THE GOLDEN YEARS

FROM LAMBDA LIVING IN MIAMI TO THE PRIDE CENTER IN WILTON MANORS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR LGBT SENIORS TAKES THE SPOTLIGHT

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Pride Center CEO Robert Boo has responded to criticism by Sal Torre, president of the Westside Association of Wilton Manors. In his Aug. 2 article which appeared in The Wilton Manors Gazette, Torre said that The Pride Center has been too secretive about its proposed affordable housing project.

“So, what’s the big secret? Why all the hush hush? Well, it looks like the much-trumpeted LGBT Senior Housing Project that the Pride Center rolled out to much fanfare might be too secretive about its proposed affordable housing project.

“According to Boo, the goal is to build 120 to 130 units. The project would be built in phases – 48 units for Phase I and 70 to 80 units for Phase II. Torre also raised the possibility that the project might not be for seniors alone and suggested it might be opened to homeless individuals.

“Now don’t get me wrong, as a community, we need to address issues such as affordable housing, low-income housing, housing for those in need of supportive services such as the homeless, those with substance abuse issues, those with mental health issues, and so many more. If these are the goals of the Pride Center and its partner Carfour, then they need to come clean to the community they serve and not sugar-coat reality by masking this project as much needed affordable housing for LGBT seniors,” wrote Torre, who asked if the project would be for 55 and older or 62 and older.

“This might seem like a minor issue dealing with age, but the distinction under Federal guidelines is huge. In a 55 and over community, only 80 percent of the units are restricted to having just one person 55 years or older living in them. That leaves the other 20 percent of the units unrestricted and open to all, along with the 80 percent open to anyone as long as one of the residents is 55 years and older,” continued Torre.

Boo though rejected Torre’s claims: “Every single unit is for Seniors; no one under 55 can live in The Residences. In addition, 70 percent of these units (34) are designated for seniors living with disabling conditions, such as physical illnesses or disabilities due to complications from HIV/AIDS. These Seniors must be able to live independently, but will benefit from the array of services available on campus. According to a recent survey by the Institute for Multigenerational Health, 47 percent of LGBTQ seniors in the U.S. are currently living with a disabling condition. This is the personal reality we face every Tuesday morning when over 200 Seniors gather in our main hall for Coffee and Conversation.”

Boo also addressed Torre’s other concerns about traffic, the density of the project on the 5.5 acre site, and that the project would be a drain on city resources.

“The Residences at Equality Park also will impact fees to the City of Wilton Manors. Parks & Recreation will receive $756.51 per unit. Police will receive $91.50 per unit plus $61 per 1,000 square feet of non-residential space. Fire will receive $60 per unit plus $40 per 1,000 square feet of non-residential space. Of course, this affordable housing project would be exempt from the Affordable Housing Fee.”

“Will there be an increase in traffic on Dixie Highway?” asked Boo.

“The coming senior affordable housing project on our campus will undergo the same due diligence with The County and The City that any other project addresses—including a traffic assessment. Around 2,000 people use our campus daily. The addition of 48 residents now and 70 residents later won’t dramatically congest traffic patterns.”
Little Leo has graced the Earth.

Trystan Reese and his husband Biff Chaplow have conceived their first biological child, Leo Murray Chaplow. Leo “eats like a champ, sleeps well, and gives us lots of cuddles,” Reese told CNN.

Reese, a gay transgender man, became a topic of discussion over the last few months, documenting their parenting journey and posting updates throughout the pregnancy.

“I’m OK with my body being a trans body,” Reese said. “I’m OK being a man who has a uterus and has the capacity and capability of carrying a baby.”

Earlier this year, Reese said “I think there are a lot of gay couples who would love to have their own biological child without intervention or assistance from other people. For me, I see it as a really amazing gift that I’ve been given. I get to live as a man, and I also get to do this really amazing thing that a lot of people would love to do.”

After receiving medical advice, Reese stopped taking testosterone to prepare for the pregnancy. “We’ve been under medical supervision the entire time to make it as healthy and safe as possible.”

This won’t be their first child. In 2011, Reese and Chaplow adopted the latter’s niece and nephew after his sister was not able to care for them. “We are so lucky to have been able to welcome him into our lives and cannot wait to see who he grows up to be.”

“After the dust settled, I just realized how much I loved our kids,” Reese told The Washington Post, “and how much room there was in our life for our family to grow.”

SFGN
Irish PM: ‘Matter of Time’ for N. Ireland and Gay Marriage

(AP) Ireland’s prime minister says it is “only a matter of time” before same-sex marriage is legalized in Northern Ireland – the only part of the United Kingdom where it still is banned.

Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, Ireland’s first openly gay leader, made the comments at a gay pride event on Saturday in Belfast.

Northern Ireland remains the only part of the British Isles where same-sex marriages are not allowed. A 2015 voter referendum legalized them in the republic of Ireland.

The issue has been one of the sticking points preventing the restoration of the Catholic-Protestant power-sharing government in Northern Ireland.

The Democratic Unionists, Northern Ireland’s biggest British Protestant party and a key partner to British Prime Minister Theresa May’s government, has opposed same-sex marriage.

The Catholic nationalist Sinn Fein supports it.

Australia’s Ruling Party Refuses Vote on Gay Marriage Bill

(AP) Australia’s ruling party on Monday rejected a push to allow lawmakers to decide whether the country should recognize gay marriage, continuing a bitter political stalemate over the divisive reform.

The conservative Liberal Party-led coalition was narrowly re-elected in July 2016 with a promise to let voters decide whether Australia should recognize same-sex marriage through a popular vote. But the Senate would not allow the so-called plebiscite, which would have cost 160 million Australian dollars ($127 million), and the result could have been ignored by lawmakers when deciding how to vote on gay marriage legislation in Parliament.

Liberal Sen. Dean Smith, a gay man who opposed legalizing same-sex marriage when he was appointed to the Senate in 2012, has drafted a bill to allow gay marriage now and wants his fellow Liberal lawmakers to be allowed to vote on it according to their consciences rather than according to party policy.

“It’s time for the party to put the matter to rest once and for all,” Smith told reporters before the meeting.

But a crisis meeting of Liberal lawmakers decided to try again to persuade the Senate to endorse the plebiscite before Parliament considers voting on legislation. The rejected plebiscite bill will be reintroduced to the Senate this week. Voting on the plebiscite would be compulsory and failure to vote would be punishable by a fine.

If the Senate again rejected it, the party would propose a voluntary postal plebiscite in which voters mail in their opinions instead of using ballot boxes as a cheaper option that would not need the Senate to approve the expense.

The seven lawmakers who spoke against the plebiscite at the meeting were outnumbered more than three-to-one by 27 colleagues who supported the 2-year-old policy.

Pennsylvania District Settles Transgender Bathroom Lawsuit

(AP) A Pennsylvania school district will allow students to use restrooms that correspond to their “consistently and uniformly asserted gender identity” in settling a federal lawsuit brought last year by three transgender students.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced the settlement Tuesday in Pittsburgh with the Pine-Richland School District in the city’s North Hills suburbs.

A federal judge in February blocked the Pine-Richland School District from enforcing interim rules that made bathroom use conditional upon a student’s biological gender only. U.S. District Judge Mark Hornak said then that the district had not demonstrated its policy advances an important governmental interest. Nor was there evidence that personal privacy was being threatened save for a complaint by a parent whose child reported a “boy in the girl’s bathroom” in October 2015, according to the judge.

Two students born anatomically male who now identify as female and one born anatomically female who identifies as male sued in October to overturn the policy.

The school district confirmed the settlement, which Lambda called “a victory for transgender students’ gender identity with respect to student records, names, pronouns, and restrooms, among other aspects,” Lambda said in the statement announcing the settlement.

The district must also adopt policies “that respect transgender students’ gender identity with respect to student records, names, pronouns, and restrooms, among other aspects,” Lambda said in the statement announcing the settlement.

Schools spokeswoman Rachel Hatthorn said board members approved the settlement and related policies at a meeting July 17.

The transgender students, Juliet Evancho, Elissa Ridenour, and another identified only by the initials A.S., were all seniors and have since graduated.

Thousands March in Jerusalem Gay Pride Parade

(AP) Thousands of revelers are marching in Jerusalem’s gay pride parade amid tight security.

Israel police blocked roads in central Jerusalem Thursday and detained 12 people, including one in possession of a knife, on suspicion they would attempt to disrupt the parade.

A far-right group held a protest nearby against the parade.

Jerusalem holds a modest parade annually in contrast to festivities in nearby liberal Tel Aviv, which drew over 200,000 people to its parade this year.

Many of Jerusalem’s residents are observant Jews, Muslims or Christians, communities that often frown on homosexuality. But violent attacks on gay people are rare.

A radical ultra-Orthodox Jew stabbed a 16-year-old girl, Shira Banki, to death at Jerusalem’s parade in 2015.

The attack was widely condemned and the killer was convicted for murder.
Florida Medical Center was the presenting sponsor of Tuesday’s coffee & conversations program at Pride Center. Miguel Fernandez, director of Florida Medical Center’s Behavioral Health Services unit, gave tidbits on his 27-year career in health care. Fernandez recently returned to Florida from Georgia where he worked in juvenile justice for 16 years.

Florida Medical Center’s Behavioral Health Services unit is located on its North Shore Campus, 5000 West Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. It is a 47-bed facility that offers electro-convulsive therapy (ECT) to treat people suffering from severe depression, mania or catatonia.

“I want to make sure that when people come to our psychiatric unit they are treated with dignity and respect, that we address their psychiatric needs and we return them back to the community in proper placement,” Fernandez said.

Before Fernandez spoke, John Baumgartner informed the audience of a new “Life” program starting Aug. 22. The 18-week cycle meets Tuesday nights and is designed for HIV positive men who have sex with men. The program is proven to increase T-cell counts, Baumgartner said.

“It gives guys a boost,” Baumgartner said. Other speakers included Julia Schwartzman with the “Tools for School” drive, Patti Lynn, community liaison for the Broward Sheriff’s Office, Lee Lawson of American Veterans for Equal Rights, James Senior of Edward Jones Investments, AARP’s Betty from the Bronx, Pride Center CEO Robert Boo and Pride Center Development Director Roger Roa.

More than 125 people signed in for this week’s coffee and conversations.

For more information, contact Bruce Williams, Senior Services Coordinator at 954-463-9005, ext. 109.
According to international reporting site Foreign Policy, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, or UNAIDS, estimates there are 36.7 million people living with HIV today, and more than half of them are on drugs that hold the virus at bay — preventing it from becoming full-blown AIDS as well as preventing the virus from spreading to sexual partners or through drug use.

"Thanks to that treatment, substantially paid for by U.S. taxpayers, death rates have plummeted from a 2005 annual high of nearly 2 million to about 1 million in 2016," Laurie Garrett of Foreign Policy wrote.

While there are increasing numbers of people taking both preventative medication and post-infection treatments — and death tolls are decreasing — the number of yearly infections around the world have not slowed down, and there are roughly two million people infected with HIV each year.

If that rate stays the same, UNAIDS projects that there will be nearly 54 million people living with HIV by 2030 with death rates taken into account. All of them will be in need of daily medication, which is a daunting task due to stagnated funding and stronger, drug-resistant strains of HIV.

A World Health Organization survey estimates that almost 10 percent of the people who start antiretroviral therapy are found to have a virus that defies easy treatment, requiring them to move to more expensive and less successful second- and third-line treatment.

These numbers are pulled from new cases recorded in Argentina, Guatemala, Namibia, Nicaragua, Uganda and Zimbabwe. A 2015 survey in Mexico found that 14 percent of those infected were found to have drug-resistant viruses.

A London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine 2016 analysis of African patients found that a staggering 16 percent of new infections were multidrug-resistant, meaning patients immediately needed third-line therapy.

If these resistant strains continue, an additional $650 million will be needed just for second-line treatment, and even then the success rate will be far below that of antiretrovirals, increasing the death toll by 135,000 and increasing the infection rate by 105,000.

The threat of an impending HIV/AIDS outbreak lies in these new drug-resistant strains, as second- and third-line treatments are less reliable and difficult to administer to patients in poor countries, as these backup treatments are much more expensive than treatments such as tenofovir, one of the biggest first-line HIV treatments.

This not only presents a need to develop more effective medications, but shows the need for more funding in terms of research, development and medicine distribution.

In wealthy countries where anti-HIV drugs are free and fully available the rates are much lower and the threat of drug-resistant strains are less of a threat. Comparing African and European patients, researchers found a lifelong probability that 20 percent of European HIV patients will build resistance to tenofovir — but as much as 60 percent of Africans are estimated to build the same resistance.

Preventative treatment like PrEP seems to lessen the threat of infection and drug-resistant strains. In San Francisco, where preventative treatment is common in gay men, it was found that in the year 2015 new infection rates plummeted by 17 percent.

However, instead of extending drug availability in poor and middle-income countries, proposed funding is expected to decrease dramatically over the next few years, meaning that at-risk countries need to come up with their own funds.

According to UNAIDS, poor and middle-income countries will need to boost domestic spending on HIV by 450 and 530 percent respectively to offset the decrease in funds.

Medics Sans Frontieres (MSF), an international humanitarian health organization calls this proposed increase "highly unrealistic," stating that few of the HIV hardest-hit countries have health budgets capable of even making a dent in these epidemics.

Much of this issue lies in the necessity to continue funding for daily HIV treatment — as every HIV-positive case requires daily treatment, often funded by the government or care organizations. The need for daily medication results in large sums that continuously need to be allocated.

A decrease in funding marks a loss of medication availability for many people in struggling countries.

There is always the hope of future HIV and AIDS treatments such as vaccines, curative treatments and better preventative medication. But these solutions require further funding and research, and the global research and development budget has been on the decline since 2012.

Foreign Policy reports that the proposed 2018 White House budget would slash funding for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, America's primary funder of HIV research, by $838 million. The overall National Institutes of Health would take a loss of almost $6 billion with the proposed budget.

The International AIDS Society notes that the budget cuts would result in "catastrophe" and "lost lives."

"Dependency on U.S. aid is a serious vulnerability for the entire future of worldwide control of HIV/AIDS," Garret reported. "The United States contributed $4.9 billion in 2016, or 71 percent of global support. It was followed by the United Kingdom ($646 million), France ($242 million), and the Netherlands ($214 million). Even at the most optimistic levels, these other donor nations can't make up the difference."

Pre- and post-infection treatment have become more widely available all over the world, but as new drug-resistant strains of HIV arise in poor countries without access to second- and third-line treatment, infection rates will rise and HIV will continue to spread.

"If the world isn't willing and able to not merely stay the course, but expand support for treatment and R&D, it is hard to imagine any way out of the grim pandemic scenario," Garrett wrote. "For those of us who chronicled the first HIV pandemic and witnessed entire social groups and societies in the throes of AIDS, the prospect of a second wave is gut-wrenching and hideous beyond contemplation."
Two years since the government first set their sights on the gay escort site, Rentboy.com CEO Jeffrey Hurant will face time behind bars.

Hurant pleaded guilty to promoting prostitution, and U.S. District Judge Margo K. Brodie sentenced him to six months in prison and a $7,500 fine.

“The very thing that is illegal - there is no question it did a lot of good,” said Brodie, pointing out that the sentence was necessary to send a message of deterrence to other escort services despite Hurant’s lawyers claiming he deserved no worse sentence than probation.

Last year Hurant admitted he broke the law by promoting “The exchange of sexual conduct in return for a fee” via the escort website. However, he also said he created the website to give the ability to participate in sex work in a safe way.

Under a plea deal Hurant agreed to appeal a prison sentence of two years or less. In a sentencing memorandum, Assistant U.S. Attorney Tyler Smith claimed prison time for Hurant would “promote respect for the law and the seriousness of the offense.”

Legal and civil rights activists claim the harsh sentence was fueled by anti-gay bias.

Manhattan Democrat Senator Brad Hoylman wrote the case was problematic “because it harkens back to a dark chapter in our nation’s history when the government used its vast resources to target and threaten LGBT adults by exposing their private consensual sexual activity.”

Letters also emerged from members of the community, including five New York City council members who signed a letter arguing “a harsh sentence will serve neither society nor the rehabilitation of Mr. Hurant.”

New York Democratic Congressmen Jerrold Nadler and Sean Patrick Maloney also wrote to the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, questioning if the agencies wasted time and resources pursuing Hurant, who had not harmed anyone.

Prior to Hurant’s arrest, Rentboy.com saw thousands of advertisers, 500,000 visitors a day, and about $2 million in revenue per year.

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ever since publicly announcing her support for then-presidential candidate Donald Trump, Miami Beach drag queen Elaine Lancaster has received countless criticisms from the LGBT community.

Following Trump’s announcement on Twitter that transgender people would be banned from serving in the military things were no different, and the community chastised her and the president for such an announcement.

This time, however, Lancaster didn’t have a response ready to defend Trump’s actions.

“I really don’t know what to say,” said Lancaster, also known as James Davis. “I have to process it. I think he should expand freedoms and equality instead of restricting them. If transgender people want to serve in the military, they should be allowed to.”

“I feel for people who are transgender and currently serving who may be asked to vacate their posts,” Lancaster continued. “But I would hope they would be given honorable discharges.”

Earlier this month, Lancaster sat down for an interview with LGBT news site UnicornBooty, powered by Hornet, to discuss her thoughts on Trump and her experiences with the LGBT community as a Trump supporter. She said she is appalled at how she is treated for her support for Trump, but that at the end of the day she is still a proponent of LGBT rights, and would not stand if the president set into action any policy that negatively affects the LGBT community.

“I don’t agree with everything he says, of course,” Lancaster said. “I am an American citizen. It’s not about me, it’s about the country. It’s about the community.”

Lancaster continued, “If that man does anything anti-LGBT, I will be the first person to go to DC and protest.”

Lancaster’s statement was put to the test when Trump shocked the LGBT community on Twitter last Wednesday.

The Log Cabin Republicans are a group that also receives criticisms from the LGBT community for their conservative ideals. During the campaign, however, they refused to endorse Trump as a candidate — although the Miami chapter did endorse him.

“The president’s statement this morning does a disservice to transgender military personnel and reintroduces the same hurtful stereotypes conjured when openly gay men and women were barred from service during the military’s ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ era,” The Log Cabin Republicans, a conservative LGBT group said in a statement last Wednesday. “As an organization that led the charge against the hateful policy, Log Cabin Republicans remains equally committed to standing up for transgender military personnel who put their lives on the line to keep us free.”

In 2015, Lancaster received an award at Diversity Honors, hosted by the Harvey Milk Foundation and the Pride Center in Wilton Manors.

Stuart Milk, president of the Harvey Milk Foundation said, “We were looking for people who are constantly giving back to the community or people who are tremendously authentic. James is both categories. He brings forth, with glitz and glamor, authenticity. And he brings forth, with glitz and glamor, giving back to the community.”

“Our shared vision is coming into reality tonight,” Milk said during the 2015 event. “To once a year set aside an event which provides distinguished recognition of people who have made our entire community stronger, more just, more humane and more enlightened.”

Two years later, the LGBT community sees Lancaster in a much different light.

Along with her backing of Trump, Lancaster frequently played herself as the victim, chastising the LGBT community for treating her the same way they themselves abhor to be treated.

“I come from a community that touts that we are so inclusive, we are so embracing of what’s different, all we ask for is tolerance and equality,” Lancaster said. “When I came out as a supporter of Trump, I was blackballed instantly. They got online campaigns. I was thrown off the [White Party] committee. I couldn’t be the emcee anymore. I got death threats. I have lawsuits pending against people. Oh, it’s horrible.”

Lancaster continued, “Now, I’m an enemy of the gay community. I worked 20 years and sacrificed my personal life for the community. I want a place at a table.”

Many in the LGBT community, especially activists in South Florida and the Miami area do not buy her pleas for inclusivity, instead seeing it as an opportunity for her to grab attention.

“Elaine wants to go and cry and paint herself as a victim when the entire Sexuality and Gender Acceptance (SAGA) community is suffering, little by little, by this president and his administration,” Dale Wilson, LGBT activist and South Florida DJ told the Miami Herald. “She is not the only gay person who supported Trump. But she has made such an effort to paint herself as the token idiot for the village idiot. Of course, things come back to her because she’s the loudest mouth.”

Wilson continued, “It’s very clear to anyone who God gave the brain of a billy goat to that [Trump] doesn’t give a [redacted] about us. But yet they, the ‘Roaches for Raid,’ will go and march and stand up for this man who won’t be bothered by them. That just irks me.”

The trans military ban is still up in the air, and it has united much of the LGBT community in support for our transgender siblings. Lancaster has called herself the voice of the LGBT community before, and so far disagrees with Trump’s proposed trans military ban.

“If something goes awry, I have a voice,” Lancaster said. “We aren’t going to stand for that. I want to be a champion of the gay community.”

But many are still skeptical that she can regain her voice and be said champion when she so ardently supports a president who impinges on LGBT rights so easily.

“It is not fair to discriminate against someone,” Wire Magazine publisher Rafa Carvajal said. “But it is fair to choose who you support based on their views. And you cannot have it both ways. You cannot for years claim to be an LGBTQ leader and then openly and vocally support someone who wants to take away the rights of the LGBTQ community.”
Here's an episode dedicated to children of same-sex parents.

Disney Junior, a network aimed at children aged 2-7, reveals same-sex parents in a recent episode of Doc McStuffins, a show about a girl who fixes broken toys.

The episode, "The Emergency Plan," is about teaching kids the right steps to take during an emergency, featuring a "doll family" trying to come together safely after a toy dragon causes chaos. The parents are voiced by openly gay celebrities Wanda Sykes and Portia de Rossi.

"I always envision Doc McStuffins as a show about what it means to accept everyone as part of our communities," said show creator Chris Nee in a statement released by GLAAD. "As part of a two-mom family, I'm proud to have an episode that reflects my son's world, and shows everyone that love is love in McStuffinsville."

GLAAD claimed the episode was "groundbreaking," with President and CEO Sara Kate Ellis stating: "Children like mine deserve the chance to see their families reflected on TV, and this episode does just that in a beautiful and positive way. Shows like this reflect our real world, and today that includes the many children being raised by gay and lesbian parents who are all going to celebrate this story."

To nearly no one's surprise, One Million Moms spoke out against the episode. "Controversial topics and lifestyle choices should be left up to the parents to discuss and Disney Junior should not introduce this to young children," they said. "Just because an issue may be legal or because some are choosing a lifestyle doesn't make it morally correct. Disney should stick to entertaining and providing family-friendly programming instead of pushing an agenda."

The group is threatening to boycott Disney in a letter for the third time this year.

"Families tuning in to watch this children's program will encounter a premature discussion on sexual orientation that is completely unnecessary," the pre-written letter states. "If your producers keep this episode as originally planned, then my family will have no choice but to no longer watch the Disney Channel Network in our home so we can avoid the previews and commercials for this irresponsible episode as well as any reruns of the episode. I will not allow the Disney Channel in my home unless you produce and air family-friendly programming," declares One Million Moms.
DAUGHTER OF BULLEIT BOURBON FOUNDER ACCUSES FAMILY OF HOMOPHOBIA, BEING PUSHED OUT OF BUSINESS

The daughter of the founder of Bulleit Bourbon took to Facebook over the weekend and put her family and their business on blast, accusing them of homophobia.

In a lengthy post, Hollis Bulleit, the daughter of Tom Bulleit, explains her experience over the last decade of being edged out of the family and its business because she’s in love with a woman. In January, Hollis claims she was completely pushed out of her family’s business.

“Since Cher and I have been together she has been excluded from ‘the family business’ from the start,” she writes. “When my step-grandmother passed, I got a text. In 2008, I was asked to come home for Christmas; yet Cher was not invited. The only holiday that we attended was Thanksgiving in 2016, and then we were promptly uninvited via text from the following core family Christmas.”

She then goes on to explain how the alleged homophobia is infused with her income.

“If family was business and intertwined with a global corporation, I find it odd that I did not benefit from the departments and safeguards that are put into place to either intervene or provide mediation or educational diversity training as would be the expected protocol for employees in this type of situation,” she writes. “In light of my experience, I do not understand how the company I worked for is on many of the top 10/50/100 ‘best places’ for LGBTQIA employees to work.”

CYNTHIA NIXON EMERGES AS POSSIBLE NY GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE

(Cynthia Nixon’s name is being mentioned as a possible candidate for governor in New York.

The Wall Street Journal was the first to report Friday that the “Sex & the City” actress has been approached by liberal groups encouraging her to mount a Democratic primary challenge against Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Nixon is active in liberal politics in the state. She has not weighed in on her possible candidacy. A message left with her agent was not immediately returned Friday.

The director of the Alliance for Quality Education tells the Journal that Nixon has progressive credentials and her candidacy would excite voters.

Other names mentioned as possible challengers to Cuomo in the Democratic primary include former state Sen. Terry Gipson and Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner.

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(AP) A federal lawsuit over a transgender teen’s demand to use the boy’s bathroom at his high school is being sent back to a lower court.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had scheduled arguments for September in Gavin Grimm’s case against the Gloucester County School Board.

But the 4th Circuit said Wednesday that it will delay next month’s arguments and send the case back to the district court so the judge can decide whether the case is now moot because Grimm recently graduated.

Grimm’s case had come back to the appeals court after the Supreme Court declined to hear it. The Supreme Court decision came after President Donald Trump revoked guidance from the Obama administration saying transgender students should be allowed to use the bathroom of their choice. SFGN
This quote is still relevant today, especially when teen homelessness is concerned. Thankfully, the folks at A Way Home America, Rapid Results Institute, and HomeBase have come up with a solution to end teen homelessness, dubbed the 100 Day Challenge. This is not the first year for the challenge. In 2016 cities like Cleveland and Los Angeles saw much success, some even exceeding expectations. For the 2017 kickoff, which happened on August 1, five new cities have been tasked with the mission of tackling teen homelessness. Baltimore, Maryland, Columbus, Ohio, Hennepin County, Minnesota, Louisville, Kentucky, and Palm Beach County will embark on the 100 Day Challenge until November 8.

A Way Home America consists of local and state public sector organizations, advocates, researchers, young people, homeless youth providers, and philanthropists. The Rapid Results Institute is a non-profit organization founded in 2007 that creates a transformative and sustained impact on societal challenges dealing with homelessness, in addition to working with several partners and government agencies. Lastly, HomeBase is a non-profit public interest law firm that has been providing services to homeless people for over three decades.

As mentioned before, Florida’s very own Palm Beach County has also decided to participate in the 100 Day Challenge. Sadly enough, the statistics in our community are mind-blowing. For instance, West Palm Beach has the largest homeless population in Palm Beach County, with an 11.5 percent increase in homeless individuals from 2015. According to the Homeless Coalition of West Palm Beach, our county ranks second in Florida for children living in spaces not conducive to human habitation.

“The main thing was to help 100 youth in 100 days. Each city chose their own amount,” said Dylan Brooks from the Compass Center, he also serves as a team leader for our county. “For us, our goal was to help 141 people in 100 days with an emphasis on people of color and individuals that identify as LGBTQ.”

“Sometimes I feel like my skin color and my background stops me from getting people to even pay attention to me,” said Fabiola, a 17 year old from Lake Worth. “My parents and I came here from Haiti three years ago, we have moved plenty of times, even though we don’t have it all together, we manage to make it happen, it’s tough though sometimes.”

On a national level, there are many reasons for teen homelessness, one being a shortage of affordable housing. The average minimum wage job pays $8.10/hr, so that means that if you work a minimum wage job, and you want to live in a one bedroom apartment, you would have to work a total of 104 hours a week in order to survive accordingly (Homeless coalition of Palm Beach County). Other reasons for teen homelessness in America include poverty rate, challenges of single parent homes, racial disparities, and traumatic past experiences. Youth homelessness can be broken down into many sub-categories. One of the most popular is the LGBT teenager.

Did you know that 40 percent of homeless youth served by agencies identify as LGBTQ? “LGBTQ homelessness can stem from a variety of things. Like being kicked out because of sexuality. No two kids are alike when it comes to being homeless,” mentioned Dylan.

More often than not, homeless LGBT youth around the country face many obstacles when it comes to finding shelters that accept them, much less make them feel comfortable. By bringing awareness to the 100 Day Challenge, LGBT homeless teens will less likely be victims of abuse, violence, even bullying from their heterosexual peers. There are several organizations and sponsors in Palm Beach that are actively participating in the 100-day challenge, including Adopt-A-Family, Youth Services, Vita Nova Inc, Gulfstream Goodwill and Compass Community Center.

The 100 day challenge is just evidence that the community is trying to recognize its shortcomings. Hopefully, after the 100 Day Challenge we can report about young people receiving housing. “Reach Out! You are not alone in this situation. There are people out there that can help you,” Brooks said passionately. “Don’t give up, even though we know the system is a little flawed.”

“FOR US, OUR GOAL WAS TO HELP 141 PEOPLE IN 100 DAYS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON PEOPLE OF COLOR AND INDIVIDUALS THAT IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ.”

- Dylan Brooks

COMPASS CENTER

“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and cared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.”

– Mother Teresa
REPORTS EMERGE OF TRANS MILITARY BAN POLICY

Tucker Berardi

A fter Trump took to Twitter to announce his decision to bar transgender individuals from serving in the military, he and the proposed ban were met with a number of criticisms and studies that negated his arguments of health care costs and readiness.

Despite the wave of criticisms, however, the policy seems to be making its rounds and becoming more than just a series of tweets.

According to the Los Angeles Blade, a new policy has surfaced. Titled "A Guidance Policy for Open Transgender Service Phase Out" the policy reportedly encourages early retirement, ushering out enlisted personnel after their contract is up and bars transgender officers from promotion.

This policy has not been made public, but a Los Angeles Blade source said it is on its way, and that “the administration want[s] to get rid of transgender service members as fast as they can.”

The policy does not detail a complete ban, allowing transgender service members currently enlisted to continue their service. However, there are no protections specified against harassment.

This proposed ban has been challenged from a number of sides. Many LGBT groups and organizations have released statements against such a ban, and last week 56 retired generals and admirals came out with a statement condemning Trump’s proposed ban, The Hill reports.

“This proposed ban, if implemented, would cause significant disruptions, deprive the military of mission-critical talent, and compromise the integrity of transgender troops who would be forced to live a lie, as well as non-transgender peers who would be forced to choose between reporting their comrades or disobeying policy,” the officers said.

“As a result, the proposed ban would degrade readiness even more than the failed ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy,” the statement continues. “Patriotic transgender Americans who are serving — and who want to serve — must not be dismissed, deprived of medically necessary health care, or forced to compromise their integrity or hide their identity.”

Trump’s initial claim that transgender healthcare costs in the military are too high and a threat to the readiness of the military have already been disproven by the Rand Corporation study, which estimated that the medical costs for transgender troops would be 0.01 percent of the military’s annual budget.

The Los Angeles Blade confirmed with two White House and Pentagon sources the new policy is on its way to the Secretary of Defense.

OutServe-SLDN, an LGBT legal services and watchdog organization, has announced they will be filing a lawsuit along with Lambda Legal to challenge the upcoming policy.

“The President’s order to remove transgender service members from the United States armed forces is nothing less than a purge,” Matthew F. Thorn, Executive Director of OutServe-SLDN said in a statement. “He is implementing this purge based on bigotry, motivated by agents of an ideology that has no concern for the national defense, and in blatant disregard of the experience of career officers who spent more than a year developing and implementing the current policy.”

Thorn continued, “We recognize this purge for what it is — a discriminatory attack on the people who have volunteered their lives for the defense of the country. It is arbitrary and capricious, a callous and questionable exercise of constitutional authority which is beneath the dignity of a Commander-in-Chief.”

●●●

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Hector Zuazo and Robert Medina are happily married, a commitment made in Toronto, Canada 11 years ago because marriage equality had yet to pass in the U.S. back in 2006.

Today, in their early 70s, the couple is thinking of their future, one that includes aging in a community where many LGBT seniors do not have spouses or children to take care of them in the latter part of their lives.

Zuazo, a retired teacher, and Medina, a former system technician with AT&T, decided to start an elderly gay organization that will look out for LGBT seniors in their old age. Hence, Lambda Living, an affordable housing initiative for LGBT seniors, was born.

On Wednesday, July 26, North Miami city leaders and community members came out for the launch of the project in an open house setting near Edgewater. There, Cindy Brown, manager of the Lambda Living senior program, and Fred Stock, president and CEO of Jewish Community Services, spoke to open house attendees of the challenges LGBT seniors face today.

“Not only are older LGBT people confronting the traditional challenges of aging, they are also encountering issues particular to the LGBT community,” Brown said. These challenges include lack of support and caregiving; greater likelihood of living alone; higher rates of poverty; and cultural and social isolation.

Since these are some of the realities facing the older LGBT community, Brown said the Lambda Living program can help LGBT seniors live a much more fulfilling life. Through the initiative, workshops offer LGBT seniors education on financial planning and literacy; tax, insurance and disability issues; computer training; and technology for people with disabilities. Social activities include dine outs, group outings and field trips; music and theatre performances; lunch with relevant speakers; activities for veterans; and transgender-focused events.

Sponsored by Jewish Community Services of South Florida (JCS), Lambda Living will offer a variety of programs and services to the aging LGBT community throughout Miami-Dade County.

The 15-unit housing program is LGBT-focused and intergenerational for seniors and young adults, providing supportive services, such as counseling, case management, bereavement groups, educational workshops and social activities intended to facilitate LGBT seniors’ independent living skills.

“We had a dream to start an elderly gay organization for the oldest marginalized gay people who don’t have a place to go, who are homeless,” Zuazo said. “I’m 72; my husband is 71. Our commitment is before we hit 80, we need to have a home, a place for elderly gay people who are alone, struggling and homeless.”

The intergenerational aspect of the program mirrors a luncheon Zuazo and Medina host at their home monthly, where elderly and young LGBT people converge to discuss LGBT history and equal rights violations still happening today.

North Miami Councilman Scott Galvin, one of the few openly gay politicians in South Florida, said the Lambda Living senior project is going to be great for LGBT seniors.

“I’m really excited that JCS and Lambda Living is leading the charge on affordable housing for all and that they are coming to North Miami to further that mission here,” Galvin said. “Affordable housing is so hard to find in South Florida. We are one of the worst major metropolitan areas when it comes to affordable housing, and that goes for our elders, as well. A lot of the elderly GLBT community don’t have family to support them. They couldn’t get married, they didn’t get married, they don’t have children, they don’t have grandkids. So by having affordable housing that’s supporting the GLBT lifestyle, it’s going to go a long way to making a lot of people happy.”

For more information on Lambda Living and other JCS services for the LGBT community, call 305-576-6550 or visit https://jcsfl.org/services/lgbt.
On July 26, LambdaLiving hosted its open house to introduce itself to the community as a senior housing program, “providing services and advocacy” for seniors in the LGBT community.

TO SEE MANY MORE PHOTOS, VISIT SFGN.COM ON FACEBOOK.
Miami-Dade and Broward counties rank first and second in the nation in new HIV infections. Among the most at risk are gay Latinos, many from Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and Honduras, where there is a deficiency in sex education. It’s for this reason Latinos Salud was formed in 2008 to create a safe space for gay Latinos and provide them with much-needed education, support and resources.

Stephen Fallon, executive director of Latinos Salud, said new infections are declining in most regions and populations across the United States. But they are rising in South Florida, especially amongst gay Latinos. After infection, minorities in Miami-Dade live only about half as long on average as their non-minority peers, Fallon said.

“So much has changed since Latinos Salud was founded about nine years ago,” Fallon said. “When I think about what’s happened in the epidemic in the past couple of decades—when medicine was trying to fight back against HIV back then—we were not succeeding. We were basically building sand castles against a tsunami, and it was just wiping people away. The one thing we did have was community. Every week, you’d pick up the bar magazine and it was filled with obituaries. Friends were lost every week, and so community was built around fear. People ran out and told their friends, ‘don’t do this. Do this instead; it’s safer. Be careful.’”

Latinos Salud hosted an open house July 25 for its recently relocated Miami Beach office from Fifth Street and Washington Avenue to 925 Arthur Godfrey Road. The event served to introduce the community to the agency’s new locations, which offer free walk-in HIV and STD screening, HIV education and prevention programs, linkage to care services for clients living with HIV, support groups and mobile testing van community outreach.

Latinos Salud was founded in Wilton Manors in 2008, added a Miami Beach location in 2014 and a Kendall location in 2016.

Victor Gonzalez, Miami Beach program coordinator, said the new Miami Beach location on Arthur Godfrey Road is making it more convenient for “people to find us,” providing more parking and more space than at the Washington Avenue location.

“We wanted something bigger, more friendly and welcoming,” Gonzalez said. “One of the downfalls from our old office was that it was very touristy in the heart of South Beach. We didn’t receive many residential clients. Here, we are receiving many more residential clients.”

Fallon says today, some people may say there is no more community, perhaps in part because the epidemic isn’t as visible, he said. But attendance at the Miami Beach open house proved otherwise. “We do still have community,” he said.

“The epidemic doesn’t instill so much fear. We don’t see the obituaries every single day like we used to,” Fallon said. “So do we have the same need for community? Well, from a medical standpoint, the good news is HIV is no longer a foregone tragedy. Medicine has come very far. There is an amazing life potential for somebody living with HIV, if they do everything right. But HIV is still a burden and we want to prevent our friends from having to carry that burden if they’re not already living with HIV. Those who are living with HIV, we want to make sure their life doesn’t have tragedy in it. We want to make sure they get into care and that the care is effective.”

Will Portalatin, board chair, says Latinos Salud wants to make sure it is providing services in the much-needed community areas as possible.

“Hence why we opened up in Kendall two years ago,” he said. “We found there was a need there because of language barriers. Many of our Spanish-speaking members are Spanish-speaking only. It’s challenging for this group to get the testing and linkage services.”

Portalatin says the agency has taken huge steps from when they were just a small clubhouse in Wilton Manors.

“We’ve come a long way in a decade,” he said. “Thanks to grant funding, we’ve expanded our hours from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. all locations, Monday through Friday. Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wilton Manors. It’s such a great feeling to know the community is responding to what we have to offer and they continue to come back to volunteer and bring other people they know. I’m also happy we’re much more open to dialogue not just in our community but everywhere in general. We’ve evolved a lot and we’re here to provide education, counseling and services to help everyone live a long and healthier lifestyle.”
Dr. Ferdinand Cabrera, Owner and Medical Director of the Genesis Health Institute, first recognized the need to incorporate a more preventative style of medicine while practicing as a board-certified internist for over 20 years. When the opportunity to exclusively practice functional, integrative and anti-aging medicine arose, it was just a matter of time before Genesis Health Institute was born.

Genesis… “the beginning.”

Our mission at Genesis is to promote the healthiest and highest quality of life for our patients. This simple premise translates into one common goal amongst all men and women, regardless of age, weight or current medical status. Our practice works synergistically between medical anti-aging therapies and aesthetic age management treatments… all focused on the patient’s ultimate goal… to look and feel their very best!

The Genesis Health Institute celebrates its 10 year anniversary this year. We were the first full service anti-aging facility to open in the community and at a time when people were forced to make some very tough financial decisions. We are now and have always been very conscious of our patients’ financial situation. Even though there are many new anti-aging centers, medical spas, and aesthetic centers opening around us, nearly all men benefit from Testosterone Therapy; and starting at just $155.00 per month, it’s a very affordable treatment.

Testosterone Therapy revives energy, improves thought/memory, increases sex drive, builds lean muscle and burns body fat. Nearly everyone benefits from Growth Hormone (HGH) Therapy. Starting at just $150.00 per month, it is also a very affordable therapy.

Intravenous or IV Nutrition Therapy has many benefits for the body, both medically and aesthetically. Most importantly, it nourishes and fortifies the body’s immune system. The immune system is responsible for fighting inflammation and keeping the body healthy, energetic and strong. In addition to immune support, IV Nutrition enhances aesthetic beauty by supplying important vitamins, nutrients and antioxidants to slow the aging of cells and promote cell generation for healthy, bright and glowing skin and hair. Many patients utilize IV Nutrition for quick hangover relief and hydration renewal, especially this time of year. IV Nutrition is key for optimal anti-aging and priced reasonably starting at just $65.00 per treatment.

In addition to medical therapies designed for patients to look and feel their very best, Genesis offers the latest in aesthetic treatments with that same goal in mind. The summer months feature a wide variety of specials and include deep discounts on nearly all aesthetic treatments through September 30, 2017.

WHAT IS GENESIS?

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- All purchases through September also include a free In-Body Body Composition Analysis...

The Genesis Health Institute is located in the heart of Wilton Manors at 1001 NE 26th Street (next door to Starbucks at 5-points). They are open Tuesday through Saturday from 9am to 5pm. Anyone interested in anti-aging or true preventative medical care should call 954-561-3175 for a complimentary consultation. You may also check out their website at www.ghinstitute.com to learn more about their varied medical and aesthetic treatments.

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Dear Editor,

Yesterday morning, I received a call from a local Senior we’ll call “Ed.” He’s taken part in a few Pride Center programs. He frequently visits Poverello next door. He has a witty sense of humor and bad neuropathy in his feet. He’s also about to be priced out of his long-term local housing. He wanted me to sign him up for the “wait list” for Senior affordable housing on our campus. He was quite disappointed when I told him we’re still a couple years away from a wait list.

Every few days, our COO Kristofer Fegenbush, our Senior Services Manager Bruce Williams or I receive a call like this. They inevitably end with the same sense of disappointment from the caller, and a hearty, impassioned “thank you” that we’re working to provide affordable housing to local Seniors. The need is real.

Yesterday afternoon, I received an email from a community leader. His Wilton Manors neighbor is 82 years old and barely survives on $1,200 a month. The neighbor is losing his housing in February and his friends are searching hard to find him affordable and safe housing. The community leader was writing to affirm the need for affordable, supportive housing for local Seniors. The need is real.

How ironic that an hour later, I opened the SFGN issue for August 2 to be greeted by an article in the Wilton Manors Gazette full of rumors, conspiracy theories and misstatements about our project. The need is large.

This is affordable housing—not low income housing as the article repeatedly claimed. The Residences at Equality Park will represent South Florida’s first affordable housing project with customized supportive services for LGBTQ seniors. We already provide a safety-net of services on this campus for local Seniors. The Residences, coupled with The Pride Center's growing seniors programming—the largest LGBTQ seniors program nationwide—will give residents a permanent, safe place to live and support services they need to age in

Robert Boo believes columnist Sal Torre’s opinion piece on their LGBT housing project was unfair and misleading.

The need for affordable housing for older adults (55+) earning less than 60% of the area’s median income (AMI), approximately $35,000 annually. Every single unit is for Seniors; no one under 55 can live in The Residences. In addition, 70% of these units (34) are designated for seniors living with disabling conditions, such as physical illnesses or disabilities due to complications from HIV/AIDS. These Seniors must be able to live independently, but will benefit from the array of services available on campus. According to a recent survey by the Institute for Multigenerational Health, 47 percent of LGBTQ seniors in the U.S. are currently living with a disabling condition. This is the personal reality we face every Tuesday morning when over 200 Seniors gather in our main hall for Coffee and Conversation.

The Proposed Phase II, including an additional 70-80 units, would be developed at a later date. The Residences at Equality Park will be affordable housing for Senior adults, with a special focus on LGBTQ individuals. This is affordable housing—not low income housing as the article repeatedly claimed. “Affordable housing” is for tenants with three to four times the rent amount in income. “Low-income housing” is for tenants with barely two times the rent in income. Was the article trying to scare others using images of poverty? Is this another case of NIMBY—Not In My Backyard—syndrome?

The ultimate goal of the project will include 120-130 units. Phase I will include 48 units. This is the phase for which we applied—and were successfully awarded—the 9% Federal tax credits issued by Florida Housing. As we’ve repeatedly described for the last few years, all units are affordable housing for older adults (55+) earning less than 60% of the area’s median income (AMI), approximately $35,000 annually.

The Residences at Equality Park will be affordable housing for Senior adults, with a special focus on LGBTQ individuals. This is affordable housing—not low income housing as the article repeatedly claimed. The Residences at Equality Park will be affordable housing for Senior adults, with a special focus on LGBTQ individuals. This is affordable housing—not low income housing as the article repeatedly claimed.
place. The Residences joins a growing national trend in which senior affordable housing projects area being built in conjunction with LGBTQ community centers in major cities across the country, including Los Angeles, San Diego, Chicago and Philadelphia. The project represents the next phase of the master plan for redevelopment of the five-acre Equality Park campus.

In case concerned readers missed the many articles and interviews that have appeared over the past couple years in SFGN, Miami Herald, the Sun Sentinel, Florida Agenda, South Florida Business and Wealth, The Real Deal and other publications regarding Senior affordable housing on our campus, I want to review a brief history of the project.

In 2012, Gay and Lesbian Elder Housing identified a desperate local need in Broward County for affordable housing. We serve a growing, aging LGBTQ community with limited affordable housing options. At the same time, The City of Wilton Manors approached The Center about addressing these local needs for affordable housing and our campus' optimum location and resources to help meet those needs. The development of multi-family housing mixed with other uses at our location is encouraged in the City of Wilton Manors Zoning Code. Also in 2012, during our Strategic Planning process, the Board of Directors set a goal to evaluate the potential of a senior affordable housing project to be built on the Equality Park campus. Our Strategic Plan resulted from two years of many large townhalls, surveys, small group discussions and planning with strategically targeted, diverse groups—Seniors, communities of color, families, women, people living with HIV/AIDS and more.

Over the next three-and-a-half years, the Board did their due diligence, meeting with various top developers and learning the details of Senior Affordable Housing. During this same time, we updated the Master Plan for our campus. We partnered with TSAO Design in a year-long process, including an extensive Charrette with 65 diverse community leaders to brainstorm and prioritize future campus uses. These Charrette results were presented to the Board; the top priorities set our direction. Results were announced and presented to the community. Senior Affordable Housing remains one of the largest, most significant projects identified both by the Strategic Plan and the Charrette process.

The Center Board cultivated relationships with three top developers in the South Florida area during a multi-year evaluation and assessment process. In the end, we partnered with Carrfour to submit our first proposal in November 2015 for 120 units, 185 structured parking spots and a 11,000-square foot community space. In October 2015, Wilton Manors City Commissioners provided demonstration of public support for our application for affordable housing credits from Florida Housing Finance Corporation. Although we didn't receive funding from our first submission, our second application for Phase I of supportive affordable housing for Seniors was successful.

We’ve never been secretive about this project. We’ve talked about this project consistently for the past few years to anyone who will listen. We’ve included it in every issue of our VOICE newsletter since 2015, including two front-page articles last year—both appearing in SFGN. We gave interviews to every local public a year ago when the initial funding was announced. I’ve made presentations to local neighborhood associations. Our Board of Directors has welcomed guests from the neighborhood associations to our open monthly meetings. I’ve spoken about it four times at our monthly Founders circle receptions over the past year. I announced it at last year’s Diversity Honors. I give face-to-face updates on the project to our Seniors every month or so on Tuesday mornings. We remain in regular communication with The City of Wilton Manors.

This week’s article reminded me, though, that we can never communicate enough about the good news of what’s happening on our campus. Thank you for the reminder! I welcome readers to come to our campus and receive a tour. See the good work happening!

The article suggests nonprofits are a drain on The City. The Pride Center as a nonprofit still pays our water bills, sewer bills, fire inspection license fee and other fees to The City of Wilton Manors. More importantly, nonprofits deliver value-added community enrichments. We provide a spectrum of amenities and services for local residences that The City cannot offer but recognize as needs consistently through their Comprehensive Plan. The Pride Center appreciates a healthy, ongoing collaboration with The City to enhance the lives of our citizens. Heck, we even organize Wicked Manors each year.

The Residences at Equality Park’s long-time mission statement: “We provide a welcoming, safe space—an inclusive and supportive environment for LGBTQ older adults.” The need among LGBTQ Seniors is even greater. Local and national data show that LGBTQ older adults are heavily concentrated in lower income brackets; 51% report they are very or extremely concerned about having enough money to live during retirement. LGBTQ older adults face higher rates of discrimination in securing senior housing and encounter bias and hostile treatment from housing providers and fellow residents. Many face challenges finding housing that is welcoming to same-sex couples. When surveyed, LGBTQ seniors regularly list housing discrimination as a primary concern, including fear about mainstream senior housing options. Experiences of discrimination are linked with poor health outcomes, such as depression among both chronically ill LGBTQ older adults and their informal caregivers. Nearly four out of ten LGBTQ older adults have contemplated suicide at some point during their lives. LGBTQ older adults also are four-times less likely to have children and twice as likely to live alone than heterosexuals. SAGE USA reports that 40% of older LGBTQ adults say their support networks have become smaller over time (as compared to 27% of non-LGBTQ people).

As a result, LGBTQ seniors risk being without caregivers when they need it most. Older adults who live alone are at serious risk of social isolation, which is linked to poor mental and physical health, cognitive impairment, and premature chronic disease and death.

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I invite any reader that has questions, reach out! Talk to us! Just in case you don’t know me, I am the big 6’ 5” guy at The Center. I’m pretty hard to miss, and I’m not known to be shy or quiet at any of the many gatherings that I attend each week.

Come out and join us on a Tuesday morning! Get to know the more-than 200 Seniors who gather with us! Hear their stories! Learn about their needs! When you do, you’ll be reminded of our “real goal” of providing affordable, supportive housing to Seniors.

You’ll be reminded of The Pride Center at Equality Park’s long-time mission statement: “We provide a welcoming, safe space—an inclusive HOME—that celebrates, nurtures and empowers the LGBTQ communities and our friends and neighbors in South Florida.”

Sincerely,
Robert Boo
CEO

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! Submit your own letter to Jason.Parsley@sfgn.com
Friends remembered Ronald A. Catena as a humorist and playboy.
The acting president for SAGE of South Florida, Catena succumbed to cancer Aug. 3 at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale. He was 78.

“I will miss his wonderful sense of humor and friendship,” said Carl Barton, a fellow SAGE member and Fort Lauderdale resident. “We worked very well together on many SAGE programs. Ron was the comedian a lot of the times. He had so many funny facial expressions.”

Born in Boston, Catena worked for the city’s water department before retiring to Fort Lauderdale. He was instrumental in creating SAGE’s men’s drop-in group – a Wednesday afternoon gathering at the Pride Center where guys would share stories and cultivate friendships.

At the time of his death Catena was serving as president for SAGE of South Florida. The group’s acronym stands for “senior action in a gay environment” and includes men and women members.

“Ron Catena was such a unifying force for SAGE,” wrote Patti Lynn in a Facebook post. “This is truly devastating. You were and are loved.”

Catena’s quick wit could often turn a conversation or mood of the room, Barton said. For that he had many friends and, also, the occasional nemesis.

“You either loved Ron or did not, but most of us loved him,” Barton said.

Carl M. Galli and Catena were friends for 35 years. Galli, president emeritus for SAGE of South Florida, said Catena had an “outsized personality.”

“Sometimes his humor was a little irreverent,” Galli said. “When he got me going it was hard to stop laughing. He was known for that. He could diffuse a serious discussion with his humor and get people to see the other side.”

Catena was not married and leaves behind no partner, Galli said.

“One could say Ron had many friends,” Galli said. “He liked to go to the Boardwalk, but Ron didn’t drink so he didn’t go to the Boardwalk to get drunk.”

Catena’s body was flown to Boston where he was given a traditional Catholic funeral and buried in the family plot alongside his mother and father, Galli said. Locally, Catena will be remembered for his love of shopping, a closet full of colorful shirts, fondness for Birkenstock sandals and quiet generosity.

“Ron thought that volunteering should be fun and he tried to make our volunteers feel as important as our board members,” Galli said. “It was for this reason that he often paid their way out of his pocket to events they might not be able to afford.”

Ronald A. Catena. Photo courtesy SAGE South Florida.
**EDITORIAL CARTOON**

By Mike Luckovich

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**CONVICTIONS**

So many diverse and dedicated men make-up the Gay Men’s Chorus of South Florida. Why not join them?

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On July 25, the community came together to remember bartender and local icon Russell Matheney. The day began at Smarty Pants Bar before a memorial at United Church of Christ, a stop at Scandals Saloon, then ended at Ramrod.

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

J.R. Davis
Throughout August readers will get to nominate their favorites in each “Best Of” category. In September readers will vote for the finalists.

Visit sfgn.com/BestOf

Best Restaurant  Best Happy-Hour  Best Gym
Best Take Out  Best Pet Groomers  Best Live Theater
Best Pizza  Best Coffee Shop  Best Business Group
Best Guest House  Best Drag Queen  Best Beach
Best Neighborhood Bar  Best Movie Theater  Best Hair Salon
Best Nightclub  Best City to Live In  Best Spa
Best Place To Shop  Best Non-Profit  ... And many more!
You must not tell. You cannot breathe a word to anyone who doesn’t already know. That Which Cannot Be Spoken must remain buried, put away, frozen, lips sealed, or in the closet. You cannot tell because, as in the new novel “This Is How It Always Is” by Laurie Frankel, secrets change everything.

In the beginning was Roosevelt, known to his loved ones as Roo. Not long after he was born, Ben entered the family. Then the twins, Orion and Rigel, arrived and so Rosie Walsh, still hoping for a girl baby, did everything the Talmud recommended she do next. Months later, she and her husband, Penn, welcomed… Claude.

And that was okay. Another boy in their raucous, rowdy family of boys was fine and Rosie and Penn loved them all. They were happy in their big, rambling, open farmhouse just outside of Madison, Wisconsin. Rosie loved her job. Penn worked on his novel. And Claude dreamed of being a girl.

It started when, as do most parents, Rosie told Claude that he could “be anything” he wanted to be someday. Claude was three years old and loved dress-up; it didn’t seem odd to let him wear dresses at home. But soon, home wasn’t enough and Claude tantrumed until he was allowed to wear dresses to preschool, though he was told that he’d have to use the nurse’s station bathroom and his teacher was “not happy.”

Still, Rosie and Penn were willing to do what it took to make Claude feel secure. With his dresses and pink, he was a confident child; without, he was sullen and sad. None of his classmates minded his clothing. His brothers never gave it a second thought. Claude was simply Claude, until he asked his parents to call him Poppy.

And that was fine, too, especially when the family moved to another state and it was easier to keep quiet – until it wasn’t. Until Poppy started growing up, the world became a vicious place, and secret-keeping couldn’t last forever.

And so, here’s the thing: once you’ve started reading “This Is How It Always Is,” you might as well just clear your schedule. Cancel all appointments. You won’t want to do anything but read, so just give in. Blame it on the book.

Part of the appeal, I think, is in the way that author Laurie Frankel writes: there are no airs, no try-to-impress-you words, nothing uppity. Her characters are normal people with everyday lives, trying to maintain that normalcy and Frankel writes like they might talk: with down-to-earth matter-of-factness and a fast dash of humor that winds its way through a serious topic.

And on that topic, you’ve perhaps heard it before (or something similar) but not in a voice like this, and not quite as enjoyable.

One more thing: be sure to read Frankel’s after-notes, which brings her novel full-circle and will make you smile. But don’t peek; instead, start “This Is How It Always Is” from the beginning and savor it properly. It’ll make you want to tell everyone.
Sweet Sara (ID 575736) has been waiting since early May to find a home and doesn’t understand why she is being overlooked. This gal is just over a year old and only weighs 45 pounds. Sara is an energetic, playful girl but she calms down after a few minutes of play. She especially loves to chase after balls. After a little obedience training, this princess will fit right into your family. Stop by and meet her…she could be the girl of your dreams.

When you adopt from the Humane Society of Broward County all pets are spayed or neutered before going home. In addition, they receive preliminary vaccinations, heartworm tests for dogs over seven months, feline leukemia tests for cats, a limited 10-day health care plan courtesy of VCA Animal Hospital, a bag of Purina ONE food and more. The adoption fee for dogs over six months is $100 and felines over six months are $30. For more information call the shelter today at 954-989-3977 ext. 6. The Humane Society of Broward County is located at 2070 Griffin Road, just a block west of I-95 and opens daily at 10:30 a.m. To see who else needs a home visit www.humanebroward.com
As far as I’m concerned, Asian food must be shared; the bigger your party, the better the selection. That’s the great thing about an Asian buffet; you don’t have to have a big party to be able to sample a variety of dishes. I must not be the only one who thinks that way because South Florida has plenty of buffets serving a variety of Asian cuisines. You can sample Korean, Thai, Japanese and Chinese food at just about any Asian buffet in town.

But how do you choose? Here are ten of the most popular Asian buffets in Broward County. Did we miss your favorite spot? Let us know in the comments section below.

TEPPANYAKI BUFFET
6795 Taft St.
754-703-4567
TeppanyakiBuffet.net
Not the swankiest place on the list, but certainly one of the most affordable. It is quite clean; the Chinese dishes are well-made and tasty (although they could be replenished more often). There are also American, Italian, and Mexican entrees and side dishes. The sushi is fresh, but may not feature sushi grade fish. The hibachi station is well-stocked, but can get backed up if it is very busy. Weekday lunch is $7.25, dinner and weekends are both $10.99. Kids’ meals are priced from $3.25 to $5.99, making it a great bargain if you’ve got a large family.

CHOW TIME GRILL & BUFFET
12375 Pembroke Rd.
Pembroke Pines
954-433-8898
ChowTimeFL.com
A number of places have failed in this location, but Chow Time seems to be doing just fine, judging by the crowds at lunch time. They could use a few more servers and an extra hibachi cook as the lines get backed up and plates aren’t cleared as quickly as they should be. The servers could also use a few lessons on customer relations, lots of yelling at people. One woman was told that she couldn’t take a picture of her food! The hibachi bar has lobster on weekends and there’s also a noodle bar. Lunch Monday-Friday, $8.49, dinner Monday-Thursday $12.99, Friday-Sunday $13.49, weekend brunch $11.49.

KING’S SUPER BUFFET
7101 W. Oakland Park Blvd.
Lauderdale
954-747-6668
You’d think from the big crowds that this place would be great. Well, they’re no doubt drawn by the low prices because the food is among the worst I’ve ever tasted. Frozen Asian meals are better than what’s covering this buffet. King’s was recently cited by Broward Department of Health for six high-priority food violations. Lunch $5.95, dinner $11.99.

GOLDEN CITY BUFFET
5140 N. Federal, Fort Lauderdale
954-971-6882 and
3400 N. Federal, Boca Raton
561-923-9378
SantosBuffet.com
This is the place to go if you have folks in your group who don’t want Asian food. About half the offerings feature Asian food including sushi and sashimi as well as traditional Chinese fare (General Tso’s chicken, pot stickers, beef with broccoli), much of which tastes like cafeteria food. There are an equal number of traditional American favorites (roast beef, ham, and the expected side dishes) as well as tacos, pizza and chicken fingers and fries, for the kids. Again, cafeteria quality, and it is clean, but the food is not replenished as often as it should be. Lunch on weekdays is $12.95. Dinner is $20.95 on weekdays, $23.25 weekends. Saturday and Sunday brunch is $16.95 (add $7 for unlimited mimosas).

NABU AMERICAN FUSION BUFFET
3485 N. Federal, Fort Lauderdale
954-568-2208
NabuAmericanFusionBuffet.com
This buffet has taken over the last of the spaces formerly occupied by the Kyoin chain. The new owners have spent a great deal to upgrade the décor (porcelain serving bowls on the hot buffet instead of steam table pans), more comfortable chairs and better lighting. They’ve also upgraded the food significantly, the fish is now sushi grade and the meat on the hibachi looks fresher. The crab legs are actually quite fresh and tasty, not the mushy frozen version served at most Asian buffets in the area. Not certain what the “American Fusion” is about as the food is strictly Japanese and Chinese with a touch of Korean. The dessert bar offers a few unique dishes (pecan pie and panna cotta!). Lunch is $11.95 and dinner $18.95 on weekdays. It’s $20.95 all day on weekends.

MIYAKO JAPANESE BUFFET
1157 S. Federal, Pompano Beach
954-783-8883
MiyakoBuffet.com
The jewel in the crown of Asian buffets! When you enter the first thing you see is the circular sushi station, which looks like a flying saucer. Appropriate since the sushi here is out of this world. Super fresh, sushi grade fish is presented with dozens of sushi rolls, as well as a vast array of sashimi. The sushi bar is well chilled and the platters are replenished often (I’ve seen them dump stuff in the trash rather than re-plate it) and they are fanatical about cleanliness. This isn’t just the best sushi at a buffet; it’s among the best sushi in town! The hot food buffet offers the usual dishes, as well as enough dishes to please meat and potatoes folks (roast beef, kielbasa, mashed potatoes and corn on the cob). There’s also a hibachi station that cranks out your selected combo quickly. The dessert bar features six flavors of ice cream and a variety of pre-made desserts. Lunch is $11.95, $12.95 on weekends. Dinner is $18.95, $20.95 on weekends (Friday and Saturday dinners feature lobster with ginger and scallions).
DAILY SPECIALS

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$1. TACOS & 2-4-1 MARGARITAS

• TUESDAY
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• WEDNESDAY
$7.50 NEW MEAT BURGER NIGHT WITH FRIES

• THURSDAY
$5. SKYY MARTINI'S & PATTY MELT WITH FRIES $10.95

• FRIDAY
ALL YOU CAN EAT FRIED SHRIMP $14.95

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SURF-N-TURF $9.95

• SUNDAY
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THEATER

“Fifty Shades of Felt,” a hilarious puppet parody of a certain popular “mommy porn” novel, runs through Aug. 20 at Empire Stage, 1140 N. Flagler Drive in Fort Lauderdale. This show is definitely not for kids! “Fifty Shades” features simulated puppet sex, lots of profanity and even more puppet nudity, if you can even imagine. Tickets are $35 at RonnieLarsen.com.

FILM

Meet your favorite stars from “The Young and the Restless” tonight at 8 p.m. at the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek, 5550 NW 40th St. Amelia Heinle (“Victoria Newman”), Christian Le Blanc (“Michael Baldwin”), Kristoff St. John (“Neil Winters”) and Tracey E. Bregman (“Lauren Fenmore Baldwin”) will answer your questions. Tickets start at $30 at Casinoco.com.

CONCERT

If you were a band geek in school, then don’t miss “Big, Loud & Live 14,” the semifinals of the annual Drum Corps International world championships. Fifteen of the top marching units will compete in Indianapolis, but you can enjoy the music from a local Cineplex, courtesy of Fathom Events, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $25.44 at FathomEvents.com.

THEATER

Every Monday through Aug. 28, the South Florida Theatre League presents Summer Theatre Fest, free staged readings of new works at local theaters. Tonight, check out Maura Campbell’s “Seagull Invasion” by Fugitive Sister Stage and Screen at the new Pompano Beach Cultural Center, 50 W. Atlantic Ave. For more information, go to SouthFloridaTheatre.org.

The avant garde interdisciplinary Cobra movement was founded in the cities of Copenhagen, Brussels and Amsterdam and most active between 1948 - 1951. Tickets are $12 at NSUArtMuseum.org.
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10 Nights - Ultra Luxury Alaska Cruise
Seattle, Ketchikan, Juneau, Sawyer Glacier, Skagway, Victoria, British Columbia, return to Seattle.

Alaska
Sept 1 - Sept 8, 2018
from $1,049 pp

7 Nights - Christmas Markets Danube River Cruise
Sail from Vienna, Austria November 28, 2018 and end in Nuremberg, Germany December 4, 2018

Danube
Nov 28, - Dec 4, 2018
from $1,199 pp

(800) 592-9058 - AquafestCruises.com
Shorts Gone Wild, the annual festival of LGBTQ-themed short plays presented by Island City Stage and City Theatre, returns to the Abyss Stage in August with a game show theme.

In previous years, the audience selected the order of the eight 10-minute short plays, lending a nervous energy to each performance and challenging the cast of six actors to quickly jump into character, said Island City Stage associate artistic director Michael Leeds. And, last year, in the run-up to the presidential elections, the plays took on a political dimension with the Wilton Manors theater transformed into a mini-political convention.

For the fifth season, a nostalgic television game show provides the vehicle to present the wide array of short plays. The order of the plays will again be selected by the audience competing in a contest similar to the classic show “Concentration,” interspersed with retro commercials, a few “words from our sponsors” and other surprises.

The cast includes Jordan Armstrong, Larry Buzzeo, Sabrina Gore, Christina Groom, Rita Joe and Marquise Rogers, performing 26 different roles in the eight plays. All are familiar to South Florida theater audiences and many are veterans of Shorts Gone Wild.

The plays are directed by Leeds, Margaret Ledford, Gladys Ramirez and Matt Stabile, ensuring a variety of theatrical approaches. Ramirez was a member of the Shorts Gone Wild cast last year.

Ledford, the recently named artistic director of Miami’s City Theatre and its popular Summer Shorts Festival at the Arsht Center, has directed Shorts Gone Wild plays in the past, but this is her first season co-helming the festival with Island City Stage.

Ledford describes Shorts Gone Wild as “a different beast” from her company's two-decade old series in Miami.

“Shorts Gone Wild—the title tells you—is a little more fun, more unanticipated, more about the performers interacting with the audience. It’s a little more freeing, with an unknown factor,” she said, acknowledging the power of the audience to select the order each night.

“As a director, you try to control every aspect and this is something you can’t control. So many times, great things happen on their own, which is a good reminder for a director,” Ledford added.

The festival has historically relied on new works from local playwrights. Both Leeds and Carbonell-winner Michael McKeever again have plays in the line-up. This season, the creative team cast a broader net, beginning a nationwide search last winter and selecting plays from Spenser Davis, Cassandra Rose, Seamus Sullivan, Kris Thompson, Korde Tuttle and Steve Yockey.

Leeds’ play is inspired by the joke, “So a Rabbi, a Priest and a Minister Walk into a Bar,” while Thompson’s “The Adventures of a Gay Man – Birth of a Hero” features a gay superhero at an employment agency. Other plays are set in bars and bedrooms, while Sullivan’s “Valkyrie in the Roller Derby” takes play in a roller rink and Davis’ “Give Me Space” is set in a space station.

“The plays are very funny,” noted Leeds, and Ledford assured, “We took time to make sure there was ‘wild’ in Shorts Gone Wild, too.”

Shorts Gone Wild 5 opens Aug. 17 and runs through Sept. 10 at the Abyss Stage, 2304 N. Dixie Highway in Wilton Manors. Tickets are $35 at IslandCityStage.org.
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Organizers of the two-year-old Gay8 celebration on Miami’s Calle Ocho on Tuesday cancelled the 2018 festival after city officials granted a permit to a competing event planned for the same date in January.

The festival, founded by a group of community volunteers led by Damian Pardo and Joe Cardona, had been held during the three-day Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend in 2016 and 2017. In its first year, Gay8 attracted 17,000 people and this January drew more than 30,000 attendees to Little Havana.

In June, according to emails from city officials cited by Gay8, the city of Miami’s Office of Film and Entertainment issued a permit to the local Univision affiliate to produce the annual Three Kings Day parade on Jan. 11.

A 48-year tradition in the Hispanic community that coincides with the Catholic feast of Epiphany, the parade has been held on a variety of weekends in January through the years, regardless of the official date of the feast.

Organizers of the “Gay Ocho” festival accuse city officials of ignoring the success of previous festivals and shunning the gay community.

Pardo argued in a telephone interview that city officials were aware of the planned date for Gay8 and made no effort to inform them of the parade date when Univision submitted its request. The city’s website, he pointed out, notes that all permit applications are “subject to internal approval.”

“What we’re protesting is that their internal process didn’t include us,” he said. The permit was awarded “without notice, without the courtesy of a phone call or a conversation. The solution is to bring people to the table and right now we have a table with empty seats. The city doesn’t seem to be interested.”

Diana Gonzalez, city communications director, responded, “The festival organizers did not submit a permit and have yet to submit a permit. The system at the city is first-come, first-served.”

Her colleague who oversees the process for the film and entertainment office, Vicente Betancourt, added, “It’s unfortunate they didn’t apply sooner. Historically, that weekend has always been very active.”

They pointed out that last year Univision submitted its request for the same date as Gay8, but were denied because Gay8 had filed first. The parade was held on another weekend.

Betancourt suggested that organizers consider holding Gay8 on Saturday, Jan. 13 and said the city would be willing to help resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

“We are supportive of the Three Kings parade and Univision has been a sponsor of our event,” said Pardo. “Our beef isn’t with them, it’s with the city.”

Requests from the local Univision affiliate to comment were not returned by press time.

“When you’re disregarded and disrespected and mistreated, you’re left with very few options,” said Cardona. “They forget the level of support we have with not only the LGBT community, but the merchants on the street.”

While they now refuse to consider another date, Pardo and Cardona have called for a boycott of special events in the city of Miami and will hold a press conference on Thursday, Aug. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Cubaocho Museum and Performing Arts Center, 1465 SW 8th St. in Miami. For more information, go to Gay8Festival.com.
First they came for the Mexicans, and I didn’t speak up
BECAUSE I WASN’T MEXICAN.

Then they came for the immigrants, and I didn’t speak up
BECAUSE I WASN’T AN IMMIGRANT.

Then they came for Muslims, and I didn’t speak up
BECAUSE I WASN’T MUSLIM.

Then they came for transgender people, but I didn’t speak up
BECAUSE I WASN’T TRANSGENDER.

WHEN WILL YOU SPEAK UP?
**Top-Picks**

**Lionel Richie and Mariah Carey**
Aug. 10 at 7 p.m. at the BB&T Center, One Panther Parkway in Sunrise. With Grammys and multi-platinum albums under their belt, the two music legends hit the stage together. Tickets $20.75 and up. Call 800-745-3000 or visit TheBBTCenter.com.

**Counting Crows and Matchbox Twenty**
Aug. 16 at 6:45 p.m. at the Perfect Vodka Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way in West Palm Beach. Both pop rocker bands will have you reminiscing for the ‘90s and early 2000s. Tickets $25 and up. Call 561-795-8883 or visit WestPalmBeachAmphitheatre.com.

**LAST CHANCE:**
**Bad Jews**
Through Aug. 13 at Main Street Playhouse, 6766 Main Street in Miami Lakes. Three cousins come together after the death of their grandfather, a Holocaust survivor. Tickets $30. Call 305-558-3737 or visit MainStreetPlayers.com.

**Palm Beach County**

**Future**
Aug. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Perfect Vodka Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way in West Palm Beach. The Atlanta rapper is known for hits “Honest,” “Where Ya At,” and “Mask Off.” Tickets $33 and up. Call 561-795-8883 or visit WestPalmBeachAmphitheatre.com.

**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.

**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.

**Miami-Dade County**

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

**J. Cole**
Aug. 14 at 8 p.m. at the AmericanAirlines Arena, 601 Biscayne Blvd. in Miami. The North Carolina rapper hits the road in support of his “4 Your Eyez Only” tour, joined by Aril Lennox, J.I.D. and Bas. Tickets $45.50 and up. Call 786-777-1000 or visit AAArena.com.

**“To Life” Reading**
Aug. 14 at 8 p.m. at Main Street Playhouse, 6766 Main St. in Miami Lakes. When Minnie Cohen’s children move out of the house, she feels empty and reexamines her marriage to her husband. Free. Call 305-558-3737 or visit MainStreetPlayers.com.

**Living with HIV?**
Investigators at FIU are conducting a study on how using or not using marijuana affects the thinking and health of people with HIV. If you qualify, we will pay you $200 for your participation. Your answers and tests will be private and confidential. To participate, you need to:
- Be 18 to 60 years-old and have finished 8 years or more of school.
- Read and write well in English.
- Answer questions by phone to see if you qualify for the study.
- Complete a urine drug screen and breath test for alcohol.
- Answer questions about your health history, mental health, alcohol and drug use.
- Complete tests about your thinking skills.
- Obtain proof of your HIV and Hepatitis C status from your doctor or from local free testing sites.
- Some participants may need to have their blood drawn.

**All-Inclusive... As News Should Be**
Whether you are in the bisexual or transgender communities, are asexual, gender-fluid, pansexual, or maybe you still aren’t sure, SFGN is proudly here to connect you with the rest of our colorful community.

www.SFGN.com
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**TOP PICKS**

**Sushi & Stroll**
Aug. 11 and Sept. 8 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Road in Delray Beach. The summertime fete returns with sushi rolls, drumming by Fushu Daiko, tours, and more. Admission $15. Call 561-495-0323 or visit Morikami.org.

**Jungle Boogie**
Aug. 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, 2000 Convention Center Drive in Miami Beach. Dance under the trees with music by DJ Jody and food and drink from Spris, Vita CoCo, and Don Ramon tequila. Tickets $20. Call 305-673-7256 or visit MBGarden.org.

**Finances50+ Workshop**
Aug. 15 and 22 from 12:15 to 2 p.m. at the Pride Center, 2040 N. Dixie Highway in Wilton Manors. To interactive workshops for handling finances after 50. Free. Call 954-463-9005 or visit PrideCenterFlorida.org.

**BROWARD COUNTY**

* Ms. Boo Goes Back to School Bingo
Aug. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pride Center, 2040 N. Dixie Highway in Wilton Manors. Enjoy this month’s game of Bingo, and bring in school supplies for Broward County children. Packages $15. Call 954-463-9005 or visit PrideCenterFlorida.org.

* LGBTQ Appreciation Reception
Aug. 16 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Storks, 2505 NE 15th Ave. in Wilton Manors. Celebrate 20 years of Storks Bakery with a fine art raffle, 50/50 drawing and more. Tickets available at Storks and benefits The Pride Center. RSVP to storks20thevents@mail.com.

* Stonewall Author Series: Poet Lorenzo Robertson

* School Supply Drive
Through Aug. 26 at the Pride Center, 2040 N. Dixie Highway in Wilton Manors. Support Broward County students and drop off school supplies or monetary donations at the center. All 954-463-9005, ext. 108 or email womenwithpride@pridecenterflorida.org.

**BROWARD SUPPORT SERVICES**

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

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

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

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

**Sushi & Stroll**
Aug. 11 and Sept. 8 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Road in Delray Beach. The summertime fete returns with sushi rolls, drumming by Fushu Daiko, tours, and more. Admission $15. Call 561-495-0323 or visit Morikami.org.

**Jungle Boogie**
Aug. 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, 2000 Convention Center Drive in Miami Beach. Dance under the trees with music by DJ Jody and food and drink from Spris, Vita CoCo, and Don Ramon tequila. Tickets $20. Call 305-673-7256 or visit MBGarden.org.

**Finances50+ Workshop**
Aug. 15 and 22 from 12:15 to 2 p.m. at the Pride Center, 2040 N. Dixie Highway in Wilton Manors. To interactive workshops for handling finances after 50. Free. Call 954-463-9005 or visit PrideCenterFlorida.org.

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OutWrite: LGBTQ Authors From the Special Collection
Through Sept. 3 at the Stonewall National Museum - Wilton Manors Gallery, 2157 Wilton Drive in Wilton Manors. With more than 27,000 items in its collection, the museum has acquired rare and historic books from authors Oscar Wilde, Walt Whitman, Gertrude Stein, and more. Call 954-763-8565 or visit Stonewall-Museum.org.

Rest Your Mind
Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at Kadampa Meditation Center, 241 W Prospect Road Ste. B in Fort Lauderdale. Start your week with relaxing meditation to center yourself. Free. Visit MeditateinFortLauderdale.org.

Palm Beach County
Kitsch and Kulture
Through Aug. 30 at The Box Gallery, 811 Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach. A look at the transition period of kitsch culture in South Florida from 1960 to 1990. Free. Call 786-521-1199 or visit TheBoxGallery.info.

Transcendence
Meets at Compass GLCC, 201 N. Dixie Highway in Lake Worth. A closed transgender youth support group for teens ages 12 to 19. For more information, email youth@compassglcc.com.

Sober Sisters
Mondays at 6:15 p.m. at Lambda North, 18 S. J St. in Lake Worth. A support and discussion group for female recovering alcoholics. Visit LambdaNorth.net.

Out of the Closet, Into the Light
Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at MCC of the Palm Beaches, 4857 Northlake Blvd. in Palm Beach Gardens. A support group for those living with HIV/AIDS. Free. Call 561-775-5900 or visit MCCPalmBeach.org.

Positive Connections
Second and fourth Tuesdays from noon to 3 p.m. at MCC of the Palm Beaches, 4857 Northlake Blvd. in Palm Beach Gardens. Practical and emotional support, friendship, and referrals for people living with HIV/AIDS. Free homemade lunch, groceries and toiletries available. Free. Call 561-775-5900 or visit MCCPalmBeach.org.

Miami-Dade County
Arsht Center Farmers Market
Mondays from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd. in Miami. Purchase fresh food from local farmers, including fruits, vegetables, meats, prepared foods, as well as chefs, live music, and cooking demonstrations. Tickets $45 to $75. Free. Visit ArshtCenter.org/en/Visit/Dining.

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

Book Study
Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Drolma Kadampa Buddhist Center, 1273 Coral Way in Miami. Buddhist monk, Gen Kelsang Norbu, will lead classes on learning the foundations of Buddhism. Call 786-529-7137.

HIV Support Group
Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at South Beach AIDS Project, 1234 Washington Ave. Ste. 200 in Miami Beach. A support group for those who are HIV positive. Free. Call 305-535-4733, ext. 301 or email support@sobeaids.org.

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

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