

News about Holland area LGBT people and their allies

# LGBT Times



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## PFLAG film follows four as they transition

A film that follows four transgender youth as they transition will be shown at the March 15 Holland/Lakeshore PFLAG meeting at Grace Episcopal Church, 555 Michigan Ave.

"Becoming More Visible" explores how the four people are challenged from their early child by how to identify, and then defy societal norms to become their true selves and become more visible. Featured are:

- Sean, a transgender male comedian from a small affluent town in upstate New York.
- Katherine, a Bangladeshi transgender female from a close-knit Muslim family
- Olivia, who had to leave everything behind and enter the shelter system in order to be the woman she knows she is.
- Morgin, a fully transitioned woman



**"Becoming More Visible" follows the lives of trans youth as they transition.**

pursuing her musical ambitions and making her way in the world.

The film showcases both male to female and female to male trans youth. Each is at a different phase in their transition with different levels of

familial support.

The settings vary as the film shows the four youth in their bedrooms, doctor's offices, support groups, Pride events, as well as at public speaking engagements, in subsidized housing projects, well-to-do

All events listed on the calendar are held at the Out On The Lakeshore Community Center unless otherwise specified.

MARCH 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24	25	26	27	28	1	2 4-6 pm: Gender SAFE*
3	4 1-5 pm: Center hours	5 1-5 pm: Center hours**	6	7 1-5 pm: Center hours	8	9
10	11 1-5 pm: Center hours+	12 1-5 pm: Center hours	13	14 1-5 pm: Center hours	15 7-9 pm: PFLAG at Grace Epis- copal***	16 10 am: Lakeshore Hope
17	18 1-5 pm: Center hours	19 1-5 pm: Center hours****	20	21 1-5 pm: Center hours	22	23
24	25 1-5 pm: Center hours	26 1-5 pm: Center hours	27	28 1-5 pm: Center hours*****	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

\*Lakeshore Hope also meets at the OOTL Community Center on March 2, from 10 a.m.-noon  
 \*\*OOTL Reads also meets at OOTL Center on March 5, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. and Out in Faith is at 7 p.m.  
 \*\*\*Gender SAFE also meets on March 15, from 6-8 p.m., at Grace Episcopal Church and Pride Night at Brew Merchants starts at 5 pm  
 \*\*\*\*Adult Book Club is at 5:30 pm  
 \*\*\*\*\* Movie Night is at 5:30 p.m.  
 + Equality Michigan holds pop-up hours from 2-5 p.m.

## Pride Nights to be held monthly

The local LGBT community and allies will be able to have some fun while also contributing to the Holland PRIDE Festival at monthly PRIDE Nights at Holland area merchants.

During PRIDE Night, merchants will be holding specials during specified hours and give a portion of those proceeds to the Holland PRIDE Festival. The first one was held in February at The Guardian Brewing Company, 3657 63rd St. in Saugatuck. The second will be from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, March 15, at the Brew Merchant, 442 Washington Ave. in Holland.

Brew Merchant notes on its Facebook page that it "is not your traditional neighborhood bar. From

the large fireplace and the warm brick walls it feels more like a coffee shop or the living room you always wanted."

It features 32 taps of rotating beer and ciders, "hand-picked to offer a wide selection of tastes and smells." It also has a large selection of wines and craft cocktails.

The Holland Area Visitors Bureau notes that at Brew Merchant "beer lovers will be able to enjoy lesser-known and higher-quality brews that are not readily available together in one place."

Trip Advisor reviews include seven excellent and two very good ratings.

## PFLAG film follows youth in transition

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homes, and on the streets of New York. All the while they open up about their fears of not being accepted, the difficulties of transitioning, the loss of connection with their families, financial and healthcare issues, discrimination and thoughts of hopelessness and suicide.

Those watching see their struggles first hand and also their delights when their bodies and minds begin to match for the first time.

The film's website states "Becoming More Visible" hopes to normalize what it means to be transgender, thereby reducing some sobering statistics:

- An estimated 2 to 5% of the population is transgender or feel some gender dysphoria.
- One in four people who identify as

transgender have experienced homelessness.

- Almost half (41%) of transgender people attempt suicide.

The PFLAG meeting begins at 7 p.m. with the meeting portion, followed by refreshments at 7:50 p.m. and then the film at 8 p.m. Those who can are asked to bring a dessert for the refreshment portion.

Gender SAFE (Supporting All For Equality) will also be meeting at Grace Episcopal Church on March 15. The meeting time has been changed to 6-8 p.m. to allow two hours, rather than one hour, of discussion. This group is open and welcoming to all people who are or love someone who is trans or gender diverse. Those who are open and interested in learning about the trans community are also invited.

## LGBT news from around the world

### VATICAN CITY:

#### Catholics debate gay priests

The debate over gay priests was a divisive undercurrent of the Vatican sexual abuse summit called by Pope Francis in February, according to a report in The Washington Post.

The report said that while some priests call for the Catholic church to welcome LGBT members with more compassion, others are calling for gay clerics to leave the priesthood permanently. The topic, stated the Washington Post article, hints at the challenges for the Roman Catholic Church as it began the most direct attempt in its history to address the problem of sexual abuse.

“Though abuse and sexuality have been found to have no correlation, according to widely accepted research, they have become intertwined on the ideological battlefield of the church,” stated the article.

On one side are Vatican traditionalists who say the central problem is gay priests who break their celibacy. On the other side are those who argue that research shows homosexuality is not the root cause and that it would be a positive step forward if Vatican officials admitted there are many good, healthy celibate gay priests.

Pope Francis has been sketchy on how he feels about the subject. He once said about gay people, “Who am I to judge?” which was in sharp contrast to earlier popes who labeled homosexuality as evil. But Francis has not altered official church teaching on homosexuality and has reaffirmed the official ban on gay priests.

### BERLIN

#### Trump administration calls for end of homosexuality criminalization

The Trump administration is launching a global campaign to end the criminalization of homosexuality in dozens of nations where it's still illegal to be

gay, U.S. officials told NBC News, a bid aimed in part at denouncing Iran over its human rights record.

U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell, the highest-profile openly gay person in the Trump administration, is leading the effort, which kicked off in Berlin. The U.S. embassy flew in LGBT activists from across Europe for a strategy dinner to plan to push for decriminalization in places that still outlaw homosexuality — mostly concentrated in the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean.

“It is concerning that, in the 21st century, some 70 countries continue to have laws that criminalize LGBTI status or conduct,” said a U.S. official involved in organizing the event.

Homosexuality is still punishable by death in Iran, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, parts of Somalia and northern Nigeria, Syria and Iraq. Although the potential exists for a death penalty to be handed down in at least five other countries — Pakistan, Afghanistan, the UAE, Qatar and Mauritania — it has not been implemented for consensual same-sex acts between adults in private.

### BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND

#### LGBT activist on short list for global teaching prize

A Birmingham, England, assistant head teacher at the center of a dispute over lessons on LGBT rights and homophobia has been named in the top 10 shortlist for a global teaching prize.

Parkfield Community School assistant head teacher Andrew Moffat is in the running for the \$1 million prize. Moffat has run a project promoting equality and diversity in the school, including lessons about sexual identity and LGBT rights. That angered some parents, who held protests outside the school, some signing a petition against the project.

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## Redesigned OOTL website available

Out On The Lakeshore (OOTL) has a newly designed webpage that provides viewers with everything from what programs are available at its community center to a wide variety of resources available across the state.

Outonthelakeshore.org has links for programs, events, Holland PRIDE Festival details, how to get involved, resources and information about the LGBT nonprofit. Among its features:

- The "About Us" link has bios on the current OOTL board members, OOTL's history, and what the organization does.
- The "Programs" link lists the various events offered at the OOTL Community Center, 451 Columbia Ave.
- The "Events" link includes Holland PRIDE

events, a calendar and past events held at the OOTL Community Center.

- "Holland PRIDE" link offers photos of last year's festival, and information about how to be a sponsor or advertiser for this year's PRIDE Festival.
- "Get Involved" link details the various volunteer opportunities and includes a volunteer application.
- "Resources" link lists all LGBT community centers in Michigan and how to contact them, other Michigan and national LGBT organizations, HIV/AIDS prevention services, and statewide LGBT publications.

There is also a link showing viewers how to contact OOTL.

## LGBT news from around the world

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But a statement from the school said it had a duty to protect pupils from harm, including homophobic or transgender bullying.

Moffat was named to the latest shortlist for the annual Global Teacher Prize, run by the Varkey Foundation education charity. The shortlist was announced by X-Men actor Hugh Jackman, who said teachers were the "real superheroes".

### EL SALVADOR

#### Deported transgender woman killed

A transgender woman who the U.S. deported back to her native El Salvador died in February after she was attacked outside the country's capital.

A Salvadoran trans advocacy group told the Washington Blade that Aurora, who was also

known as Camila, had been reported missing at the end of January.

The group looked for Camila at various hospitals and eventually learned she had been admitted to Rosales National Hospital in San Salvador, the Salvadoran capital, on Jan. 31 with multiple injuries. Camila passed away on Feb. 3.

It remains unclear what happened to Camila.

Activists with whom the Blade spoke said threats that Camila received prompted her to travel to the U.S. with one of the migrant caravans that left Central America last year. They said the U.S. deported Camila and she had been in El Salvador for four to five months before her death.

"She migrated to the U.S. because of threats that she had received, but she was deported because they didn't believe her," Aislinn Odaly's, an independent LGBTI rights advocate, told the Blade.