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The 2020 People Issue

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Favorite Things

John Cooper and his anti-Trump button



I remember saying “It’s unbelievable” and hearing people laugh at the things he does. I think it’s time to stop laughing. The unbelievable has turned into the believable. Yes, I know I’m opinionated.

It’s been disappointing to have a man like him as president. He has so many bad qualities, that I finally decided I wanted to do something. I give money, I do things like that, but I decided the pins were the way to go. I started ordering them, and I realized the only way to work with these things was to give joy and happiness to the people. When it’s free, it’s a lot easier to be joyful, so I just started giving them away. I run into so many people that are happy to get these buttons because they dislike him so much.

I first had them on my lapel, now I wear them on my hat. People see the button right away. To get a button from me, somebody will say, “Hey, I love that button.” As soon as they say that, I give them one — it’s that easy. And then they’re thrilled, so they say, “Can I have another one?” When I was in California and I’d go into a Trader Joe’s grocery store, I’d walk out having given 22 of them away.

My wife has been very worried. She thinks I’m going to get beat up and that people are going to confront me. I’ve had people walk by and say one-liners but I’ve never had a confrontation. I think people that support him see me, and they’re so embarrassed that they



support a man like him that they don’t bring it up. They just keep walking.

I need to reach people who are undecided, the people who haven’t made up their mind. These are the people that are going to decide this election. They make up the percentages in the middle that are going to turn this thing one way or another.

I’m dedicated to this cause because we have a real problem. He will have his hands on many, many lifetime appointments as president. I just turned 70, so the rest of my life is going to be influenced by Trump. If he wins again, all the young people are going to have that same thing happen to them. This man respects nobody. Do you want somebody like that as president? It’s an easy choice for me, and I want to be a part of trying to convince other people.

(Interview condensed and edited by Skyler Ashley.)

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Rosés and resolutions

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By Khalid Ibrahim

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

WAL-MART STOPPED SELLING CERTAIN KINDS OF AMMUNITION-- AND THEY'RE BANNING OPEN CARRY IN THEIR STORES!

THIS IS AN ACT OF **BLATANT DISCRIMINATION** AGAINST FIREARM-AMERICANS!

HAS THE WORLD GONE **MAD**? A FEW DECADES OF MASS-MORTALITY INCIDENTS THAT **HAPPEN** TO INVOLVE FIREARMS AND SUDDENLY PEOPLE ARE DEMONIZING INNOCENT **ASSAULT RIFLES**?

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THERE MUST BE **SOME** WAY TO STOP THESE IRRATIONAL ATTACKS ON **RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERS**!

HAVE YOU TRIED "THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS"?

DON'T BE STUPID. HOW COULD **THAT** POSSIBLY HELP?

TOM TOMORROW © 2019

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Resolve Lansing

Local leaders outline vision for 2020

It's a new year. We asked dozens of local leaders how can we resolve to make Greater Lansing a better place in 2020?

They answered:

Ruth Beier, mayor, City of East Lansing:

Too often, people think that they have to leave the area for good jobs in growing fields. We hope to attract businesses that will attract and retain a quality workforce. Combining career opportunities with our world-class K-12 education, our five brand new elementary schools and our proximity to MSU will make this a destination that workers and families should consider when deciding where to establish themselves professionally.



Beier

Melik Brown, owner, LansingMade:

The continued goal of LansingMade is to showcase what's cool in the region. We have great business attributes and natural resources. If we continue to work together to uplift ourselves, we'll feel good about ourselves as a community.



Brown

Others will begin to take notice. Lansing grit is fierce. It's time for the world to see the many opportunities available in this community. Our greatest positive is the people of Metro Lansing. We are diverse, innovative, industrial, artistic, caring, giving, resourceful and strong. I hope to continue to build a collaborative community who can help all of Metro Lansing prosper.

Bryan Crenshaw, chairman, Ingham County Board of Commissioners:

While it may be unpopular with some voters, the Ingham County Board

of Commissioners is looking to make Greater Lansing a better place in 2020 by asking voters to renew many millages that are set to expire. Because of cuts at the state and federal levels with revenue sharing and other funding, municipalities must fund these services through millages or other methods so residents who need these critical services receive them. As stewards of tax dollars, the board will ensure that tax dollars received through these millages is used only for the purposes intended. Ingham County voters have historically supported our millages to provide enhanced services to their quality of life. Voting and supporting these renewals will show continued support of making Greater Lansing a better place and a destination for many to come to.



Crenshaw

Paula Cunningham, Michigan state director, AARP:

I envision a Lansing where every man, woman and child can reach their full potential and live in a community that is safe, has easy access to both a quality education and quality health care from the cradle to the grave.



Cunningham

I want a Lansing where older adults can maintain the quality of their life by choosing how they want to age and they are given more support for home and community-based services. I dream of a Lansing that is healthy and where grade school children embrace healthy choices and exercise, where they learn about entrepreneurship and financial security; a Lansing where children grow up without needing unaffordable prescription drugs. I want a Lansing where a 96-year-old can sit in the park with a

9-year-old, both from different parts of the city, and enjoy the bands West 496 or Phil Denny and dance in the street until the sun goes down. I want a praying Lansing that never loses faith in God. So in 2020, I resolve to continue working with AARP, the state and community partners to make Michigan the best "age friendly" state in the nation. I invite you to join in this effort.

Jessy Gregg, councilwoman, City of East Lansing:

We've made some great strides in rehabilitating our trail infrastructure in the last few years, and there are a lot of great parks and trail projects in the pipeline. I think the Capitol region is well situated to be a regional destination for outdoor recreation if we continue to invest in our trails and blueways (river trails) infrastructure. We also need to continue the work that's been done on our "complete streets" plan. It should be just as easy and convenient to navigate our towns by foot or on a bike as it is by car. I would also like to see more of our vacant retail spaces filled, ideally with locally owned businesses outside of the chain-restaurant mold. If someone locally has an exciting idea for a shop or business, I want them to keep that idea here so that we can benefit from it rather than take their creative ideas elsewhere. There's been some progress made with local tech incubators but tech companies are only one piece in the local economy puzzle. We need incubator space for other kinds of start-ups as well.



Gregg

Curtis Hertel Jr., senator, State of Michigan

In 2020, I resolve to encourage and promote a return to decency. Three years of a president who will literally attack anyone — a 16-year-old girl, a disabled reporter, the widow of a

For many more New Year's resolutions of local leaders, please visit www.lansingcitypulse.com

passed congressman in the week before Christmas — has left all of us feeling raw. The danger is if we allow this to poison our political discourse. This year we saw an over the top rhetoric during the budget battle in Lansing and even our local races in Lansing had negative tones. I hope all elected officials will try to be more civil in our discourse, and that citizens will hold them accountable if they fail to do so.



Hertel

Thomas Morgan, commissioner, Ingham County

Too often we measure progress by cranes in the sky. Development is great — especially when it creates good-paying union jobs for local workers — but at the end of the day, our community is only as strong as our weakest residents. The child failing third grade because his home life is in shambles doesn't care how many high-end apartments Pat Gillespie is building. The 55-year-old woman with two jobs but no access to mental health care doesn't benefit from Joel Ferguson's new boutique hotel. A hip microbrewery doesn't help an 80-year-old widow stay in her own house instead of being wheeled into the dank corner of a cheap nursing home. Progress means better lives for our residents, and that's why I'm working to expand the county's health services millage to include men-



Morgan

See Resolutions, Page 6



RIP: William Milliken, a moderate Republican whose party left him

By **DAVE DEMPSEY**

By the time former Michigan Gov. William Milliken died on Oct. 18, only those with long memories could recall his administration. The longest-serving governor in Michigan history became the oldest ex-governor in Michigan history before passing away at age 97. He outlived most of his contemporaries.

Only those with long memories could also recall moderate Republicans like Milliken, who left office on Jan. 1, 1983 after nearly 14 years in the governor's chair. An unwavering proponent of women's reproductive choice, aid to distressed cities like Detroit, environmental protection and civil rights, Milliken practiced a brand of Republican politics that has, sadly, gone the way of the passenger pigeon.



Milliken

So has another Milliken trademark: civil public discourse. He prided himself on political compromise to advance his goals and shunned name-calling. He was able to work with Democrats who often controlled both houses of the Legislature while he was Michigan's chief executive.

Few achievements of his administration characterize his approach more than his unlikely partnership with Democratic Detroit Mayor Coleman Young. Convinced that the state as a whole could not thrive if Detroit continued to falter, Milliken and Young cobbled together a state aid package for the city that compensated it for the cost of operating institutions of statewide import like the Detroit Institute of Arts. In part because the African-American and plain-speaking Young was a foil of outstate (largely Republican) lawmakers, the so-called Detroit equity package was an annual target for legislative budget cutting. But it survived as long as Milliken remained governor.

A native of Traverse City and a son

of northern Michigan's lakes and woods, Milliken signed into law the state's enduring environmental laws protecting wetlands, sand dunes, inland lakes and streams and the Great Lakes. When a proposed deposit on beer and soda containers ran into a lobbyist wall in the Legislature, Milliken was the first citizen of the state to sign a petition to put the issue on the ballot in 1976. Voters approved it by a 2-to-1 margin. It remains the most successful law of its kind in the country.

A chief blemish on his administration's legacy was the PBB debacle. An industrial accident mixed chemical retardant with cattle feed in 1973, contaminating Michigan's food chain and exposing millions of citizens to PBB. The slow and defensive response of the Michigan Department of Agriculture blew back on the governor.

Milliken's brand of moderate Republicanism was already going out of fashion when he announced in 1981 that he would focus on restor-

ing Michigan's stumbling economy rather than run for a fourth term in 1982. GOP conservatives welcomed Milliken's retirement.

As his party moved steadily to the right, Milliken found himself endorsing Democrats such as John Kerry and Hillary Clinton (although he backed Rick Snyder for governor in 2010).

Finally, when he was 94, the Grand Traverse County Republican Party in effect expelled him for being pro-choice and too liberal.

Milliken was unbothered. Perhaps over-optimistically, he believed his party would return to more moderate ways. Always tethered to his beloved Traverse City — he passed up chances to run for the U.S. Senate in part because he preferred being rooted in northwestern Michigan — he also remained tethered to a belief that moderation was not a sin, but rather an essential fuel for making government work.

(Dave Dempsey is an environmental writer and William Milliken's official biographer.)

Resolutions

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tal health, and it's why I've co-authored a new senior citizens' millage to provide critical services for elder residents in need. I'm urging everyone in Ingham County to approve the health care millage on March 10 and the seniors' millage on Aug. 4. As we enter a new decade, let's resolve to remember that people matter most — and let's recalibrate our priorities accordingly.

Peter Spadafore, councilman, City of Lansing:

Our region continues to be a place that seeks to improve. We don't always succeed but we dare to try. To that end, we as a community must continue to aim higher. We must continue to experiment and create — be bold.

We must continue to work toward the goal of making Lansing a great place to live, work, and play for all residents, not just a few. We won't always be successful. In fact, many times we will fail. But



Spadafore

we as a region should not be afraid to explore new ways to collaborate on our most pressing issues. Whether to tackle our housing challenges, our regionalism questions, or to find new and exciting things to do, we must not be afraid to try. As we head into 2020, we should all resolve to keep an open mind, to work together, and to explore new ways to make Greater Lansing a better place for all residents.

Patricia Spitzley, councilwoman, City of Lansing

Continue to grow and diversify our economy. Continue to seek out waste in city government. Make sure our residents have clean and safe places to live. We must develop a set of enforceable policies and procedures that hold recalcitrant landlords accountable for unsafe housing stock. We must look at new tools to not only compel compliance with our housing codes but also allow us to recoup the costs associated with non-compliant housing stock. Right now we are unable to completely recoup the costs of multiple inspections, attorney fees, and other costs associated with



Spitzley

non-compliant landlords. I am hoping that the City Council, working with the Mayor's Office, is able to develop ordinances that require the landlord to pay for lodging when their properties are red-tagged and uninhabitable by their residents.

Aaron Stephens, mayor pro-tem, City of East Lansing

This coming year, with new leadership in place in many areas throughout the region, I hope that we are able to utilize resources, and solicit input from each other, rather than acting as competitors.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with the new MSU administration on important issues affecting students and members of the Greater Lansing community. The idea that our actions do not affect each other, whether that be the actions of Lansing, East Lansing, Okemos or MSU is a falsehood. My next resolution is something I cannot do alone, and hope is not as big of a task as I imagine it is. I want to see this region more involved in their community. I want to see elected officials holding more coffee hours, extra communication and transparency from



Stephens

governmental agencies, I want to see public attendance of meetings, and we need to see involvement in the upcoming election. Today, we decide the future of our community, everyone should be involved in that process. I ran for office at a young age, because I wanted to be a part of shaping my future. Let's all be a part of shaping the future of our community now.

Kelly Tebay, trustee, Michigan State University

My 2020 resolution is to make Michigan State University a desirable place to study and work. That MSU would be an economic driver for Greater Lansing and a trusted partner

in our community. Michigan State will be where people come together to solve problems for our state with innovation, expertise and integrity. An institution that leads in addressing community health holistically, including resources and support for mental health issues and preventing sexual assault on college campuses. That our campus is diverse, equitable and inclusive and expands these ideals beyond our borders.



Tebay

2020: the same but worse

I've been eligible to vote in five presidential elections. In four of them, the Democratic candidate earned the most votes. In three of them, the Republican won anyway.



JEFFREY C. BILLMAN

INFORMED DISSIDENT

Both Republican presidents of my adulthood, in fact, were elected by minorities. They benefited from a constitutional anachronism and went on to inflict grievous harm to our country. The first lied us into war, allowed his goons to operate a torture regime, let a major American city drown through incompetence and neglect, allowed lobbyists to plunder the federal bureaucracy, then crashed the global economy on a scale not seen since the Great Depression.

The second has been so crass and narcissistic that we've retconned the first into a decent human being. (He gave Michelle Obama a cough drop one time. Wasn't that sweet?)

Since taking office nearly three years ago, Donald Trump has systematically rolled back environmental regulations even as the effects of climate change become undeniable. He's eviscerated protections for LGBTQ citizens. He's ripped immigrant children from their mothers and thrown families in cages. He's put a white supremacist in charge of immigration policy and catered to white nationalists. He's nurtured petty grievances and publicly attacked teenagers. He's lied more than 15,000 times so far in office, according to The Washington Post. He also became the only president to be impeached during his first term.

And he's appointed a third of the federal judiciary — a feat made possible by Mitch McConnell's unprecedented blockade of judicial seats while Barack Obama was president—a legacy that will far outlive any other "accomplishment." The American Bar Association has rated five of these appointments (and two others whose nominations were withdrawn) "not qualified"—including one who, in October, it deemed "arrogant, lazy, an ideologue, and lacking in knowledge."

Senate Republicans confirmed him anyway. The Trump administration had already ended the ABA's formal role in vetting judges. The ABA, the leader of a group that supports

Trump's judges complained, was a "liberal dark-money group." Its advice—which administrations have sought since Eisenhower—should simply be ignored, a Republican senator said.

And so they did. Reality was inconvenient, so they shrugged it aside and invented their own.

That feels like the story of 2019—the story of Robert Mueller, of Ukraine, of impeachment, of Brexit, of the fake border-wall "emergency," of the resurgence of white nationalism: It was the year truth lost and b.s. prevailed.

By year's end, the bull didn't even need a foot grounded in the real world. After the editor of the magazine Christianity Today — a publication founded by the late Billy Graham that writes about things like "end times ecology" — called for Trump's removal from office on the grounds that he is "grossly immoral," the president went on a funny-if-it-weren't-insane Twitter tirade, calling Christianity Today a "far left magazine" that "has been doing poorly" and "knows nothing about reading a perfect transcript of a routine phone call." He then said he "won't be reading ET [sic] again!" as if the latest issue had a regular home on his nightstand.

On cue, nearly 200 prominent evangelicals reflexively rallied to Trump's banner, chastising the magazine for calling out a mendacious, thrice-married, philandering libertine who has been accused of sexual assault by two-dozen women. Questioning Trump, they argued, meant questioning the spiritual integrity of his devotees. (Perhaps, I'd argue, that's why they found the look in the mirror so uncomfortable.)

No one blinked at Trump's assertion that Christianity Today — a magazine rooted in biblical literalism — is some sort of Marxist publication

or that his attempted extortion of Ukraine's president was "routine."

Of course, throughout the entire Ukrainian affair, and through the entire saga over the Russia investigation, this has also been the Republican Party line — an almost admirably stubborn see-no-evil, hear-no-evil commitment to the president's innocence and good intentions that has invented strawmen and conspiracy theories and off-the-rails counter-narratives only to see them debunked time and time again, all the while muddying reality's waters.

Then again, that was the point all along.

Over Christmas, I got into a conversation with a boomer relative about Ukraine. This isn't someone who reads random things on the Internet or even has a Facebook account, nor is this an uncurious or unintelligent person. And yet, the disinformation had permeated.

The conversation went something like this:

What's the difference between Joe Biden threatening to withhold money from Ukraine to fire the prosecutor who was investigating his son and what Trump did?

The prosecutor wasn't investigating his son, I replied. And we forced the prosecutor out because he was corrupt. This was done in the interests of American foreign policy. What Trump did helped Trump.

That's not what the transcript says. Have you read the transcript?
No.

OK.

But Trump just wanted to investigate the election hacking.

Ukraine had nothing to do with that. If Trump really believes that, he's a moron. It's Russian propaganda.

Says who?

Everyone. The FBI. The CIA. The Mueller report. Also, let me explain how servers —

They're the ones who spied on Trump's campaign. It's in that report.

The inspector general's report? Did you read it?

No.

That's not what it said.

In the real world, the evidence of Trump's malignancy—his unfitness for office, his immoral character, his corruption, his lust for power and erosion of democratic norms — is undeniable. But when bullshit wins — when the torrent of nonsense makes it hard for normal people who don't obsess over government reports to separate the real from the crazy, when a major political party goes all-in on any invented reality and the mainstream media treats this invented reality like a legitimate alternative to the truth—and we no longer operate from an agreed-upon set of facts, the core of our democracy is in peril.

As an observer and student of American politics, 2019 was a long, hard, nerve-racking slog. I fear 2020 is only going to be worse.

(Jeffrey Billman is the editor of INDY Week, in Durham, North Carolina.)



PUBLIC NOTICE

Regular meetings of the Board of Water and Light Commissioners of the City of Lansing, Michigan, are scheduled to be held at 5:30 p.m., at the Board of Water and Light Executive Office Depot Facility, 1201 S. Washington Ave, Lansing, Michigan on the following dates:

2020 Lansing Board of Water & Light Board of Commissioners Regular Board Meeting Schedule

Tuesday	January 28
Tuesday	March 24
Tuesday	May 26
Tuesday	July 28
Tuesday	September 22
Tuesday	November 17

In the event a special meeting or rescheduled meeting is held, a notice will be posted in the Lobby area of the Executive Office, 1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, Michigan, at least 18 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

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CP#20-001

Kyle Melinn's column will return next week.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

CAPITAL PEEPS: The 2020 People Issue

Happy 2020, Lansing! Hard as it is to believe, the planet has completed a full circuit since our last People Issue. It's time to pluck another bouquet of interesting humans for your edification and delight. Of course, every issue of City Pulse is a people issue, but this is a People Issue with a capital PEEP. Our subjects may not be the biggest newsmakers or the most influential of the year, but they all make greater Lansing a better place to live and they are worth getting to know. We hope that spending a little time with them gives you a small taste of the fascinating and diverse humanity in our midst. Thanks to photographer Khalid Ibrahim for doing them visual justice.

Ryan Basore, Cannabis activist and entrepreneur

Ryan Basore, 43, is the co-founder of the Michigan Association of Compassion Centers, the original Lansing Cannabis Association and Cannabis Patients United. As a member of the "Okemos 7," Basore was one of the first to grow and sell medical marijuana in Lansing — namely from Capital City Caregivers on Michigan Avenue. In 2009, he was arrested and federally charged amid a haze of unclear cultivation restrictions, but since his release from prison in 2015, he has remained at the forefront of the industry. Basore went on to serve as the business development director for the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association, helped to elect pro-pot Attorney General Dana Nessel and later this year plans to launch a new company, Redemption Cannabis, in Greater Lansing.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



"It being illegal just didn't make any sense. There are no side effects. I'm a big believer in personal liberties. If you're not hurting anyone, you should just be able to do what you want."
— Basore

Why did you switch from selling insurance to selling marijuana back in 2009?

I was always an advocate for cannabis, but I just sort of got stuck

in insurance. I was one of the first licensed caregivers in the state. I started growing it in my house and eventually, my friends started to open up businesses. I said: "If these

guys can do it, I'm going to do it too." It was a chance to get involved in something new.

I also learned from a young age about cannabis being illegal and its medical benefits. I know what it did for me, personally. I used cannabis instead of my prescription for back pain and just had a better experience with it.

What was it like watching legalization — especially for recreational use — take hold in Michigan?

It being illegal just didn't make any sense. There are no side effects. I'm a big believer in personal liberties. If you're not hurting anyone, you should just be able to do what you want. And watching all these different people go to jail and watching their lives being ruined, that was a big part of what motivated me too.

Most of my patients, early on, were baby boomers. These people came in hobbled and hurting and we would always see improvements. These people were taking Vicodin or Percocets every day, and now they were off them. I've watched people be a mess on alcohol, but they smoke every day and they're super productive now.

What was going through your head when your first medical growing operation was shut down?

Outrage. People's lives and businesses were at stake here. I was ready to fight it, and then I learned the hard way that once you get indicted in that district, there's a 99 percent chance of pleading guilty. If I didn't take the plea, I could've been looking at 12 years. It's leverage. It's not justice. They were threatening to indict my family.

Why did you decide to jump back into the industry?

From the minute I walked into prison, it was like I needed to get back out there as quickly as possible. I believed in what we were doing. I went from a career where I was extremely unhappy to this new-

People

from page 8

found purpose in life. I look at it as a new opportunity. I just wanted to sell marijuana legally, and we've sort of came full circle on this.

So, you're about to launch Redemption Cannabis Co. What's the business all about?

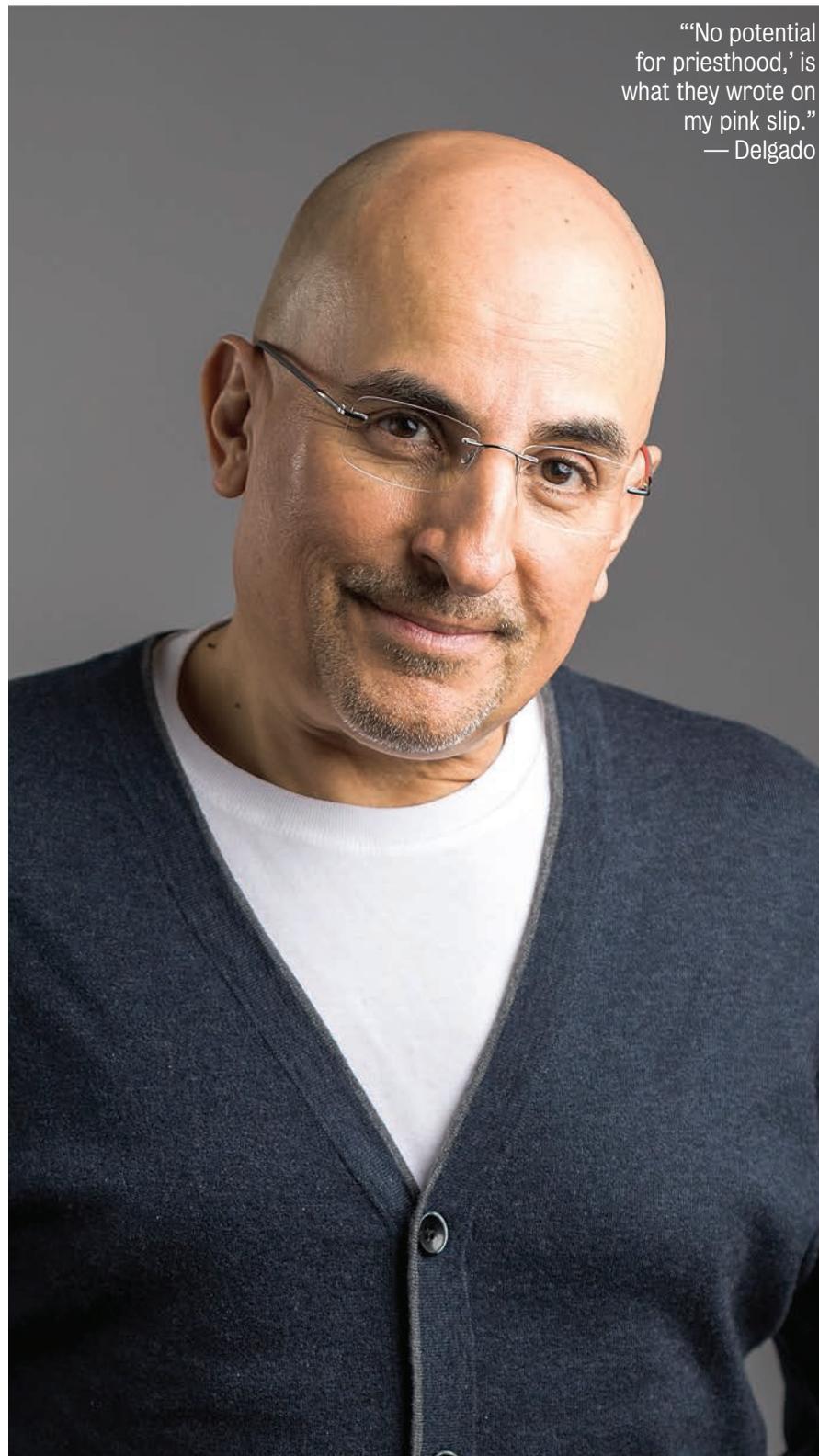
We're starting a nonprofit where basically a portion of every sale is going to help people that have either been — or are still — imprisoned for marijuana. We'll have a big announcement soon, but it's basically about licensing through high-quality products, really cool packaging and messaging. It'll help the supply the market here in Lansing with a real focus on the people and the consumer — in ways we don't always see out there right now.

We've definitely seen some legislative evolution in recent years. What's left to be done?

There is still a product shortage out there. It's also just about education. We need to keep pushing this into the mainstream. Michigan is in a unique position right now, and I don't want to be anywhere else. We're a lot further ahead than some states and we're starting to become known for our cannabis. We need to build on that. After 2008, people were getting into marijuana not as a hobby but out of survival. It's that pressure, that stress. That's how our industry was born. And I think Michigan — like me — is really in this for the long haul here.

Guillermo Delgado, Painter, teaching specialist at MSU

For Guillermo Delgado, 54, teaching incarcerated men the art of yoga and poetry was kind of by accident. The same kind of happy accident led him to start hand painting t-shirts while recovering from complex head trauma, unaware it would lead to a fulltime art career and a ticket back into academia. In 2008, after exhibiting his paintings in nearly 30 different galleries, Delgado was asked



“No potential for priesthood,’ is what they wrote on my pink slip.”
— Delgado

by MSU's Residential College of Arts and Humanities to teach community and socially engaged arts. Now, he takes MSU students on weekly visits to prisons in mid-Michigan to read and write poetry with young, incarcerated men. Over the years, Delgado's incarcerated students have hosted poetry slams and crafted zines, which are being inducted into the MSU Library's collection.

— AUDREY MATUSZ

Why was it important to teach yoga and poetry to prisoners?

Because one day, about 50% of them will get out. When they do, most will be mentally worse because of the trauma from prison. If they learn meditation, yoga and breathing, maybe they won't react violently when someone touches them unexpectedly in public, because that's what they learned. So, they will come out still with those trigger points.

Sometimes I ask myself, “Is this worth doing?” But then I hear things

from my students in prison about their loved ones coming to visit them and they share their poems. It's hard to have a conversation with someone who has such a mundane life like that. This one guy said that he got his mom into yoga, now that's all they talk about. He asked me, “Mr. G, can you send me some more sequences that I can share with my mom?”

What was unique about this year's poetry slam performance at the Michigan Reformatory in Ionia?

We're at the point now where a prisoner can be like, “We got this, Mr. G.” It wasn't like that before. They don't have the kind of opportunities to make decisions and they put this whole thing together. They put together a house band, decided who were going to be the MCs, and I saw the conversations. It was decision making and it was peaceful.

Could you paint a picture of what growing up in Chicago was like?

I grew up in Little Village. It was vibrant but gang infested. The thing that stands out to me about my youth is I lived in this neighborhood near Cook County Jail. It's infamous. It's the largest mental health facility in the country. I was like, “If I have friends or relatives who are staying in Cook County Jail, what makes me feel so safe?”

So, I attended a seminary high school. In my sophomore year, I got kicked out because I would argue during religion class and they just weren't having it. “No potential for priesthood” is what they wrote on my pink slip. Then my life went kind of downhill from there. I became a teen dad. Didn't go to college. So, I started to run, and I don't want this to be a commercial for veganism, but something changed.

One day, in a gallery in Chicago, someone stops me and asks about my t-shirt and I say, “Ah, I made it.” And he's like “What a waste.” He hands me a business card to a printmaking lab and said, “If you want to get serious about your art, we meet on Saturdays at 10.”

I went to the collective with these other exhibiting artists. I always had my t-shirts around, because they let me, and people would buy them. Then the Tribune did an article about me and it exploded. After two years, I had enough momentum with the t-shirts that I quit my job.

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How did you enter academia?

These folks from a museum asked if I would be interested in teaching a class for a semester and I was blown away by the experience. I started to do these community art projects and then one day, I got invited to RCAH to talk about my projects. I was freaked out. They gave me my own office with my name on it, and I was just there for one semester.

My first week here I made it on the cover of the LSJ for a community art project I did with refugees. It was winter and Dean Steve wanted to talk with me and I thanked him for the opportunity. Then he said, "Well, it doesn't have to end here."

Morgan Doherty, LGBT Resource Center coordinator at MSU

If you had to summarize what Morgan Doherty is all about in one verb and one noun, "planting seeds" would come close. (Morgan uses the pronoun "they.") They are an avid gardener, community builder, mentor to troubled youth, newly designated coordinator of MSU's LGBT Resource Center and co-founder of Lansing's trans and queer growing collective Tender Heart Gardens on the city's east side.

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

How did Tender Heart Gardens get started?

It started as a project among several friends. When I started it, I had, I guess, grander visions of it being for the entire trans community in Lansing, which, as it turns out, doesn't really exist. There are plenty of queer and trans folks in Lansing but we are not one monolithic community. Since then I have spent a lot more time focusing on cultivating my own chosen family, many of whom spend a lot of time with me at the garden.

Did you start out cold or had you already been gardening?

I grew up doing urban gardening in Lansing.

My mom has had a community garden plot in south Lansing since I was



"I love the idea that I'm harvesting something I'm going to continue to use throughout the year."
— Doherty

a child.

What do you love to grow?

This year I'm really excited about growing lots of dried beans. They're just so beautiful through all stages of their growth and there are so many different varieties. I love the idea that I'm harvesting something I'm going to continue to use throughout the year.

You worked for 13 years at the Capital Area District Library, right?

I really love librarianship and I think CADL is doing really wonderful things in the community. They do outreach to underserved communities, programming with people who are incarcerated and their families, unsheltered communities, at-risk youth. Just that they exist, and they are public, free spaces — they're providing a service that doesn't exist almost anywhere else.

I wonder what would happen if someone proposed the idea of a public library now.

It would absolutely never happen. They are truly radical institutions.

How did that lead to your new job at MSU?

The work I've just started, at MSU's LGBT Resource Center, is really a continuation of that. When I was working at CADL, I volunteered at the TRUE LGBTQ Teen Support Group, a teen support group run by Child and Family Charities. I did some outreach for them as a librarian, helping teens and bringing them booklists and things like that. Shortly after that I was invited to start facilitating the group. I ended up doing that weekly for three years, working with teens in the community, mostly in a mentor capacity.

What problems did you help them with?

A number of them were having trouble coming out or being accepted for their gender or sexual identity at school or at home. Some of them were coming out of foster care or other institutional living situations. These are kids who don't have the resources they need and also don't have the ability to advocate for themselves. Sometimes that meant going out to school districts to give a 101-level introduction on how to provide effective and humane services for LGBTQ students.

How did you become committed to the type of work you do?

That's a really difficult question. Let me think about that. For a long time, I wasn't doing a lot of the work I felt was necessary to create positive change in the world. But once I started making changes to my life, particularly transitioning and changing my living situation, I made a much more conscious effort to live the way I felt I should be living.

What keeps you going, gets you recharged?

What really recharges me is doing the physical work, being outside, in the dirt, moving heavy things with my body. I'm fortunate that I'm able to do that but it really gives me a lot.

Is Tender Heart part of a larger plan?

I've also spent time thinking about ways that I can help facilitate land

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access for other groups of people who are historically prevented from maintaining land, particularly people of color. So, to that end, I and several of my friends who have worked at Tender Heart have founded a community land trust called Capital United Land Trust and we are going to work toward collectively purchasing parcels of land for marginalized growing organizations all over the city, both for agricultural use and ecological restoration. I'm really excited.

That's biting off a lot, isn't it?

It is. I like keeping busy.

How are you settling in at your new gig at MSU?

It's been a really wonderful transition so far. It's a small team of people working very hard, who are very dedicated to our students. When the students get back, I'm going to do a lot of networking with student groups and hopefully create an information and resource hub for all the varying groups of queer and trans students on campus.

You'll be too busy to dream about spring.

I'm still going to dream about spring.

Krista Fuerst, Director of Expectant Parents Organization

In 2018, USA Today declared that the United States is the most dangerous place to give birth in the developed world. In the U.S., 70-80% of all new mothers experience some negative feelings or mood swings after birth, according to the American Pregnancy Association, and that even goes for successful deliveries. Krista Fuerst, 39, is one of the most prominent voices in the state combatting the infant mortality rate and raising awareness on issues new mothers face.

— AUDREY MATUSZ

What experience did you have that led you to work in maternal care?

My background is in child devel-



opment, so I worked with children for most of my adult life. Then I was pregnant with twins and gave birth prematurely. I went into labor at 22 weeks, so around five months pregnant, and they both were too premature and died at birth.

I never thought that would happen to me. You know it happens, but you don't see yourself in that. So it got me thinking, we're well into the 21st century. How are babies still

dying as much as they are?

So I found myself looking for a part-time job and EPO had an opening. I got my foot in the door as the administrative assistant. Worked there for about a year until the director role opened and I stepped into that.

Wow, that's a big leap.

Yeah. I really wanted to get involved in something that deals

with infant and maternal mortality rates. Our country struggles overall. Ingham County's numbers are not great. Michigan's numbers are not great. We don't have a good over-reaching system for moms. One of the analogies I like to think of is that when a woman becomes pregnant, it's kind of like we drop her in a body of water and the goal is to dry off. But all these different agencies are giving towels and washcloths to help. But unless you can find a way to kind of build a raft and lift mom out of that, we're not doing any services. EPO provides education, we provide support, but it's certainly not an all-encompassing service for parents. There's more that's needed.

With infant mortality rates higher within lower socio-economic communities, how do you make sure these services get shared?

So, it's interesting. We find the lowest of socioeconomic groups, what we would consider poverty, are served through other organizations. The Ingham County WIC program is excellent. The parents who are between poverty and thriving, they make enough money where they don't qualify for services, work with us primarily. We offer scholarships to help them and offer a sliding scale for families who might not have \$300 to spend on classes.

In your first year as the EPO director, what accomplishment are you most proud of?

Baby Café, which is our breastfeeding support group, had fallen apart. So building that back up from the ground was a really big task I prioritized first coming in. We're seeing lots of parents come, and that's a free community resource.

One of the things we talk about is we live in a breastfeeding desert. You don't see it in America. So we try and have what I would call an oasis for moms to come to where they can be around other breastfeeding moms. Maybe they're not comfortable breastfeeding in a coffee shop, but they can see other moms there breastfeeding openly and maybe get a sense that it's okay.

What kind of cultural norms in addition to breastfeeding are you trying to shift?

Another huge difference is our lack of maternity and paternity leave in our country. We really don't allow

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moms that time needed to establish a good breastfeeding relationship. Most of our moms take about six to 12 weeks off and then are expected to go back to work for eight to 10 hours a day away from baby, which doesn't support long-term breastfeeding goals.

Another hat that I wear, I'm the president of the Lansing area's HOPING group, helping other parents who are grieving. That's the other spectrum where we have parents who have had pregnancy loss or infant loss. We have a monthly support group, which I lead. I'm not a licensed social worker or therapist. We are just there for parents who need a safe space to and talk and listen.

Twesigye “Jackson” Kaguri, Founder CEO of Nyaka AIDS Orphan Project

Twesigye “Jackson” Kaguri, 49, was born in Nyaka, Uganda. He said his father broke a pencil into fifths to save money in order to afford sending him and his sisters to school, nearly 7 miles outside of their village. In 2001, after attending Columbia University in Chicago and losing two siblings to AIDS, Kaguri founded the nonprofit Nyaka AIDS Orphan Project. Now he's a Heifer International Hero for building schools in rural Uganda, as well as libraries, water filtration systems, farms and a kinship network with grandmothers to house orphans. This year, Kaguri and 10 volunteers ran 26.2 miles in the New York City Marathon, a charity event, and raised \$100,000 for the Nyaka schools. He said it was his biggest accomplishment to date.
— AUDREY MATUSZ

What was it like addressing the United Nations in 2011?

The United Nations, at one point, had a program called Millennium Goals. So before 2015, they were going to meet these five goals around the world. One of those goals



“We showed dignity is universal.”
— Kaguri

was education for all. As 2011 rolled around, somebody told them that there's a school in Uganda that has high attendance and the person who runs it is going to come and tell you how he has done it.

The speech I gave was about holistic approach. When the U.N. made that declaration, they were thinking of a child in Lansing, Okemos or Williamston. They didn't think of Olivia in my village, who is 10 years

old and her period begins at 11 years old. The moment her period begins, she can't talk about it with anybody, she's an orphan. So she can't go to school until the period ends. What Nyaka has done is provide food at school, sanitary products, health care, clean water, shower systems, food, clothing, and a farm.

How do you get volunteers for Nyaka and how many do you have

currently?

I have 120 staff members and about 48 volunteers. We bring in close to 100 volunteers from around the world. People who say, “let me go see it.” When you get there, we put you to work. Michigan State University medical students have gone and did studies comparing students who eat two meals at school through us, and those who are in the community that don't go to school. Doctor (John) Brewster (of Okemos) has come five times and started dental care. Now children have seen a dentist, for many adults this was their first time.

We also have a program against gender-based violence, which my wife started, called the EDJA Foundation. In 2015, we found out that one of our children had been raped by a community member and the next day she was in school. That community member went to the grandmother and said, “I'll give you a goat if you don't say anything.” That's what people had done in the past. We have since placed 40 perpetrators. Every year, we do gender-based violence work in a community, police against gender-based violence. A community that is aware of their rights but also that will protect their children.

You've created this formula for dealing with crises, be it AIDS or mass incarceration, where families of color are being destroyed. Do you think about implementing these systems locally?

Yes. We are creating what we call “Nyaka in a box.” Nyaka can work in Flint. We have better water in Nyaka village than you have in Flint. We have better structures of school and the school attendance is better than Detroit. Lansing, you can take this “box” and use the kinship system. It's all about giving back and knowing where you're coming from. If all the football players and basketball players in this country went back into communities where they were born and raised and created Nyaka, we wouldn't have the ghettos.

You aren't trying to necessarily stir empathy for people in Uganda, like the old tactics you see on TV. What are you trying to show?

Sympathy has been used on the continent of Africa, and not used here. The people who take those pictures are equally as human, and most

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of the time they are wearing layers of clothes. They have deodorant. Then they take a picture of a naked, starving child and put it in *The New York Times*. Twenty years from now, that child looks at that picture. What do they think?

When you see a commercial for MSU, advertising for students to enroll, it's going to be smiling faces. They're going to be walking to the library, holding books. So we decided to be like MSU. We choose the better part of them.

Even if a kid dies, they need to die with dignity. We had one kid who died because their medication was not working. They told their grandmother they wanted to be buried in their purple Nyaka uniform. We could call our resources Nyaka Make A Wish Foundation, but we've only lost three children in 18 years. They've all been buried in their uniforms because they asked for it. And so, we showed dignity is universal. If we don't do it for the people, my people, where I was born and raised, who else is going to do it?

Todd Karinen, Metal guru and behind-the-scenes newsman

Todd Karinen, 46, didn't move to Lansing until he was 28. Karinen grew up in Lake City, a small isolated town near Cadillac with a population of only 836. When Karinen finally arrived in Lansing, he knew he wanted to be involved in the music scene. A few gigs later at Mac's Bar, and Karinen was in deep. Today, he plays in several bands, such as The Jackpine Snag and Hordes, while managing a DIY metal label known as Silver Maple Kill Records. Karinen balances this with a career in television news, where he works behind-the-scenes at WLNS as a maintenance engineer. And Karinen still finds the time to be a devoted husband and father to four children.

— SKYLER ASHLEY

How did you get involved with Lansing's music scene?

I knew Lansing had a music scene, but a lot like other people who don't really know what's going on, I thought



it focused in East Lansing, and I was listening to the radio station. I was listening to *The Impact*, and I used to listen to *The Afterglow* a lot on Sunday nights.

They would play *Calliope*, they would play *Rosetta* and they would play other stuff like *Tristessa* — another really lo-fi band. The DJ was talking about *Rosetta* playing at Mac's

Bar, so I called up and I asked, "Hey, where's Mac's?" He told me, "Well, it's out on Michigan Avenue and it's really easy to see, because it has a big illuminated record that says Mac's." And I said to myself, "Huh, OK. I'll go check that out."

So it all started at Mac's Bar?
Yeah, I made a lot of friends. I became

friends with a co-worker, Ben Becker. So, I'd go see his band, *Putty*, and Ben was telling me, "Todd, I'm getting ready to move in with this guy, and he's like the one the Lansing punk rock legends." And that's how I met Ken Knott from *Violent Apathy*. And Ken was one of the people that really knew what was going on. He was booking shows and he was doing a lot of cool things. I just dove in and I started meeting all these cool people. And that's the origin.

Let's talk about your work with WLNS. How did you start your career in TV news?

I worked for four years at Fox 32 WFQX up in Cadillac. I was a master control operator. Basically, you run TV shows, record TV shows, you produce stuff, and you make sure that everything airs properly. I got the job by responding to an ad that said, "Can you count time?" At WLNS, I'm a maintenance engineer, before that I was a master control operator. Eventually, they changed that into an operator because we combined departments and had to start also directing the news. And it's amazing. I loved directing the news. It was always interesting. There would be times that you would get really aggravated, but you always had to be in the moment. And plus, when you like your job, you don't dread going in every morning.

You play drums in several bands like Jackpine Snag and put out albums with your label Silver Maple Kill. What's that like?

Jack Pine Snag started in Joe Hart's basement in 2010. My old band *MK-Ultra Culkin* was ending, and the bassist, Nicholas Merz, and I were asked to play with Joe, because we knew him from a band called a bluesy, garage band called *The Chairman*. Joe said, "I got this project." Do you guys want to try jamming?" So just went in his basement, and everything clicked. It was so easy. We've been through a couple of bass players, but next year we'll have been together for a decade.

Silver Maple Kill started in 2009 as way of putting out the *MK-Ultra Culkin* CD. Tom Muth, from *Collegeville Textbook Co.*, played in a band called *Red Swan*. He had his own label, and I was grilling him constantly. "How do you this, how do you that?" He told me, "If you want to do something, you just do it." And that really resonated with me.

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Tell me about your family, do they support the wide range of projects you get yourself involved in?

Oh my God, I would not be where I am without them — especially my wife. One of the things she told me once that almost made me cry, was that one of the things she loves most about me is how passionate I am about music. I'll never forget how supportive she is.

Jennifer Nagel, Fitness expert, business owner

Born outside of Chicago, fitness trainer Jennifer Nagel, 41, first moved to Greater Lansing to attend Michigan State University. After earning her bachelor's in food science, she continued her degree at University of Michigan-Flint, where she obtained her master's. Nagel returned to Lansing to work for MSU, holding that position for 15 years before setting off to start her own online women's fitness and nutrition company, Figured Out Fitness.

Through the years, Nagel decided to stay settled in Lansing with her husband and four children because of the charm supplied by its diverse neighborhoods, citing REO Town, East Lansing and Old Town as some of their favorite places to frequent. She is also fond of Lansing for its racial diversity, explaining it was important to live in a community where a mixed-race family could feel safe and comfortable.

— SKYLER ASHLEY

What drew you away from your job at MSU to focus on your passion full time?

I had a great conversation with one of my colleagues. We talked about how after 20 years at a job you should start to think about retirement. I've always considered myself a pretty young woman, so when someone said that to me I realized I had a really great career at MSU, I had great opportunities and I was able to do a lot of wonderful things. I spent time as a director of sustainability; I spent time as our director of strategic initiatives for infrastructure plan-



"I truly believe that when people feel good about themselves and take care of themselves, it becomes a foundation for them to do really amazing things."
— Nagel

ning and facilities. I have met amazing people. But I just felt like I wasn't done yet. There were a lot of things that I've always been interested in that I hadn't had a chance to pursue. And I also love the idea of being my own boss. I come from a family of entrepreneurs, so I just think it's in my blood.

You talk about elevating your clients to make breakthroughs in their lives. Can you elaborate on what that

means to you?

I think the fitness industry tends to focus a lot on weight loss — the physical and what's outside. But fitness and nutrition, for myself, has been a way to help build confidence, a way to help me have energy and feel good. I truly believe that when people feel good about themselves and take care of themselves, it becomes a foundation for them to do really amazing things.

I typically work with women who

are busy, who are kind of the foundation of their family. There are so many poor messages about health and fitness that I want people to understand that it's a lot more holistic than running on a treadmill and cutting back calories. It's much more than that. It's about feeling strong, being balanced and taking care of yourself in a way that's sustainable.

Would you say you're a big proponent of learning to love yourself and your body image?

If someone likes to have muscles on muscles, I say go for it. If someone doesn't really love that, then that's their prerogative too. I think the biggest issue is that I don't think it's anybody's business what kind of physique somebody maintains. Unless it's your body, commenting on other people's figures and physiques is really not your business.

What advice do you have for somebody who's nervous about committing to a fitness regime?

I tell people if this is something that they really want, they have to think deeply about why they want it. What is the benefit? And it can't be something superficial. It has to be something deep that you're connected to emotionally. Losing five pounds is not deep enough. Being alive for your children, or setting a great example for health and fitness for your family, that's kind of getting closer to a deeper, emotionally connected "why."

What are the challenges of running your own business and being your own boss?

It is the hardest and most fun thing that I've ever done. Everything is on your shoulders. I've learned to truly have discipline in my own work. I have to create the big plan, the strategy, and I have to implement the strategy. I also must have the discipline to do the things every single day that grow my business and help my clients. It's been a really fun discovery process.

Eugene Wanger, Death penalty opponent

The number of states forbidding capital punishment has grown to 21, plus the District of Columbia, but thanks to attorney Eugene Wanger, Michigan is still the only state where

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such a ban is written directly into the state Constitution. Wanger wrote the provision when he was a 28-year-old delegate to Michigan's 1961 Constitutional Convention, a high point in more than 50 years of vigorous, fact-based opposition to the death penalty. In December 2019, Wanger received the "Abolitionist of the Century" award from Journey of Hope, an international organization fighting the death penalty.

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

What arguments against the death penalty have you found more effective over the years — practical ones or religious and moral ones?

The moral arguments are powerful, but my experience from the beginning is that most people don't want to hear you tell them what your morals ought to be. They want the facts and they'll apply their own morals to the facts.

Is making a fact-based argument harder nowadays?

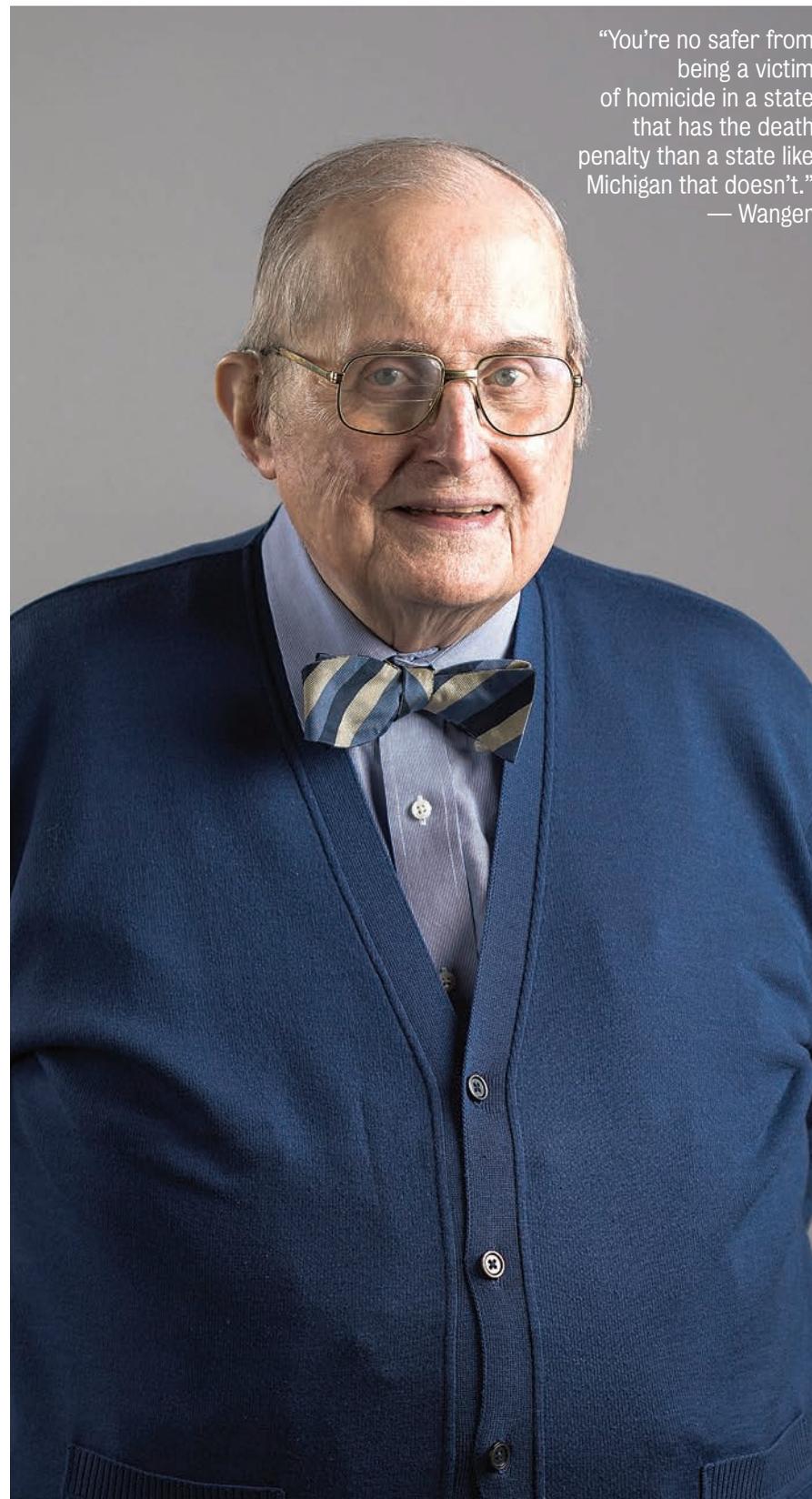
Oh no. People are better informed. No single subject in criminology has been studied more than looking for a deterrent effect of the death penalty. More than 30 years of study have shown that you're no safer from being a victim of homicide in a state that has the death penalty than a state like Michigan, that doesn't. And a month doesn't go by that another guy who's on Death Row is let go, because DNA evidence shows he's innocent. Stories like that have had an impact on the public.

What about the cost of incarceration?

The cost of putting people to death is millions of dollars — two trials instead of one, long, drawn-out legal fights, administrative and material costs for a separate prison unit. Housing a prisoner is peanuts compared to having the death penalty.

The reverse argument is pretty ghastly — you'd have to scale up executions to make them cost effective.

If you really want to make it cost effective, cut out the second trial. Get rid of the jury and let the judge decide. Appeals are expensive, so get rid of that. Do away with lawyers that



"You're no safer from being a victim of homicide in a state that has the death penalty than a state like Michigan that doesn't."
— Wanger

specialize in these high-stakes death penalty cases and get any old lawyer. And if you really want to make it cost effective, use China's approach. Start up an organ farm. When they need an organ they can sell, they kill you, slice you up and sell the organs. It's very lucrative. Now, they attracted a certain amount of criticism for this, and I don't know if they're still doing it. They don't release their data. I asked a professor from Beijing some

years ago. He said they execute about 50,000 people a year. Think of the organs! Big money for government!

Besides writing a book, "Fighting the Death Penalty," you donated thousands of items on capital punishment to the State University of New York at Albany.

The Michigan universities didn't want it.

And that's not the only trove of historical materials you have collected and donated.

Back when I was young, I got very interested in Ingham County history. Why, I can't remember. We had a bookseller here in Lansing named Chester Ellison. [Ellison's Book Store was at 217 S. Washington Square.] I'd buy books on history and law and other things from him. I was very interested in county history, and later on, was on the county commission, I realized they didn't have squat. I gave it to the Capital Area District Library with the stipulation that it go to the Mason library. The downtown library is an impressive building, but all this history stuff's in the basement! If there's ever a fire, it will fill up with water.

How did you get involved with your other big side project, the R.E. Olds Museum?

Back in the 1970s, the Chamber of Commerce put me on the committee, not because I knew anything about old cars. I didn't. But they knew I was interested in history. Nobody said this to me directly, but they needed to sucker in a lawyer who would do the work for free! That's how the R.E. Olds Museum started up. I went through all the chairs there. I was president in the early 1980s. Along the way I collected material on the REO Motor Car Co. and that's at the downtown CADL. People around the world use that material to do research.

Do you foresee a time when the death penalty is abolished once and for all?

Look at it this way. There are now 21 states, including the District of Columbia, that have abolished the death penalty. When I started out there were only six. The number of death sentences in the country has been going down for years. I would feel more confident except for the undetermined influence of electronic media. With sufficient repetition, people can be made to believe an awful lot of stuff. With that risk in mind, I'm not as optimistic as I would otherwise be.



ARTS & CULTURE

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Pagans ring in the new year

By ELLEN DOWLING

Two weeks ago, Rev. Elayne Glantzberg, the high priestess of a local wiccan community, led a group of Pagans in a Yule ritual at Inner Ascended Masters Ministry (IAMM). Walking clockwise around a table lined with flickering candles, the participants sang ancient songs and beat drums, marking the official turn of the new year.

Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, at 5707 S. Washington Ave., is a church where Lansing residents practice contemporary Paganism, also known as Neopaganism, a collective term for modern religious movements based on pre-modern Europe, North Africa and the East. Glantzberg hosted the Yule celebration on Dec. 21, the shortest day of 2019.

“Yule is the winter solstice. Different traditions will give you different answers on when they consider the new year to be,” Glantzberg continued. “In our tradition, we consider Yule to be the new year, because it’s the rebirth of the sun. We celebrate by making sure we don’t have anything left over from the previous year, and making wishes for the New Year.”

As part of the Yule ritual, Glantzberg led a group discussion where each participant reflected on the past year, and envisioned what they hope for in the new year. Glantzberg said proceeds from the celebration went toward the church’s goal of purchasing a permanent location.

The church, founded in 2014, is run by Sunshine Wilson and offers a place for divination for three Pagan-based communities. For example, Glantzberg is the leader of the wiccan community and shares the church with a band of Druids, called Cedar-song. The third group is an organization called Pagans in Need, a local food pantry run by Bill Ehle that provides local Pagans and non-Pagans food and toiletry items.

Hill and Glantzberg work closely with Ehle from Pagans in Need, and collect Christmas presents for families each year.

“Because of our charter, we do a lot

of community work,” Hill said. “We’ve done river clean up, we’ve adopted a highway and cleaned that up. For awhile, we were working with Solar Circle, which is a not-for-profit that provides solar ovens to women in Africa.”

IAMM is part of the Aquarian Tabernacle Church, which was founded in the late ’70s to provide an umbrella structure to Paganism, similar to what Christian churches offer to their congregation.

“They were instrumental on getting pentacles put on military tombstones, they were the first Wiccan church to get tax exempt status from the IRS and they are now a multinational organization with churches around the world,” said Glantzberg.

Pagan churches provide services and a welcoming space for open sabbath rituals, usually always on Saturdays.

“It’s basically religious traditions that come out of Western culture,” said Melissa Hill, who is the senior Druid.

Hill added that while the IAMM is a shared space of various pagan-based religions, the groups celebrate “a lot of the same holidays” and will come together for “rituals, discussion groups



Ellen Dowling/City Pulse

Churchgoers light a candle on the shrine, a practice calling for reflection on the past year.



Ellen Dowling/City Pulse

High Priestess Elayne Glantzberg leads in song with members of the Inner Ascended Master Ministry while she prepares the shrine for the Yule ritual.

or workshops.

Druids also hold sacred rituals that represent the new year. As senior Druid, Hill leads in celebrating Saturnalia, a Greek tradition at the end of December where people honor Hades through a feast and flipping social order upside down.

Hill said that part of the tradition of Saturnalia was for “rich people” to serve the community, and women were temporarily treated as authoritative figures.

“It was chaos, but it was controlled chaos,” Hill said.

Hill also observes Epiphany, Jan. 6, which she described as an acknowledgment of the 11 “mystery” days between Solstice (Dec. 21) and the start of a new Gregorian calendar year (Jan. 1).

“What it came down to is calendars. These are added calendar days because there was difficulty with the history of trying to line up lunar calendars with a solar calendar. So, what you have is this weird time out of time.”

Both Wiccan and Druid traditions include taking time to rest during the new year. Traditionally, during Epiphany, everyone would take a break from work to eat food with family and friends and relax (sound familiar?). Hill mentions that this time was especially important for women.

“Women would spin wool all day long, because if you didn’t spin your family didn’t have clothes,” Hill remarked. “During this time women would spin right up till the Solstice, and then you get a week and a half off depending on where you lived. It was this built-in rest time, where the gods required you to rest, and if you dared to spin at this time, it would be bad luck for the next year. It allowed for this discourse, where it built rules into society that allowed women to rest.”

Allowing time to rest, emphasizing community service and banishing un-useful habits means more than a deep cleaning of the conscious to IAMM members. It is a culturally inclusive practice which connects them back to their heritage.

While IAMM serves as an oasis for local Pagan families, at school the children of the community experience cultural exclusion early on.

“I think when you’re raising children, being part of a community helps,” Glantzberg said. “If they don’t know any other pagan children, it can be very isolating. But, if you’ve got a group that you can go to, even if it’s just on sabbath, where they can play and have community, they have a place where they belong.”

Michigan's modernist trailblazers remembered in 'Herman Miller'

By **BILL CASTANIER**

I didn't know it at the time, but I grew up in a modernist home. From the outside, our home looked like most vintage '50s ranch-style homes. The inside, however, was transformed by my father's advanced carpentry skills into a classic modernist abode with built-in wall systems, built-in stereo cabinet, hand-made benches and other furniture he built. Except for a single chair in each bedroom, all of the cabinets and the bed were built-ins.

I spent Christmas perusing "Herman Miller: A Way of Living," a new, 614-page history of the iconic Zeeland, Michigan, furniture and design company and the designers who brought Modernism to life. The book by Phaidon is a passionate look at the 115-year-old company through interpretive prose and unparalleled photography. From it I learned that my father must've been drawn to the post-World War II futuristic look of Modernism and borrowed their designs.

Modernism is all the rage now. Modernist furniture and other Modernist decorations fly out of local estate sales. Modernist homes are bought in Michigan by collectors, such as homegrown musician Jack White. The former Lieberman's gift store in downtown Lansing is listed on the market as Modernist building. In fact, there are enough modernism influences in the state that Susan Bandes, an MSU art historian and professor, authored "Mid-Michigan Modern: From Frank Lloyd Wright to Google," which showcased Modernism structures across the region.

"Herman Miller" begins in 1905 inside a former canning factory in western Michigan, which was retrofitted to manufacture replica Hepplewhite, Chippendale and Queen Anne furniture. By 1923, Dirk Jan De Pree, the son-in-law of one of the original founders, Herman Miller, became president and changed the company name to Herman Miller Furniture Co. His sons would lead the company through the '80s.

Amy Auscherman, a co-author and the corporate archivist for Herman Miller, made herself available to City Pulse for an interview during the busy holiday break.

The book's layout follows the design of the seminal 1931 "histo-map," an info-graphic by John B.

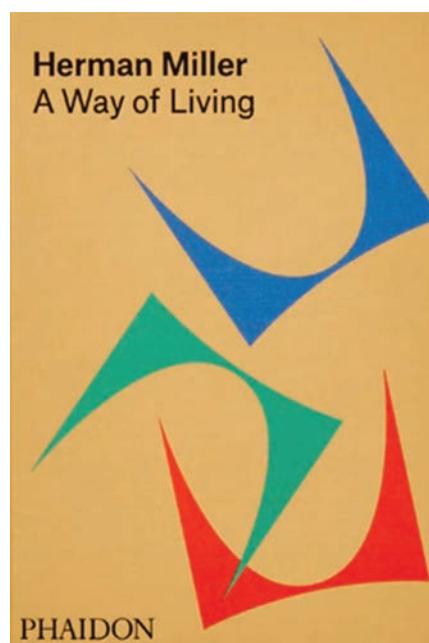
Sparks which influenced the future designers behind "A Pictorial History of Herman Miller" in 1967. In the pictorial, the history of the company is depicted through photos and art designs decade-by-decade.

The new book uses that same approach, taking us through the company history. It starts in-depth with the '30s, when Herman Miller met with the designer Gilbert Rohde, a rising industrial designer. Rohde would begin a life-long relationship with Herman Miller Furniture Co., pushing the company into Modernism.

Highlights include Rohde designs of the Plexiglas chair, rolled steel chairs and the "z" clock, which debuted in the 1933 Chicago World's Fair as a coming-out party for Herman Miller. Rohde and his designs for Herman Miller were prominently displayed in a 1935 article in Fortune magazine.

Subsequent chapters take the evolution of Herman Miller design decade by decade. Examples are the '40s, which rolled out the 1944 Storage Wall Concept and the emergence of George Nelson, who would become the company's second celebrity designer. Nelson used his design principles in the Lieberman's retooling. In the '40s, Herman Miller Furniture Co. also saw the rise of molded furniture and noted designer Charles Eames. Another high point of the book is a look at the Ergon Chair and the remastered Aeron chair of the 2000s, followed by the Herman Miller Performance System and the Living Office of the 2000s.

State of Michigan retirees will remember when these office furniture styles were installed in most state offices in Lansing. It was quite the change from large oak desks and



closed doors, and acceptance came slowly.

"Even though there are more than 2000 images in the book it was hard to pare down the content," Auscherman said.

One of her favorite pieces in the book and archives is the love seat designed by Alexander Girard, which she said never caught on for the commercial market.

She said it was important in writing and designing the book that it was not a "navel gazing" publication.

"We wanted to be honest and make the book objective, not a puff pieces."

In addition to the pure furniture chapters, there is a look at the company culture, exemplified by the summer picnic, posters, which were unveiled in the '70s and designed by Stephen Frykholm, a Cranbrook Academy of Art graduate. Frykholm's designs were bright, fun and color-

ful takes on the delights of summer picnics, including eating watermelon, sweet corn and cherry pie.

In some ways, the posters represent the workplace culture of Herman Miller, which was an early adopter of the Scanlon employee participation system and transformed itself into an employee-owned company.

"We wanted to show something that most people don't know — that Herman Miller is a human centered company in service of the people," Auscherman said.

Now the bad news: The book has been so successful, it is sold out and won't be available again until spring, according to Auscherman.

SCHULER BOOKS

KID'S STORY TIME Saturdays · 11am

Jump into the pages of our favorite books! We will sing songs, make a craft and go on a new adventure.

SCHULER BOOK CLUB January 15 · 6pm

Join us monthly for the Schuler Book Club—a great way to create community, and engage with new books. This month we are reading *City of Thieves*, from the critically acclaimed author of *The 25th Hour* and *When the Nines Roll Over* and co-creator of the HBO series *Game of Thrones*, a captivating novel about war, courage, survival — and a remarkable friendship that ripples across a lifetime.

25% OFF CALENDARS

All calendars now 25% off. Shop early for best selection. Starts January 2. **50% off holiday items.** All sales final.

SchulerBooks.com /Event
Meridian Mall · Okemos

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OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

Thursday, January 2

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aqua Fitness - Fun for all fitness levels. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Break For Fun: Break-It, Make-It Tech Teardown! - Teens and tweens learn as they disassemble keyboards, cell phones, and other tech devices! 1-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Break for Fun: Intro to Ukulele for Adults - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Extreme Energy - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Zumba - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope Avenue, Lansing. 517-882-2838.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

PJ Storytime (Sensory Friendly) - 6:30-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Warm Winter Readers begins - Read

and Review any 10 books on our "Winter Reading Log", and win treats & surprises! 10am-9pm, Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

EVENTS

Bath Township Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Rd, Bath. bathtownship.us.

The Future - talk about the future, whether it's tomorrow or 20 years from now. 10-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Gift of Heart - Offering support for parents of foster children or adopted. Free childcare provided. 6-8 p.m. Allve, 800 W Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. myalive.com.

Lansing Grassroots Philosophy - discussion group. 6:30-8 p.m. Kelly's Downtown, 220 S. Washington Square, Lansing.

ARTS

Crafting with a Cause - A gathering to support our community. 4-5:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson, Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Learn 517 - Lesson - 1:30-3 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

The Rainmakers Exhibit - 12-4 p.m. ongoing. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River, East Lansing. 517-332-6073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Sunrises & Smokestacks Exhibition - ongoing. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing.

Friday, January 3

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aqua Fitness - 10:30-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Do Try This at Home! - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Break for Fun: Ukulele Jam - Kids & teens ages 8-18 learn the basics of playing a Ukulele! 1-2 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand



The Dangling Participles at Red Cedar Friends Meeting

Fellowship For Today Spiritual Center is an all-inclusive worship community promoting "love and healing," according to its website. The group believes that individual transformation can occur "through the celebration of Divine Oneness," as stated on its Facebook page, which it aims to create every Sunday through great

music, singing and sharing principles advocating for a peaceful society.

Lansing folk darlings The Dangling Participles will lead the music portion of this Sunday's gathering. The quartet, which unified in 2015, comprises Tamiko Rothorn (vocals, ukulele, cornet), Austin Kaufmann (vocals, guitar, harmonica), Tim Patterson (bass, vocals) and Dan Moreno (percussion, vocals). The service occurs inside the Red Cedar Friends' Quaker Meetinghouse in Old Town.

Ledge. 517-627-7014.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Warm Winter Readers begins - 10am-9pm. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

EVENTS

January Wake Up Old Town - Wake Up Old Town! 8:30-10 a.m. Preuss Pets, 1127 N. Cedar St., Lansing. iloveoldtown.org.

Michigan Tobacco-Free Coalition - for People Living with HIV. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Forest Community Health Center, 2316 S Cedar, Lansing. 517-887-4597.

Open Swim at Goldfish Okemos - Holiday Break Fun! 12-1:30 p.m. Goldfish Swim School of Okemos, 5135 Times Square Dr., Okemos.

Refuge Recovery Lansing - 7:30-8:30 p.m. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing.

TGIF Dance Party - all welcome! 7 p.m.-12 a.m. Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com.

ARTS

Country Stitches Quilt-A-Thon - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Country Stitches, 2200 Coolidge Rd., East Lansing. countrystitches.com.

Saturday, January 4

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Create, Play, and Learn Saturday Storytime - Stories, crafts, and fun. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Wacousta Community United Methodist Church, 9180 Herbison Rd, Eagle. 517-627-7014.

Warm Winter Readers begins - 10am-9pm. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

EVENTS

Contra and Square Dance - All dances taught - no partner needed. 7-10 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Death Cafe - Drink tea, eat cake and discuss death. 10-11:30 a.m. Hospice of Lansing Administrative Building, 3186

SATURDAY, JAN. 4 >> PRIDE SATURDAY WITH MICHIGAN PRIDE AT SPIRAL



The dynamic collaboration between Spiral and Michigan Pride continues into the new year. A portion of the proceeds will go toward Michigan Pride held in Lansing in early June. No cover for 21+ before 10 p.m., \$5 after 10 p.m. \$10 for under 21 all night.

9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Every first Saturday of the month
1247 Center St., Lansing
(517) 371-3221
spiraldancebar.com

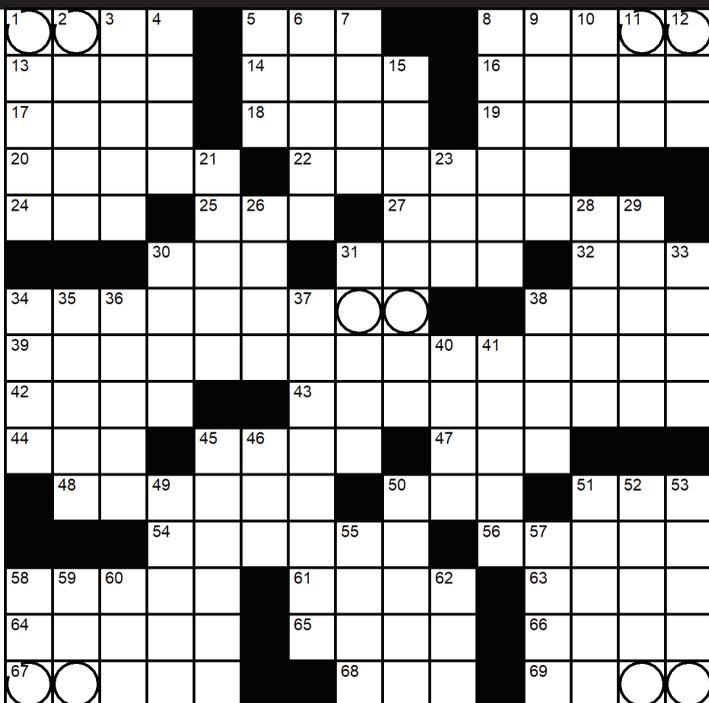
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"On the Map"---
representing a
few locations.**
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Like some dental floss
- 5 1988 Dennis Quaid movie
- 8 Regretful feeling
- 13 Brightness output?
- 14 ___ Domani (wine brand)
- 16 Made mellow
- 17 Monkees member Peter
- 18 "Champagne music" bandleader Lawrence
- 19 Ages from oxidation
- 20 Swiss flag feature
- 22 Cafe ___ (coffee drink)
- 24 Put a curse on
- 25 Marker on a wall map
- 27 Leftover
- 30 Musical comedian Minchin
- 31 Editor's "put it back in"
- 32 Knee injury site, briefly
- 34 They're next to some records
- 38 Gin fizz fruit
- 39 Where the grid's circled letters denote the NW, NE, SW, SE and centermost locations
- 42 Be compatible
- 43 "Meh"
- 44 "Blueberries for ___"
- 45 Grandmas, for some
- 47 Bookcase material
- 48 Praising enthusiastically
- 50 Make a request
- 51 E-I link



- 54 Mythical flyer
- 56 Crewmate of Spock and Sulu
- 58 "A Wrinkle in Time" author Madeleine L ___
- 61 Take ___ (lose some money)
- 63 Indigo dye source
- 64 Bluish greens
- 65 "Baby" character in "The Mandalorian"
- 66 Furniture chain to meander through
- 67 Jeweler's weight measure
- 68 Layer on the farm
- 69 "Hilarious,!" online
- Down**
- 1 Halloween costume option
- 2 Really dig
- 3 Company known for copying others' material?
- 4 Talks too much
- 5 Morning droplets
- 6 Atlantic, e.g.
- 7 "Know your rights" org.
- 8 Unwilling to bend
- 9 French word before "cuisine" or "couture"
- 10 Breakfast hrs.
- 11 Ran across
- 12 Book reviewers, briefly
- 15 "Time to get a move on!"
- 21 Former VP Agnew
- 23 Body spray brand
- 26 "Deal!"
- 28 Mango dip
- 29 Do a kitchen job
- 30 Word in many college names
- 31 Brakes too fast, maybe
- 33 ___-majeste (high treason)
- 34 Twenty dispensers
- 35 Use clippers
- 36 Croatian-born engineer Nikola
- 37 Manta's cousin
- 38 Do really poorly
- 40 Pizza chain started in Chicago, informally
- 41 Obsessive anime fan
- 45 Least spiteful
- 46 "SNL" alum Gasteyer
- 49 Country house
- 50 Line to the audience
- 51 Toy company known for pop culture collectibles
- 52 "Good ___"
- 53 Designation of some meat markets
- 55 "That's a mistake ..."
- 57 Do stuff?
- 58 List closing
- 59 "Read Across America" org.
- 60 Long-nosed fish
- 62 "The Joy Luck Club" author Amy

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Answers Page 21

SUDOKU

Advanced

			1	6			3	
	3							5
7				8				
				7			6	
4								
	9	8	6		2			
			7	9				4
8	7	4					1	
		5			3			7

TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and outlined 3-by-3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. No guessing is required. The solution is unique.

Answers on page 21

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezсны

Jan. 2 - Jan. 7, 2020

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "We are all hostages of the joy of which we deprive ourselves," wrote poet Odysseus Elytis. Isn't that an astounding idea? That we refuse to allow ourselves to experience some of the bliss and pleasure we could easily have; and that we are immured inside that suppressed bliss and pleasure? I call on you, Aries, to rebel against this human tendency. As I see it, one of your main tasks in 2020 is to permit yourself to welcome more bliss, to aggressively seize more pleasure, and thereby free yourself from the rot of its nullification.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): At age 22, Taurus-born Dutch citizen Willem de Kooning sneaked into the United States. He was a stowaway on an Argentina-bound freighter, and stealthily disembarked when the ship made a stop in Virginia. As he lived in America during subsequent decades, he became a renowned painter who helped pioneer the movement known as abstract expressionism. His status as an illegal immigrant rarely presented any obstacles to his growing success and stature. Not until age 57 did he finally become an American citizen. I propose we make him one of your role models in 2020. May he inspire you to capitalize on being a maverick, outsider, or stranger. May he encourage you to find opportunities beyond your safety zone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): When British novelist E. M. Forster was in his late 30s, he had sex with another person for the first time. Before that he had published five novels. After that, he produced just one more novel, though he lived till age 91. Why? Was he having too much fun? Looking back from his old, age, he remarked that he would "have been a more famous writer if I had published more, but sex prevented the latter." I suspect that sensual pleasure and intimacy will have the exact opposite effect on you in 2020, Gemini. In sometimes mysterious ways, they will make you more productive in your chosen sphere.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "Every part of our personality that we do not love will regress and become hostile to us," wrote poet Robert Bly. I don't know anyone who doesn't suffer from this problem at least a little. That's the bad news. The good news for us Cancerians (yes, I'm a Crab!) is that 2020 will be a favorable time to engage in a holy crusade to fix this glitch: to feel and express more love for parts of our personality that we have dismissed or marginalized. The result? Any self-sabotage we have suffered from in the past could dramatically diminish.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): As a young adult, Leoborn Raymond Chandler worked as a fruit-picker, tennis racquet-stringer, and bookkeeper. At age 34, he began a clerical job at the Dabney Oil Syndicate, and eventually rose in the ranks to become a well-paid executive. The cushy role lasted until he was 44, when he was fired. He mourned for a while, then decided to become an author of detective fiction. It took a while, but at age 50, he published his first novel. During the next 20 years, he wrote six additional novels as well as numerous short stories and screenplays—and in the process became popular and influential. I present this synopsis as an inspirational story to fuel your destiny in 2020.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The fame of Virgo-born Italian poet Ludovico Ariosto (1474-1533) has persisted through the ages because of "Orlando Furioso", an epic poem he authored. It tells the story of the Christian knight Orlando and his adoration for a pagan princess. This great work did not come easily to Ariosto. It wasn't until he had written 56 versions of it that he was finally satisfied. I suspect you may harbor an equally perfectionist streak about the good works and labors of love you'll craft in 2020. May I suggest you confine your experiments to no more than ten versions?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Leonardo da Vinci worked on his painting "The Last Supper" from 1495 to 1498. It's a big piece—about 15 by 29 feet. That's one reason why he took so long to finish. But there was another explanation, too. He told

his patron, the Duke of Milan, that he sometimes positioned himself in front of his painting-in-progress and simply gazed at and thought about it, not lifting a brush. Those were times he did some of his hardest work, he said. I trust you will have regular experiences like that in 2020, Libra. Some of your best efforts will arise out of your willingness and ability to incubate your good ideas with concentrated silence and patience.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): By 1895, Henry James had already published 94 books. He was renowned in the U.S. and England, and had written the works that would later lead to him being considered for a Nobel Prize. Then, at age 52, although he was not physically fit, he decided to learn how to ride a bicycle. He paid for lessons at a bicycle academy, and cheerfully tolerated bruises and cuts from his frequent falls as an acceptable price to pay for his new ability. I admire James' determination to keep transforming. Let's make him a role model for you in 2020. May he inspire you to keep adding new aptitudes as you outgrow your previous successes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): When Sagittarian composer Ludwig van Beethoven created the "Eroica" symphony in the early 1800s, many observers panned it. They said its rhythms were eccentric, that it was too long. One critic said it was "glaring and bizarre," while another condemned its "undesirable originality." This same critic concluded, "Genius proclaims itself not in the unusual and fantastic but in the beautiful and sublime." Today, of course, "Eroica" has a different reputation. It's regarded as a breakthrough event in musical history. I'll go on record here, Sagittarius, to say that I suspect you created your own personal version of "Eroica" in 2019. 2020 is the year it will get the full appreciation it deserves, although it may take a while. Be patient.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I'm going to speculate that sometime in the next six months, you will experience events that years from now you'll look back on as having been the beginning of a fresh universe for you. What should you call this launch? I suggest you consider elegant terms like "Destiny Rebirth" or "Fate Renewal" rather than a cliché like the "Big Bang." And how should you celebrate it? As if it were the Grand Opening of the rest of your long life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In 2020, I believe you will be able to summon the insight and kismet necessary to resolve at least one long-running problem, and probably more. You'll have an enhanced ability to kick bad habits and escape dead-ends and uncover liberating truths about mysteries that have flustered you. Frustrations and irritations you've grudgingly tolerated for far too much time will finally begin to wane. Congratulations in advance, Aquarius! The hard work you do to score these triumphs won't always be delightful, but it could provide you with a curiously robust and muscular kind of fun.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let's say you wanted to dress completely in silk: shirt, pants, vest, scarf, socks, shoes, hat, underwear all made of silk. And let's say your dream was to grow and process and weave the silk from scratch. You'd start with half an ounce of silkworm eggs. They'd hatch into 10,000 silkworms. Eventually those hard-working insects would generate five pounds of silk—enough to create your entire outfit. So in other words, you'd be able to generate an array of functional beauty from a small but concentrated amount of raw material. By the way, that last sentence is a good description of what I think your general approach should be in 2020. And also by the way, dressing in silk wouldn't be too crazy an idea in the coming months. I hope you'll have fun cultivating your allure, style, and flair.

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

NEW LOCAL MUSIC TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2020: SUPER SECRET CULT BAND



The Super Secret Cult Band features Dylan Rogers, aka "Brother Dylan," on guitar and vocals, and co-vocalists "Sister Abbey" (Hoffman) and "Brother Michael" (McConeghy). (photo by Jeana-Dee Allen)



Cover art for Super Secret Cult Band's debut, three-song EP, which is streamed at the Lansing-based group's site: bandcamp.com/supersecretcultband.

LUVS side-project digs into cult culture on a series of upcoming EPs

Dylan Rogers is a busy guy. He and his wife, Jeana-Dee Allen, own and operate The Robin Theatre in REO Town while spearheading other musical and artistic endeavors, like fronting the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle (LUVS), a theatrical gypsy-folk group.

Now, Rogers is delving a bit into the dark side — at least that's the premise of Super Secret Cult Band, his newly formed trio that wholly dresses and looks the part.

The offbeat group, which formed in the summer of 2019, includes Rogers (aka "Brother Dylan") on guitar and vocals, while "Sister" Abbey Hoffman and "Brother" Michael McConeghy share vocal duties.

With their tongues planted firmly in their cheeks, and donning black ritual-style robes, the trio sings happily and literally about Lovecraftian horror, doomsday-cult culture, esoteric religion, politics and overall existential dread.

Sonically, it's the members shared interest in '50s vocal-harmony groups and sugary retro-pop rhythms that lightens up the absurd, paranoid lyric sheets.

On Black Friday, the group released the first of three EPs to be released in 2020. Once all three are unveiled, a full-length record, including previously unreleased tracks, will compile their complete works.

So far, the band has played only a few shadowy shows, including an early test run on the third floor of the Turner-Dodge House and a double set at The Robin Theatre in October.

"Our live performances are intended to conjure an intimate and irreverently ceremonial vibe," Rogers explained. "The band performs around a single, large diaphragm condenser microphone. Think 'O Brother Where Art Thou,' but with more skulls, robes and candles."

Rogers lyrics are filled with doom and gloom, so why the heavenly '50s chord

structures and sweet doo-wop-inspired vocal harmonies?

"The stripped-down acoustic sound puts the focus on the message," Rogers said. "It's about spreading the good word about the imminent destruction of mankind, by forces outside of our control or comprehension."

The Super Secret Cult Band is unquestionably unique, but the members still tip their hats to spook-rock icons like Screamin' Jay Hawkins ("I Put a Spell On You") and Screamin' Lord Sutch ("Jack the Ripper"). Pair that with the horror-themed vibes of psychobilly acts like The Coffinshakers, and the vocal stylings of Nickel Creek, and you're somewhere in the sonic ballpark.

"Literary influences like HP Lovecraft and Thomas Ligotti have also been instrumental to this project, along with the classic Universal Studios monster films," Rogers added.

Where the group truly sets its self

apart from the rest is very apparent on its debut EP. The release kicks off with "Fanatical Hoarder" and concludes with "Cult Band" and "Every Conspiracy Theory is True." While the lyrics are calculatedly absurd, Rogers said they truly reflect niche pockets of actual hysteria that's been brewing for ages.

"The first song tells the story of a doomsday prepper who becomes disenchanted with a life spent waiting for the end of the world," he said. "The second is an autobiographical song about discovering a sense of purpose in the pages of a musty tome. The third is an educational number, inspired by some of the more prominent fringe theories of our day."

To sample the tunes, visit supersecretcultband.bandcamp.com or follow them on Instagram for videos and images.



Upcoming show? Contact
Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

DESTINATION	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave..	Trivia Night: Adventure Time 10PM	Karaoke 8:30PM	Movie Night 8PM	
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.				Starry Cat Paint Party 3PM
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River, East Lansing	Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM	
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Old School - DJ Jalase 8:30PM			
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Karaoke	Mix Pack	The Hangover	
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee		Live Music with Be Kind Rewind 8PM	Live Music with Shelby & Jake 8PM	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.				Sunday Laughs 7PM
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Winter Wonder LAN 2K20 8PM	Room 101 EP Release Party 7PM	Birdie Country 7PM
Spiral, 1247 Center St.		Turn Up Friday 9PM	Pride Saturday 9PM	Gloss Sunday 9PM
Unicorn, 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing		Live Music with Chris Canas Band 9PM	Live Music with Be Kind Rewind Duo 9PM	
Wildlife Pub, 6380 Drumeller Rd., Bath			Open Mic 7:30PM	

From Page 18

Pine Tree Rd., Lansing. 810-938-2410. deathcafe.com.

Ingham County 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show and Workshop2020 - Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E Ash St, Mason. canr.msu.edu.

Winter Farmers' Market - JCPenney wing, Meridian Mall, Grand River Ave., Okemos.

ARTS

Country Stitches Quilt-A-Thon - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Country Stitches, 2200 Coolidge Rd., East Lansing. countrystitches.com.

Family Day - at the MSU Broad! 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr., East Lansing.

Scavenger Hunt Saturdays at the Michigan History Museum - self-guided scavenger hunts in the museum galleries – complete with prizes! 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-420-1342.

Sunday, January 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Juggling - Learn how to juggle! 2-4 p.m. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Storytime with Solinox - Bring your kids for different stories from mythology.

5:30-6:30 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministries, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-657-5800.

Warm Winter Readers begins - 10am-9pm. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

EVENTS

Greater Lansing Vegan Potluck - Everyone is welcome! 6-8 p.m. Clerical Technical Union, MSU @ 2990 E Lake Lansing Rd, East Lansing. vegmichigan.org.

Ice Age: Take a step back 1.8 million years. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org

Winter Walks at CCBS - 9-10:30 a.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Drive, Lansing, Okemos. michiganaudubon.org.

ARTS

Art House: Open Studio Time. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

MUSIC

Singer & Songwriter Craig Hendershott - ! 4-6 p.m. Ellison Brewery + Spirits, 4903 Dawn Ave, East Lansing.

Monday, January 6

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aqua Fitness - 10:30-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Business Model Workshop - 9-10 a.m. Gaynor Entrepreneurship Lab, 651 N. Shaw Ln, East Lansing.

Homeschool Study Group - 1-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Intro to Italian Conversation - 3-4 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Warm Winter Readers begins - 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge.

EVENTS

Game Night at the Fledge - Board and card games. 7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka, Lansing. 517-203-9287.

Refuge Recovery Lansing - 6-7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka Street, Lansing.

Tuesday, January 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aqua Fitness - 10:30-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Get Healthy in 2020 With a Plant-Based Diet - presented by Dr. Robert Breakey, M.D. 6:30-8 p.m. Capital Area District Library, 401 S Capitol Ave, Lansing. vegmichigan.org.

Math Seminar Series – Colloquium Speaker: Xiumin Du, University of Maryland. 4:10-5 p.m. C304 Wells Hall, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Microbiology & Molecular Genetics Seminar - 4:10 p.m. 122 Wells Hall, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Zumba - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. 517-882-2838.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Paws for Reading at GLADL - 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Preschool Storytime - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Warm Winter Readers begins - 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

EVENTS

Prime Time Crime Time - 1-3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Yawn Patrol Toastmasters - 7-8:30 a.m. Two Men and Truck Corporate, 3400 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. 517-214-3327. yawnpatrol.com.



SATURDAY, JAN. 4 >> YOGA AT LANSING BREWING CO.



Hosted by Katy Joe Yoga, this is an all-levels vinyasa flow. Pose modifications for beginners and more advanced yogis will be taught during this session. Afterward, cool down with a cold pint of Lansing-made beer. First pint comes with the practice.

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518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
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lansingbrewingcompany.com

SUNDAY, JAN. 5 >> BIRDY COUNTRY AT MAC'S BAR



Local indie rock outfits Birdie Country, Loud Thoughts and Sunpaper take on Mac's Bar. Anticipate small-town rocker swagger, slightly charming chill-rock and cheese.

7 to 10 p.m., Adv. \$8, Door \$10
2700 E. Michigan, Lansing
(517) 484-6795
macsbar.com

SUNDAY JAN. 5 >> ART HOUSE AT LANSING ART GALLERY



Need space to work on an art project, need inspiration or want to meet other makers? Bring your own materials, coffee or your favorite beverage. Water will be provided.

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
119 N. Washington Square, Ste 101, Lansing
lansingartgallery.com
(517) 374-6400.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Resolutions and rosé for 2020

By **JUSTIN KING**

This year was kind of a stressful one, yes? Maybe not for everyone. But it felt intense. The beauty of Jan. 1 is that it's our chance to reflect on our choices from the last year, reset and forge a new path for ourselves.

Regarding where wine falls into this, there are a few relevant and common resolutions:

1. Lose Weight and Exercise More.
2. Save Money
3. Consume with Personal Ethics in mind

First, if you're counting calories, it's good to know where calories come from. The simple answer is carbohydrates (sugar), and alcohol. So if you want a lower calorie wine, you should find one that is low in sugar and alcohol. Double bonus, if you find some that are affordable that are also the kinds of wines that you like.

Generally, many vague wine blends made by corporate entities have more residual sugar than most. This is because these large companies have surmised that wine drinkers don't like dry wines. In the United States, producers are not required to tell you how much sugar is in a wine. And let me tell you, sugar is all up in those blends on the shelf.

Your best bet for low-calorie wine

is to find dry, lower-alcohol wines (say...12% or less). Where are these wines made? What do they taste like? And are they tasty and affordable?

One of the first categories that comes to mind is dry white wine from Bordeaux, France.

The 2016 Chateau Laguerre Bordeaux blanc checks all the resolution boxes. It's a humble \$12 blend of sauvignon blanc and Semillon from the sub region of Entre-Deux-Mers. This is not a citrus bomb of sauvignon blanc that you might expect from New Zealand or California. This is a bit funky. It gives plenty of lemon and orange-like flavors, but it's also very mineral/chalky. If you can't find this bottling, there are many other dry whites from Bordeaux that can easily replace it.

Buying from Michigan wineries presents a few opportunities as well. The 2016 Bowers Harbor red blend is so easily up the middle for various preferences. It's not a bitter wine. It's lighter but dry. It's not clumsy. The fruit is fresh and juicy; red and black fruits are obvious but not overtly jammy and sloppy. At \$16, it is a great local selection for this year.

If you drink fruity, dry rosé, the 2018 Domaine Skouras "Zoe" is like a cherry/watermelon fruit salad. It's

refreshing and only about \$15. The grapes are indigenous to Greece (agiorgitiko and moschofilero), and the soil on mainland Greece is clearly ideal for these wines.

If you like to snack on asparagus, oysters or some bangin' french fries, this wine can work for that. I think this would also be excellent with sauteed asparagus.

Consuming ethically is a complex, nuanced concept to tackle. Where does one draw the line? Do you purchase a wine made by a winery owned by a big tobacco company? Do you purchase wine made by a company that is known internally for treating employees horribly? Many of these wines exist.

I've decided to never pour Montevertine's "Le Pergole Torte," because the owner is very on the record with angrily articulated racially charged statements directed at immigrants. Yes, Le Pergole Torte is delicious and a benchmark of Sangiovese. But there are hundreds of others out there made by less problematic people.

How many of us espouse the superiority of organic food purchasing, yet buy organic food made 4,000 miles away? What's that carbon footprint look like compared to purchasing tomatoes grown 10 miles away?

How many of us talk a good game about localvorkism, but purchase fast fashion produced in Bangladesh?

We all owe ourselves some time for reflection, this writer included. That's what resolutions are so good for. Even if some of the surrounding discussion is done in jest, it's the one time of year that collectively we open up some engagement about the process of self-reflection. It's healthy.

Hopefully we can all find ways to be a little healthier in 2020. Eating smarter. Listening better to friends and loved ones. Being more patient (with ourselves and others). I'm on the hook for many of these. I look forward to that journey.

Justin King is an Advanced Sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers. He is owner of Bridge Street Social, a wine and cocktails-focused restaurant in DeWitt, and the future Bar Mitena, a Spanish winebar



Justin King/City Pulse

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