexual rights in 2015 with Obergefell v. Hodges, and that victory in America has really shown that we’re committed and Trump is definitely through his policies very supportive of the LGBT community,” Zimmer said.

 Asked about other anti-LGBT policies in the Trump administration, Zimmer said he was unaware of them. He had no comment on the transgender military ban.

“I’m not really well versed in particular efforts on his behalf, but I have kind of read up on his effort to decriminalize homosexuality in other countries, and I definitely support at least that part of his administration,” he said.

Zimmer also disputed being conservative is at odds with supporting LGBT rights.

“I think that the true meaning of being a conservative is valuing people based on their character rather than being in the group that may define them,” Zimmer said. "I think that the true meaning of being a conservative is valuing people based on their character rather than being in the group that may define them. So, I think it's a little bit deeper than I can give you a simple answer towards, but at the same time, I don't think that's overly persecuting against someone who's transgender, but at the same time, I'm not someone that believes there's five different genders or something like that.”

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The Senate this week approved three of President Trump’s picks for the judiciary — each of whom have anti-LGBT records — and in some cases the judges were confirmed from Senate Republicans who say they support LGBT rights.

The Senate confirmed Allison Jones Rushing of North Carolina to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Chad Readler of Ohio to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit and Eric Murphy of Ohio as U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Each of the three new judges has issues in their past concerning civil rights that are troubling to many observers, including aspects of the record related to LGBT rights.

Rushing, who at 37 is now the youngest federal circuit judge in the United States, once had an internship at the anti-LGBT legal group Alliance Defending Freedom, which has been designated as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

ADF has filed lawsuits seeking to bar transgender people from using restrooms consistent with their gender identity and argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of Colorado baker Jack Phillips, who sought a First Amendment right to refuse to make wedding cakes for same-sex couples based on religious objections.

Rushing, who also clerked for U.S. Associate Justices Neil Gorsuch and Clarence Thomas, also spoke in favor of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which barred federal recognition of same-sex marriage, when it was litigated before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013. The Supreme Court ended up striking down the anti-gay statute.

Despite Rushing’s record, all three Republican senators on the record in support of same-sex marriage — Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine), Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) — voted for Rushing’s confirmation.

Vanita Gupta, CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights, said in a statement Rushing’s confirmation brings bias and inexperience to the Fourth Circuit. “Her inexperience is only outmatched by her clear bias — as evidenced by Rushing’s work with Alliance Defending Freedom, an extremist organization listed as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center,” Gupta said. “Rushing has denounced marriage equality, opposed remedies for discriminatory lending practices, and rejected efforts to end housing discrimination against domestic and sexual violence survivors. Her record clearly shows she will not be a fair and independent judge — a reality with dire consequences for Fourth Circuit cases and the American people.”

Readler, who until recently was acting assistant attorney general for the U.S. Justice Department for the Civil Division, faced opposition to his confirmation based mostly on his signature on Trump’s administration briefs arguing protections for pre-existing conditions under the Affordable Care Act should be struck down.

But Readler, who also defended Trump’s travel ban on mostly Muslim countries and the family separation policy for immigrants seeking asylum at the border, also built a record defending the Trump administration’s anti-LGBT legal policy.

Readler penned his name to legal briefs defending President Trump’s transgender military ban as well as voluntarily briefs arguing gay workers aren’t protected under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars sex discrimination in employment, and Phillips in the Masterpiece Cakeshop case.

Collins broke with her caucus and voted against Reader’s confirmation, citing his legal work against protections for pre-existing conditions, but she did vote to invoke cloture on his confirmation. Portman and Murkowski both voted to confirm Readler.

Tom Perez, chair of the Democratic National Committee, denounced Readler’s confirmation in a statement after the vote. “A vote for Chad Readler is a vote to take away protections for people with pre-existing conditions,” Perez said. “It’s as simple as that. Republicans have shown their true colors: They’ve confirmed a judge who has a long and disturbing record of attacking people’s health care, voting rights, and civil rights. He’ll drag us backwards on every issue — from criminal justice and consumer protection to LGBTQ rights and the treatment of immigrants. Voters will not forget this betrayal next November.”

Murphy, who until recently was solicitor general of Ohio, defended in court the state’s ban of same-sex marriage in the Obergefell v. Hodges case, which despite his efforts led the Supreme Court to rule in favor of marriage equality nationwide in 2015.

Collins, Portman and Murkowski each voted for Murphy’s confirmation. In the case of Portman, who has a gay son, the senator voted for a nominee that would have deprived his son of the right to marry had Murphy’s argument succeeded before the Supreme Court.

Sasha Buchert, senior attorney at Lambda Legal, took note of Portman’s vote in a statement condemning the Murphy confirmation. “Today’s vote to confirm Eric Murphy was yet another example of how little concern Senate Republicans have for the safety and security of the LGBT community, and their broader disdain for civil rights,” Buchert said. “The fact that even Sen. Portman, who came out publicly in support of marriage equality, could not bring himself to vote against this nominee demonstrates the extent to which Senate Republicans have completely abdicated their duty to provide meaningful advice and consent. Our federal courts will be the worse off for generations to come.”

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Welcome to the South Florida Gay News.

A glimpse into the week's top stories:

**Buttigieg Makes Town Hall Pitch to Voters**

**Indiana Mayor Says Pence A Cheerleader For ‘Pornstar Presidency’**

Buttigieg revealed more of his political journey while drawing clear contrasts between his leadership style and that of the Trump-Pence administration.

Buttigieg, exploring a presidential campaign, took questions from a studio audience in Austin, Texas on Sunday. CNN anchor Jake Tapper moderated the town hall, asking the 37-year-old Buttigieg (Buddha-Judge) how he pronounced his name.

“Either way it gets you there,” the candidate replied, adding, “Back home they just call me Mayor Pete.”

Buttigieg’s exploratory committee is tasked with collecting 65,000 donors in 20 states to qualify for the Democratic party debates. At Sunday night’s town hall, Buttigieg was asked what makes a small town mayor think he should be president.

“We would be better served if Washington started to look like our best-run cities and towns rather than the other way around,” Buttigieg said. A lieutenant in the Navy Reserves, Buttigieg said he comes from a “strong mayor” system in South Bend, Indiana.

Buttigieg noted he has more executive level experience in government than President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence and also more military service than both despite being significantly younger.

“I like him,” said Kathy Russo, who hosted a town hall watch party at her house in Portland, Oregon. “I gave him $10 tonight. He seems personable and reasonable.”

Around a dozen people gathered around Russo’s television set to hear Buttigieg’s pitch. The mayor is the only gay candidate in a large Democratic field.

“I think the whole point of politics is everyday life,” Buttigieg said, explaining that his marriage is the most important part of his life.

“I married a teacher so I married up,” Buttigieg said. “That intimate thing in our life exists by the grace of a single vote on the U.S. Supreme Court.”

In the landmark 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges case, the Supreme Court – in a 5-4 decision – ruled same-sex couples have a fundamental right to marriage. Buttigieg married his spouse Chasten last summer in an Episcopal ceremony in South Bend, Indiana.

Buttigieg referenced his faith when asked about the vice president.

“[Pence’s] interpretation of scripture is pretty different than mine to begin with. My understanding of scripture is that it’s about protecting the stranger, and the prisoner, and the poor person, and the idea of welcome,” Buttigieg said. “His has a lot more to do with sexuality and a certain view of rectitude. But even if you buy into that, how could he allow himself to become the cheerleader of the pornstar presidency? Is it that he stopped believing in scripture when he started believing in Donald Trump?”

At Sunday evening’s town hall Buttigieg also called for an end to the “war on transgender Americans” and for Congress to pass a federal equality act that prevents firings based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In remains to be seen if Buttigieg can secure a spot on the debate stage. Five U.S. senators have already declared their intentions to seek the Democratic party’s nomination. Last week, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the party’s 2016 nominee, ended speculation she would run again. U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Jeff Merkley of Oregon and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg also withdrew from consideration last week.

**White House Watch is a weekly column taking a look at the state of the 2020 presidential election.**
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This week I was asked to give a small speech at the 2nd annual LGBT Health Equity Fair in the East Wing Rotunda of the Pennsylvania State Capitol. They asked me to speak about health disparities facing the LGBT community and the importance of safe, affirming, and welcoming spaces. Here's an excerpt of that speech:

As a transgender person myself, I am acutely aware of the health disparities the LGBT community faces as I've faced many of them myself.

According to the 2018 PA LGBT Health Needs Assessment, 23 percent of transgender people did not see a doctor when they needed to because of fear of being mistreated as a transgender person.

I avoided going to my local emergency room when I should have after a complication following a gender affirmation surgery for fear that they would mistreat me and because I felt it was too sensitive of an issue to discuss with a doctor I didn’t know.

17 percent of LGBT Pennsylvanians do not or are unsure if they think of any healthcare provider as their personal doctor. For 4 years after I started hormone replacement therapy, I didn’t have a primary health care provider because I didn’t know any trans-competent family doctors where I lived. 36.9 percent of transgender Pennsylvanians smoke cigarettes compared to 18 percent of the general PA population. I was one of those 36.9 percent. I’ve been cigarette-free since 2014.

58.7 percent of transgender Pennsylvanians have never been tested for HIV. During one of my HIV tests, I had to advocate that the tester mark me as a trans male on the form so that the CDC realizes that trans men are being tested for HIV despite the fact that the CDC does not count trans people in their HIV testing data.

33.8 percent of transgender and gender nonconforming Pennsylvanians self-described as eligible to receive a cervical pap test have never been screened for cervical cancer. One of the reasons I chose to undergo a hysterectomy was so that I never had to tolerate the incredibly uncomfortable cervical cancer pap test as a male again.

According to the 2015 National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 8 percent of survey respondents reported currently using drugs or alcohol to cope with the mistreatment that they have received as a result of being transgender. I was one of those 8 percent. I’ve been sober for almost 5 years.

It is incredibly important for LGBT people to have safe, affirming, welcoming, competent care. However, it’s not enough to say, “We welcome LGBT people,” but then not have gender identity and sexual orientation data on the intake forms. It’s not enough to say, “We accept LGBT people here” and then make the patient explain to the provider what HRT stands for. It’s not enough to display a rainbow flag in your office and then have the receptionist misgender you or use your deadname.

Being competent and affirming matters. 57 percent of trans youth attempt suicide. However, that number drops to only 4 percent when they are supported by their parents. A study of at-risk trans people shows a rate of self-reported suicide attempts dropped by more than 80 percent when they were given access to transition-related treatment. After being allowed to emerge as their rightful gender, 95 percent of trans and gender nonconforming people report their quality of life and sense of well-being improved.

Don’t be an ally in name only. Do your homework. Have the staff trained in LGBT care by an LGBT person. Update your intake forms. Use the right name and pronouns. You could literally save a life.

Atticus Ranck is the Health Programs & Supportive Services Manager for Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center in Allentown, PA. Previously, he was the Director of Transgender Services at SunServe in Wilton Manors. Atticus is a trans man who advocates for the LGBT community through his work, trainings, presentations, and everyday encounters.
The adoption fee for dogs over 6 months is $100 and felines over 6 months are $30. When you adopt from the Humane Society of Broward County the dogs and cats are spayed or neutered, microchipped, receive preliminary vaccinations, cats are feline leukemia tested, and dogs over 7 months are tested for heartworm. They also receive a flea/tick preventative, a 10-day limited health care plan from VCA Animal Hospitals, 30 days of Trupanion Pet Insurance and a bag of Purina ONE pet food. The HSB opens daily at 10:30 and is located at 2070 Griffin Road, a block west of I-95. For more details call 954-989-3977 ext. 6. To see who else is looking for a home visit www.humanebroward.com.

Adorable Tiggy (ID 610034) can’t wait to meet you at the Humane Society of Broward County. Adopted as a little kitten from another shelter, Tiggy was given up because the landlord said no pets. This fellow has an outgoing personality and is a social butterfly. He will rub against your legs, come when you call him, and acts more like a dog in a cat suit. While he hasn’t lived with other pets or kids, given time to adjust, we are confident Tiggy will do just wonderful in any cat loving home.

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Service Times: Sundays 8:00AM & 10:30AM
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(954) 564-7673 - christlutheranfl.org
pastordeborah@christlutheranfl.org
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YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!
If you happened to go out and about last Wednesday, you may have noticed quite a few people who looked like they had recently lost a fight with a chimney sweep… That’s right, it was just Ash Wednesday, which means here we are, back in the season of Lent.

For those of us who grew up Catholic, you’ll remember it as a ritual your parents and grandparents forced you to participate in. You’d be made to go to church more often than usual, have the priest smear ashes on your forehead, give up meat on Fridays, and most notably “give up” something. And every year when it comes around I find myself asking the same question: “Does this have any real meaning in 2019 in South Florida, or has this been relegated to the realm of mindless ritual and unnecessary pius pageantry?”

The conclusion I’ve come to is that the answer is very closely related to the “spiritual, but not religious” phenom that has taken over the world.

When one says that they are “spiritual, but not religious,” to me, that means “I am still seeking the answers to the great mysteries of life, and hope to commune on a deeper level with my fellow man and the universe around me, but I find that religious tradition limits my ability to do so, or teaches things that I have found to be untrue or even harmful.” And even as a Catholic priest, when someone tells me that they are “spiritual but not religious,” I find myself at a loss of any compelling reason for them to be anything else.

Why? Because Spirituality must be at the core of everything we do in every aspect of our life. We must be seekers of meaning and truth and sowers of love and compassion… “Because I said so,” or “This is simply how things are done” is not an adequate justification to do anything anymore.

If our observation of Lent is nothing more than the fulfillment of childhood indoctrination and habituation, then it is valueless.

But it doesn’t need to be that way. There is still a rich spiritual bounty to be had, but we need to do a little bit of work to unlearn some things, and to find the meaning that has been there all along but was lost.

Matthew 3:12 delivers an all too familiar line: “His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

That verse is more often than not used to drive home the point that some of us are headed to Heaven, and others off to hell. But there is perhaps a better understanding of this allegory… What if we put ourselves into the place of the farmer with his “winnowing fork” and let that field, wheat, chaff, and all be the totality of our life? We can take this season of Lent to be an invitation to analyze our life, our decisions, our behaviors, our habits, and even our relationships, asking ourselves, “What do I have that is of tremendous value (the wheat),” and “What is hurting us or holding us back (the chaff (weeds))?"

Imagine if instead of giving up meat and chocolate, which does no real good for anybody, we gave up all our bad habits and hurtful behaviors for Lent. What an amazing world we would live in, and how much healthier we’d all be.

Fr. Rich Vitale is the associate pastor of Community Outreach of Holy Angels National Catholic Church, and the interim director of Operations of Impulse Group South Florida. He lives in Wilton Manors with his husband Sean, and his Cat, Miss Kitty.
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**THU 3/14**

**THEATER**

Zoetic Stage, the resident regional company at the Arsht Center in Miami, knows how to stage the challenging, technical musicals of Stephen Sondheim. Tonight, through April 7, the inventive company presents “Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street,” Sondheim’s dark tale of a tormented husband and his outrageous companion, the pie-baking Mrs. Lovett. Tickets start at $55 at ArshtCenter.org.

**FRI 3/15**

**ART**

Habatat Galleries, 2401 N. Dixie Hwy. in West Palm Beach, hosts an opening night reception at 6 p.m. for two new solo exhibitions, glass artist Robin Grebe and painter Matt Story. Grebe’s fused glass sculptures will amaze, just as Story’s paintings capture a crisp, almost photographic quality. Free valet parking is provided. To RSVP, email Habatat.Info@gmail.com. More information at HabatatGalleries.com.

**SAT 3/16**

**OPERA**

Florida Grand Opera presents Robert Xavier Rodríguez’s new opera, “Frida,” this weekend at the Miramar Cultural Center in Miramar, March 21-24 at Miami-Dade County Auditorium and March 28 and 30 at the Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale. Rodríguez’s colorful score is a perfect match for the passionate art of the legendary painter Frida Kahlo. Tickets and more information at FGO.org.

**SUN 3/17**

**THEATER**

Actors Playhouse, 280 Miracle Mile in Coral Gables, presents the Tony Award-winning best musical, “Memphis,” March 13 through April 7. Inspired by actual events, this rockin’ musical tells the story of Huey Calhoun, a fictitious white radio DJ who was one of the first to play black music in 1950s Memphis, and Felicia, a black singer hoping for her big break. Tickets start at $30 at ActorsPlayhouse.org.

**MON 3/18**

**PAGEANT**

The most talented female impersonators and male entertainers in the region will compete for the titles of Mr. and Miss Pride South Florida 2019, tonight at 8 p.m. at the Aventura Arts and Cultural Center, 3385 N.E. 188th St. in Aventura. There will be talent, evening wear and Q&A categories. Also, a salute to the outgoing 2018 winners, Dee Ranged and Rolly Villaverde. Tickets start at $20 at AventuraCenter.org.

**TUE 3/19**

**COMEDY**

“Friends! The Musical Parody” is a delightfully naughty and hilarious new musical that lovingly lampoons the iconic NBC sitcom “Friends,” celebrating the misadventures of everyone’s favorite 20-to-30-somethings as they navigate life, love and work in 1990s New York City, tonight and tomorrow at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach. This uncensored, adults only stage romp recreates the best moments from the show’s decade-long run. Tickets start at $42 at Kravis.org.

**Dynamic Dance**

The world-famous Paul Taylor Dance Co. returns to South Florida with its signature masterwork of American dance, “Esplanade,” set to Bach’s Violin Concerto No. 2. Don’t miss the transcendent work tonight at 8 p.m. at the Broward Center in Fort Lauderdale and Thursday, March 21 at the Duncan Theatre at Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth. Tickets at BrowardCenter.org and PalmBeachState.edu/theatre/duncan-theatre/.
Florida Fresh: The Speaker Series

At the Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center Phyllis & Harvey Sandler Center, 21050 95th Avenue S., Boca Raton, FL

Monday April 8 2:30 pm
Florida Stories with Professional Storytellers Caren Neile and Carrie Sue Ayvar

Florida boasts mysterious tales, stretching back more than twelve thousand years. Storyteller and Author Caren Neile, PhD, shares myths, legends and folktales that reflect the diversity of characters and cultures that make Florida such a fascinating place.

See Miami Beach through the eyes of Rose Weiss: Mother of Miami Beach, who transformed it, with persistence and a smile, from a sparsely populated sandbar (where Jews like her could only live in the southernmost tip) into the world famous multicultural metropolis it is today. Carrie Sue Ayvar presents her true story.

Thursday April 11 7:30 pm
The Jews of Key West; Smugglers, Cigar Makers, and Revolutionaries with Arlo Haskell

Long before Miami was on the map, Key West had Florida’s largest economy and an influential Jewish community.

Arlo Haskell presents his book, The Jews of Key West, an entertaining and authoritative account of Key West’s Jewish community from 1823-1969. Illustrated with over 100 images, it brings to life a history that had long been forgotten.

FOR TICKETS CALL 561-544-7426 OR VISIT LEVISJCC.ORG/SANDLERCENTER
The Original Fort Lauderdale Gay Men’s Chorus offers a musical celebration of life on Sunday, March 17—a centennial musical salute to the great American composer Leonard Bernstein and a somber reflection on the legacy of Matthew Shepard 20 years after his brutal murder.

Founder and current artistic director Dr. Gary Keating will conduct the two-part program at All Saints Episcopal Church. The first half of the program will feature selections from Bernstein’s most famous works, including “West Side Story,” “On the Town” and his comic operetta “Candide.”

Keating is particularly excited about “Gloria Tibi,” a movement from the composer’s unconventional and theatrical 1970s setting of the Roman Catholic mass. “It’s performed with bongos by men’s chorus, so it’s definitely unconventional,” he explained. “One of the things I love about it is it reminds me of the [Johannes] Brahms German Requiem because it doesn’t use liturgical music, instead relying on poetry to speak to the people who are left behind.”

Bernstein identified strongly with his Jewish faith and heritage, so the composer’s interpretation of a Christian religious service will also interest audiences, Keating promised.

The Chorus is dedicating the second half of the program, “Changing Hearts,” a special, six-piece set, to Shepard and others who have been the victims of gay-hate crimes. Scenes from “The Laramie Project,” the 2000 play by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project, are being interspersed between the diverse musical selections.

According to Keating, the program, accompanied by a “mini-orchestra” of eight instrumentalists, is a poignant reminder of how far the LGBTQ community has come, and how much work remains. A portion of proceeds will be donated to the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

“Twenty years later, Matthew Shepard’s untimely and tragic passing is one we will never forget. We hope this performance inspires the community to support the Matthew Shepard Foundation’s efforts to replace hate and embrace human dignity and diversity through its various programs,” Keating said.

The concert will conclude with another Bernstein classic, the lyrical ballad “Make Our Garden Grow” from “Candide.”

“It’s a profoundly beautiful and moving song,” Keating said. “We gain wisdom through life and even though Matthew Shepard didn’t live a long life, he inspired wisdom for an entire country to become involved, to learn to accept each other. I know people are going to be moved.”

The Fort Lauderdale Gay Men’s Chorus presents “A Celebration of Life, Love and Music” on Sunday, March 17 at 5 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 333 Tarpon Dr. in Fort Lauderdale. Tickets start at $30 online at TheFTLgMC.org or by calling 954-832-0060.
Does time really heal old wounds? That’s the question Michael Perlman’s play, “From White Plains” attempts to answer in a new production opening March 21 at Island City Stage in Wilton Manors.

Emotional sparks fly when Dennis Sullivan, while accepting an Oscar for best film, accuses former high school classmate Ethan Rice of bullying him and driving his best friend to suicide—more than a decade earlier.

Rice’s shocked response: “They’re saying that, I’m like, a murderer, that I should be put on trial. Charged with a hate crime. For something I don’t even remember.”

Words hurt and those same words can drive people to desperate acts, but what is the “statute of limitations” on long forgotten speech by an immature adolescent?

Perlman explained his reasoning, “The play came from that idea of excavating nuance from issues that seem to be black and white. We all agree with the premise that gay bullying is bad … All of it is based on the life experiences of myself and four original actors. I did not emerge from high school as badly traumatized as Dennis, but for anybody growing up gay, that constant fear and that time in high school when you’re afraid of being ‘the other,’ the secret is terrifying.”

Perlman began writing the play in 2011 and collaborated very closely with the original cast, often rewriting entire scenes at night after rehearsals.

“I come from a directing background, so I understand the collaborative process of the rehearsal room. I may have come in with first draft, but I immediately went home to rewrite 40 new pages based on the conversation in the room. That process creates far more specificity in the characters,” he recalled.

“There are a lot of verbal tics, ‘um’s and ‘oh’s, in very specific places in the dialogue as a result. The actors had to memorize all of that.”

Bullying may not be as prominent a topic in the national discourse as it was in 2011 after several teens committed suicide, but Perlman believes his play is still relevant.

“One of the great joys of this play for me is when people come up after the show, they talk about their own experiences—bullying or being bullied—not the show itself. That, to me, is what I hope my work does,” he said.

“The fact that this was successful in that [way] makes me very proud. It can be the beginning of a conversation. My hope is that things are changing, even when it doesn’t feel that way.”

Forgotten cruelty sparks powder keg thriller at Island City

Michael Perlman’s own experiences in high school influenced his play, “From White Plains,” opening next weekend at Island City Stage.

Perlman began writing the play in 2011 and collaborated very closely with the original cast, often rewriting entire scenes at night after rehearsals.

“I come from a directing background, so I understand the collaborative process of the rehearsal room. I may have come in with first draft, but I immediately went home to rewrite 40 new pages based on the conversation in the room. That process creates far more specificity in the characters,” he recalled.

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FOR MORE INFO: www.gmcsf.org
Anthony Timiraos and Rob Saunders first worked together at a FATVillage pop-up show in Flagler Village. FATVillage, which stands for Flagler, art, and technology, is an arts community which strives to create connections amongst its creatives.

Appropriately, Timiraos, a photographer, and Saunders, a painter, felt their work complemented each other nicely. After a successful show at FATVillage, they anticipated future collaborations, and agreed to present a joint exhibition at the Broward Art Guild later this month. Rob Saunders has been a member of the Broward Art Guild, BAG, for many years. Last year, he won the top prize at the BAG's plein air competition, granting him a one-week solo gallery at the institution. It was after working with Timiraos at FATVillage and seeing their similarities that Saunders suggested sharing his solo gallery prize.

Timiraos focuses on the male form. When looking at his work, viewers decide whether they are observing surface-level beauty or seeing the personal narrative of his models. His work is a celebration of people and their various compositions, capturing “models of a wide range of ages, body types, piercings, skin tones, backgrounds and personalities.” An avid traveler, Timiraos also touches on the culture of his subjects. He often shows dynamic women in local dress or travelers as they journey abroad, again, offering narrative.

Saunders has chosen a mostly figurative style of painting, meaning he has real subject matter as the object of his paintings. Saunders claims to also focus on the “male nude as the subject matter.”

Saunders’ models are shown leisurely, almost like the females in Edouard Manet’s paintings of the earlier 19th century. Like Timiraos, however, he hopes to also capture the character of the model beyond the aesthetics of the body’s form. He hopes audiences catch a glimpse of personality or character, simply by looking at this paintings. Saunders has also explored the minimalist abstraction of the human figure. In this way, he can strip the emotions down to simple colors or shapes.

Both artists worked non-artistic professions before rekindling their current endeavors. Timiraos, Cuban-American, was an accountant in many large cities across the nation. His retirement, and move to Fort Lauderdale, invigorated his earlier interest in photography, which harkened back to his college years. Timiraos is also the former executive director of Our Fund, a local foundation that supports LGBT causes.

Saunders was a journalist for many years, but in New York City, he learned the art of portrait painting at the Students Art League. There he began his career in drawing and painting. It did not become a full-time passion until his move to Fort Lauderdale in 2009.

The Broward Art Guild is the largest non-profit of working artists in the Broward area. They offer the community a variety of gallery exhibitions, as well as juried competitions such as the plein air competition Saunders prized in.

This is where the joint exhibition, *Body and Soul*, will take place. It will have an opening reception on March 16, at 6:30 p.m., which will kick off the weeklong exhibit taking place March 16-22. The BAG is located 3280 NE 32nd street, Fort Lauderdale.
It’s time for ‘lights, camera, action’ as The Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center’s Sandler Center hosts this year’s newly named Judy Levis Markhoff Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival (BRJFF), which runs from March 10 – March 31, 2019. Now among the top 10 Jewish Film Festivals in the US, this year’s BRJFF features the best narrative, documentary and short films from around the world. The broad array of films explores the Jewish experience, culture, history, identity and topics relevant to Jewish life with a diverse collection of over 44 international and independent premiere films from over 19 countries. Films will be screened at Cinemark Palace 20 Theaters in Boca Raton from March 10-23 and at Movies of Delray from March 24-30 and at Beifield Auditorium at the Levis JCC Sandler Center on various dates.

The closing night film at Cinemark on March 23 will feature the US Jewish Film Festival Premiere of The Bird Catcher, a Norwegian thriller about a 14-year old girl who had to assume a new identity as a boy in order to navigate her survival on a remote snow bound farm amidst the hostility of Nazi-occupied Norway. The event will be attended by Director Ross Clarke and Producer Lisa Black.

Fans of the BRJFF will mambo their way into the final closing night of the Festival on March 31 at Zinman Hall with the premiere screening of the documentary ‘Mamboniks,’ a film with a huge connection to the New York transplants of South Florida. Surprisingly, many of Mambo’s biggest fanatics were Jewish, a diverse, offbeat group of devotees whose zeal for mambo dancing earned them the hipster nickname: “Mambonik.” Following the film there will be a concert and dance party with several local ‘Mamboniks,’ and the Grammy and Latin Grammy nominated band PALO, who will be performing their own style of Cuban music they call “Afro-Cuban Funk.”

Other not-to-be-missed films: Golda’s Balcony – a film of the original Broadway show starring Tovah Feldshuh, The Unorthodox – a film that is one of Israel’s biggest box office hits of the year, The Other Story – directed by Avi Nesher, one of Israel’s most renowned filmmakers, King Bibi – a film based on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Family Practice – US PREMIERE of a feature situation drama from Switzerland

Additionally, three official entries to the Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film will premiere at the Festival including Slovakia’s The Interpreter, Austria’s The Waldheim Waltz, and Russia’s Sobibor.

The full 2019 Program Guide including dates, show times, a synopsis of each film and theater location is available on bocajff.org. For individual general admission tickets or information on sponsorships and passes, please call 561-558-2514 or visit the Levis JCC Sandler Center Box Office located at 21050 95th Avenue S., Boca Raton.

"Cairo to the Cloud" is a documentary about the Cairo Geniza, a vast treasure trove of manuscripts discovered in the storeroom of an ancient synagogue. Photo via Cairo to the Cloud, Facebook.
**Top Picks**

*DaVinci & Michelangelo: The Titans Experience*
March 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center, 3800 NW 11th Place, Lauderhill. This interactive and multimedia performance will take audiences on an awe-inspiring journey through the Italian Renaissance. Tickets $50. Visit LPACFL.com

**From White Plains**
March 21 to April 21 at the Wilton Theater Factory Mainstage, 2304 Dixie Hwy, Wilton Manors. Imagine sitting with your best friend, drinking beers and watching the Oscars on TV when, all of the sudden one of the winners names you as the bully who tormented him and provoked his best friend into committing suicide. That's only the first few minutes of the explosive play, “From White Plains.” Visit IslandCityStage.org for tickets and info.

**My One and Only**
March 8 to 24 at the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center, 3800 NW 11th Place, Lauderhill. A transatlantic aviator flies around the world in pursuit of the love of his life — a championship swimmer being blackmailed by royalty who claims to have compromising pictures of her. Tickets $48 to $58. Visit lpacfl.com.

**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

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**Palm Beach County**

**Music for the Mind**
Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at the Harriet Himmel Theater at CityPlace. The Kretzer Music Foundation’s popular MUSIC FOR THE MIND concert series will return with the legendary pianist David Crohan. All proceeds from the concert will benefit children's programs of Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches. Tickets $15 to $50.

**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.

**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 mix-ing the likes of improvisation and sketches. Tickets $12. Call 305-693-8669 or visit JustTheFunny.com.
Lambda Legal will host its annual Lambda Legal in Fort Lauderdale reception at the Bonnet House Museum and Gardens on Sunday, March 31, 2019. The evening will celebrate the organization’s civil rights achievements and feature political comedian Kate Clinton. The event will also feature Lambda Legal Interim CEO Richard Burns.

WHO:
Kate Clinton, special guest speaker, is a multi-talented and multi-platformed author, actress, stand-up humorist, impure thought leader, activist, fundraising auctioneer and social mediatrix.

Richard Burns, Interim CEO, will discuss the impact Lambda Legal has had in making change for LGBT people and people living with HIV and the work ahead.

WHAT:
Annual Lambda Legal in Fort Lauderdale reception

WHEN:
Sunday, March 31, 2019
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

WHERE:
Bonnet House Museum and Gardens
900 North Birch Road
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304

RSVP: Tickets available online at www.lambdalegal.org/fortlauderdale or contact Carla Avila at 312-663-4413 or cavila@lambdalegal.org.

Longtime comic, activist and Lambda Legal supporter, Kate Clinton will join vocal, local boosters in Florida to celebrate Lambda Legal’s past, present and future. Join Kate to get the breaking news and analysis of Lambda Legal’s work in Florida.
LGBT NON-PROFITS

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www.pridecenterflorida.org

Latinos Salud
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(954) 765-6239
www.latinossalud.org

Poverello
2056 N Dixie Hwy, Wilton Manors
(954) 561-3663
www.poverello.org

Sunserve
2312 Wilton Dr, Wilton Manors
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HELP WANTED - HOUSEKEEPER - The Grand Resort and Spa is seeking a F/T, P/T or Seasonal Housekeeper for an all-male, clothing optional resort in Fort Lauderdale. Candidate should be efficient, detailed and dependable. Hotel/resort experience is a plus. Please supply work references. Send resumes to jobs@grandresort.net. NO PHONE CALLS.

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Make a difference!
Do you want a job that gives back and supports our LGBT community?
Apply now to be a caregiver for LGBT seniors in the Broward County community.

Experience preferred but not required
Must be caring, responsible, and strong
Reliable transportation needed
Male caregivers encouraged to apply

Call 954-651-7407 or email:
Office@EmeraldEliteHomeHealth.com
Include your name, contact number, and tell us your level of experience and commitment to helping LGBT seniors.

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**TOP PICKS**

**In Search of Stonewall**
Wednesday, March 27 at 7 p.m. at the Stonewall National Museum, 2157 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors. This panel discussion will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the 25th anniversary of The Gay & Lesbian Review, which has published a book on the events of 1969 and their aftermath, a collection of essays from the magazine's first 25 years. Suggested donation of $5. Visit stonewallmuseum.org.

**Arts and Crafts Wednesday Happy Hour**
Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Arts and Crafts Social Club in Fort Lauderdale. Enjoy a two-for-one ‘freestyle’ painting session with hands on assistance as needed. Tickets $20. Visit artsandcraftssocialclub.com

**Lunch With Art**
Every Wednesday from 12:15 to 1:15 pm at 41 NE st 33060, Pompano Beach. Indulge your creative side in this free hands-on program. Bring your own lunch or grab a bite to eat at the in-house cafe.

**Voices of Pride**
Meets at Compass GLCC, 201 N. Dixie Highway in Lake Worth. Join the Gay Men's Chorus as they practice every week. Free. Call 561-533-9699 or visit CompassGLCC.com for rehearsal details.

**Life Coaching**
Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Latinos Salud Clubhouse, 2300 Wilton Drive in Wilton Manors. Get one-on-one life coaching from certified CRCS coaches. For guys living with HIV, their partners, and anyone who identifies as transgender. Free. Call 954-765-6239 or visit LatinosSalud.org.

**Coffee Clutch at Compass**
First Monday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon at Compass, 201 N. Dixie Hwy, Lake Worth. A social group focusing on the mature LGBT+ community in Palm Beach County, providing a relaxed environment for meeting friends, discussing interesting topics, and engaging in community projects. Free to attend, email joekolb@compassglcc.com for details.

**Miami-Dade County**

**Color Adolescent Sunset Art Installation**
Friday, March 15 to May 19 at the Art and Culture Center Hollywood, 1650 Harrison Street, Hollywood. A series of site-specific installations by local and national artists and educators who explore discoveries between experimentation and academic practice with lighting, sets, sculpture, and performance.

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