Tigers Take the Field for Spring Training

George B. Eichorn

It’s easily one of the most fun times of the year. Spring training brings with it unbridled optimism about a particular team’s chances for the post season. It’s no different here than in Boston, Anaheim, Miami or Seattle.

Every club is perfect so far, as they prepare for the longest marathon in sports: the Major League Baseball season. The professional Spring Season for the Tigers officially gets under way on Friday, February 24 at 1:05 p.m. as Detroit takes the field at Joker Marchant Stadium (pictured, above right) in Lakeland, Florida against the Atlanta Braves.

I was among the reporters who sat down for lunch at Sindbad’s on the river to hear Detroit Tigers GM Al Avila discuss the 2017 ball club. The most obvious battle to watch during Grapefruit League play is that who gets the starting nod (or shares it) in centerfield.

Anthony Gose (pictured) is one the guys battling for centerfield and a roster spot. “Gose is a very talented young man and he’s only 26 years old,” said Avila. “The reason we are bringing him back to spring training is we feel like, at his age, he still has the ability to reach his potential,” Avila said.

“That happened to Gose. His tools are as good as anybody’s in the big leagues. He’s got the speed. He’s got a cannon for an arm. If he makes a mistake on a route in centerfield, he can outrun the mistake and still the catch the ball.”

Others in the centerfield mix: rookie JaCoby Jones (pictured), who made a few late appearances with the Tigers last September, veteran Tyler Collins who proved he has a good glove and a decent bat, and newcomer Mikie Mahtook who has a checkered MLB career but could surprise this spring.

Key departures are centerfielder Cameron Maybin (mainly due to salary demands) and catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia. Tigers didn’t add much this off-season, either; Catcher Alex Avila (the GM’s son, who played with Chicago’s White Sox last season) is back and pitcher Daniel Stumpf (Phillies) were added as insurance for the historically suspect bullpen, yet the Tigers return with basically the same cast (including future Hall of Famers, Miggy & JV, pictured, top left) that missed the playoffs on the final weekend of the regular season last fall.

Some Lakeland battles to watch are the spare infielder and outfielder positions, and the last couple of bullpen spots. Otherwise, Tiger brass hopes to avoid Florida injuries and set a roster that can contend with 2016 AL Champions Cleveland and 2015 World Champion Kansas City for first place in the AL Central. This won’t be easy.

Perhaps one of the strongest incentives for this year’s team will be to finally bring home the title that their late owner, Mr. I., so passionately desired. A Detroit Tigers’ World Series Championship would be the most fitting tribute to one of baseball’s finest gentlemen. Reach George at geichorn@yahoo.com.
Cranbrook Featured for DAM Scholarship & Exhibition

The Detroit Artists Market (DAM) Annual Scholarship and Exhibition Program has selected ten outstanding graduate students from Cranbrook Academy of Art as finalists for the John F. Korachis Scholarship Awards Program. The DAM exhibition will present works by the ten scholarship finalists along with many distinguished alumni and faculty of Cranbrook. The DAM exhibition opening will be Friday, March 3 from 6-10 p.m. and will run through Saturday, April 8. The ten graduate student finalists of this year’s scholarship awards were chosen for their originality, commitment and exceptional art work.

All the outstanding works of art on display in this exhibition will be available for purchase. The DAM gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays. The event is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the lot directly behind the DAM Gallery.

For information, call (313) 832-8540 or see detroitartistsmarket.org.

The Detroit Artists Market is located in the Detroit Cultural Center at 4719 Woodward Avenue, on the corner of Woodward and West Forest.
CITY SCENE

DSO's Classical Roots Celebrate Black History Month

Laydell Harper

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) Classical Roots has celebrated Black History Month for 39 years. The celebration goes beyond the walls of Orchestra Hall and reaches out into the community to schools, churches and social gatherings. The mission of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Classical Roots Celebration is to increase awareness of the contributions of African-American composers and musicians through performance and recordings and to support increased opportunities for African-Americans in classical music through the DSO’s African-American Composer Residency, Emerging Composer Program and African-American Fellowship is paramount. It is a special time...because Classical Roots is a special event with special meaning and goals.

This year the DSO’s 39th Annual Classical Roots Celebration will honor trumpeter, composer, and Fred A. & Barbara M. Erb Jazz Creative Chair Terence Blanchard and MacArthur Fellow Regina Carter (pictured).

The concert will take place at Orchestra Hall, Friday, March 3 at 8 p.m. It is an entire evening of wonderful entertainment that includes; a pre-concert strolling dinner and an after-glow celebration in The Cube. The lineup this year is a program you don’t want to miss.

The DSO will present the world premiere of a new piece by Classical Roots honoree Blanchard, titled Detroit 67 for Choir and Orchestra, marking the 50th anniversary of Detroit’s tumultuous summer of 1967, when five days of civil unrest altered the face of the city, with reverberations that last to this day. The premiere of Blanchard’s piece is an element of the DSO’s partnership with Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward, a multi-year community engagement project of the Detroit Historical Society that brings together diverse voices and communities around the effects of an historic crisis to find their place in the present and inspire the future.

( Please note: Blanchard does not perform on the piece, which is scored for orchestra and voice.)

Regina Carter will be the featured soloist in David Schiff’s Four Sisters Concerto, which pays tribute to Aretha Franklin, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and Sarah Vaughan. “This piece features four very important and distinct voices in American music,” said Carter.

“These women all had to deal with racial discrimination, and through their determination and artistry they found a way to rise above the ugliness and offer the world a bit of hope during turbulent times.”

Kazem Abdullah will conduct the program, which also includes cellist Christine Lamprea and the Brazeal Dennard Chorale.

“The DSO’s Classical Roots Celebration is an annual tradition, celebrating African-American musicians and composers whose contributions transcend time and place while rooting us deeply in our community,” says Marlowe Stoudamire, Director of the Detroit 67 Project.

“The debut of Terence Blanchard’s piece demonstrates the role art can play in making history relevant in the present as we come together to tell our story and inspire our future.”

One of the highlights of the DSO Classical Roots tribute is the black tie gala fundraiser that was founded to celebrate and raise awareness of the contributions of African-Americans to classical music and supports increased opportunities through special programs, such as the DSO’s African-American Orchestral Fellowship Program, a mentoring opportunity for young professional musicians. The gala event will be held just prior to the concert at The Cube beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a reception.

Guests will enjoy a full evening of dinner, an incredible concert, and dancing. The Celebration begins with a strolling dinner in The Cube featuring performances by the DSO Civic Jazz Ensemble, followed by the Classical Roots concert at 8 p.m. in Orchestra Hall.

Following the concert, guests are invited to a dancing and dessert afterglow in the Atrium and The Cube.

Co-chairing the 2017 Classical Roots Celebration are Jason Tinsley and Therese Peace, with the support of more than 30 Detroit-area volunteers and corporate leaders committed to the Classical Roots mission.

In keeping with the mission to create an awareness in the community the DSO has made numerous appearances in the community, and on Sunday, February 19, a DSO quartet visited Hartford Memorial Baptist Church to perform before a packed audience.

Additionally, a Classical Roots chamber recital will take place on Monday, February 27, at 7 p.m. at Plymouth United Church of Christ (600 E. Warren Ave., Detroit), featuring DSO musicians performing pieces by Jessie Montgomery, William Grant Still, and Daniel Bernard Roumain. The recital is free and open to the public.

Tickets for the DSO’s Classical Roots concerts begin at $15 and can be purchased at dso.org, by calling (313) 576-5111, or in person at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center (3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit).

Classical Roots Celebration tickets—which include the preconcert reception and strolling dinner, the Classical Roots concert, and the post-concert afterglow—start at $175 ($75 for Young Friends, age 40 and under).

For further information or to reserve tickets, please call (313) 576-5120.
**SYMPHONIC NEWS**

**Ruth's Music Notes...**

**Ruth Crystal-Zaromp**

The end of February is not here yet, but we seem to be coming into a spring session. However, knowing Michigan, no good thing lasts forever (which is true for the rest of the world as well).

I am sorry to announce that the operation of Fort Street Presbyterian Church Concert Choir has been suspended for the duration of the spring season. This choir marked the lifelong efforts and achievements of Edward Kingins. Even though there were no auditions towards membership, it became one of the better choirs of Metropolitan Detroit. I have just received a recording of last year's spring performance. In addition to the choral performance of Bach's Little Mass in G, Dr. David Wagner's performance on the refurbished organ was truly magnificent. (Disclosure: I have been a member of this choir for the past several years.)

The Cranbrook Music Guild featured the Morgenstern Trio last Wednesday, February 15 at Christ Church Cranbrook. This group is based in Germany, and is impressive in its impeccable and energetic style. While each performer has its own distinguished attributes, there is nevertheless a sense of overall unity. The program featured works by Haydn, Frank Bridge and Mendelssohn. The next program by the Cranbrook Music Guild will be taking place on April 11, 7:30 p.m., featuring the Jasper String Quartet and is highly recommended.

For more details, see cranbrookmusicguild.org.

The DSO is performing Mendelssohn's Italian (4th) Symphony this coming weekend, as well as Hummel's bassoon's concerto. The soloist is DSO's assistant principal bassoonist, Michael Kë Ma. The conductor, Elim Chan was born in 1986 in Hong Kong. She received her master's and doctor degrees in music from the University of Michigan and has been active as a conductor since 2014. This program is of the William Davidson Neighborhood Concert Series and will take place at the Berman Theater, West Bloomfield, on Thursday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m., Friday in Canton at 8 p.m., Saturday at 8 p.m. in Bloomfield Hills, and Sunday at 3 p.m. in Grosse Pointe. For further information, check wwww.DSO.org.

Opera MODO is a new and exciting opera company in Detroit, dedicated to creating opportunities for young and emerging artists. Founded in 2011 in Princeton, New Jersey, Opera MODO produces intriguing and modern, classical to contemporary operas. Opera MODO is currently presenting Giuseppe Verdi's immortal comedy Falstaff. It features characters from Shakespeare's The Merry Wives of Windsor and Henry IV. This, Verdi’s final opera, tells the story of the oafish knight Falstaff’s (played by Evan Ross, pictured) attempts to seduce wealthy Alice Ford and Meg Page. Falstaff provides an insight to marriage, gender, deception, and love. That’s a rare treat of Verdi together with a sense of humor that I hope not to miss (my husband keeps saying that I need some of that quality myself).

Opera MODO will present four performances of Falstaff: Thursday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m., Friday, February 24 at 7:30 pm, Saturday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m., and as well as a 2:30 pm matinee on Sunday, February 26. All performances will take place at Detroit's Carr Center for the Performing Arts. Each performance will feature a pre-show talk, which will offer audiences an opportunity to dive deeper into the plot and history of the opera, hosted by MODO Music Director Steven McGhee. Pre-show talks will begin thirty minutes prior to curtain. To purchase tickets, see operamodo.com or The Carr Center's website at thecarrcenter.org.

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The Downtown Monitor, in its 54th year of continuous publication, is circulated free to all points of Greater Detroit and the City Proper.

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The 4th Assembly Line Concert begins on Thursday, March 9 and will include over 384 continuous hours of live music by an extensive lineup of local artists playing everything from Motown to Electronica.

Guests can attend Assembly Line Concert for free, any hour of the day or night. Additionally on Friday, March 17, Assembly Line Concert will host an epic St. Patrick’s Day bash featuring Irish music and plenty of beer.

For details and the band lineup see assemblylineconcertdetroit.com.

For more information, contact Assembly Line Concert Founder AJ O’Neil (pictured, above) at (248) 277-2640.

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20th Annual College Weekend

More than 54 colleges & universities including the Historic Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) and several area middle and high schools will be on the campus of Second Ebenezer Church, February 24-26 for the 20th Anniversary of College Weekend. Going to college is a family affair and all are encouraged to plan early. All the resources needed to succeed will be provided at this event. In its 20th year, Second Ebenezer’s College Weekend has awarded more than $400,000 in scholarships and has reached more than 7,000 participants with the promise of higher education. New this year is a career fair sponsored by Ebsource, the church’s workforce development program. Participants are encouraged to bring their resumes and learn about both internships and career opportunities with area employers.

The career fair is Saturday, February 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. High school students, young adults and their families are invited to interface with 54 colleges from around the state and the country. They will learn about financial aid, test preparation, student banking and there will be a special workshop for parents. Admission is free and guests are encouraged to register online at secondebenezer.org.

A Battle of the Bands takes place Friday, February 24 at 6:30 p.m. Hosted by Hot 107.5 FM host Kama Smith & BET Sunday Best finalist DeAngelo Gardner, more than 10 marching bands will compete for a cash prize of $500. Tickets are $7 per person.

College Weekend closes on Sunday, February 26 with a major College Spirit Day Session at 10 a.m. For information call (313) 867-4700 or go online to secondebenezer.org. Second Ebenezer Church is located at 14601 Dequindre at I-75 and E. McNichols in Detroit.

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Outdoorama and Cottage and Lakefront Living Shows

Taking place this weekend at Novi’s Suburban Collection Showplace, the Outdoorama has consistently been one of Michigan’s most popular destinations for outdoor enthusiasts. Whether it’s hunting, fishing, boating, canoeing, hiking, camping, conservation, mushroom hunting or bird watching, this show has lots to offer. Plenty of tour guide and outdoor building, vehicle and recreation information will be on hand, and the Outfitter’s Expo area will provide the best place to book the trip of a lifetime or to entertain the family.

Dozens of free hunting and fishing seminars by national experts are scheduled, along with special appearances by Michigan Out-of-Doors TV hosts. Other special features are Big Buck Night, Wildlife Encounters, a daily Fish Fry, Trout Pond for kids, and Milt Wilcox’s Ultimate Air Dogs.

Of additional interest to those attending Outdoorama is that the show is held in conjunction with the 6th annual Cottage and Lakefront Living Show - Detroit, giving people admission to two major shows for one ticket price.

Both show’s hours are Thursday, February 23 from 1 p.m.-9 p.m.; Friday, February 24, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, February 25, from 10 a.m.-9 p.m., and Sunday, February 26, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Admission is $10 for adults, $4 for those ages 6-14, and children 5 and under are free. There is a separate parking fee in the Showplace lots.

For further information, call (800) 328-6550 or see outdoorama.com.
The 2017 Oscar Nominees: Graded On a Curve, Again

By Paul Arlon

As I’ve mentioned in past reviews, I don’t feel like this year’s list of Oscar contenders is the best we’ve ever seen. And, as for endurance, it’s my thought that there are very few of these movies that will be revisited by either film fans or academics. Just my opinion, but I would suggest that nary a one of the nominees this year would have a place on an all-time ‘Best’ list. There’s just not that kind of truly remarkable movie up for consideration.

For as long as I can remember, I’ve gravitated towards movies where the guy gets the girl and the couple gets the money...in other words, silly me, I like old-fashioned happy endings. Or, at least, those that offer a glimmer of positivity. If I have to endure a story of skin peeling pain or mind shredding emotional tragedy without redemption, well, pardon me, but I have a long list of mundanities that I’d much rather attend to in my real life... vacuuming my car’s floor mats, putting together a batch of laundry, shopping for new shoelaces, whatever – I just don’t understand the whole concept of willingly introducing vicarious suffering into my existence. Sorry tearjerker fans, but I prefer to live in a situation comedy rather than in a soap opera.

So, given my philosophy on film and storytelling in general, here are my picks for the top honors at the 2017 Oscars.

Best Actor: The strong favorite here is Casey Affleck (pictured) for Manchester By The Sea, a movie that made my list of highly-regarded critically-acclaimed films that I will never watch again.

Both Affleck and Denzel Washington for Fences (which Washington also directed), have a good shot at the statue. My hunch, it goes to Affleck. My opinion? Affleck is as good a choice as any this year. Again, not a great year for upbeat films, and the only actor, Ryan Gosling — in the only movie that fits my ‘happy’ bill, La La Land — turns in a very good performance, but not the ‘best.’

Best Actress: A fairly solid grouping, with the now loudly politically-engaged Meryl Streep in the mix (Florence Foster Jenkins) the perennial stand-out Natalie Portman as Jackie (Kennedy); the fetching middle-aged French actress Isabelle Huppert in Elle; Emma Stone in the too well-schooled by his mom’s crack dealer on how to be a man); and, finally, the much ballyhooed La La Land (pictured, Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling sing mostly on-key and then unconfidently dance with obvious hesitation across a colorful Los Angeles backdrop – they are not Fred and Ginger).

So, there you go... put this bunch up against the Best Picture winners of old Hollywood, and gee, you have to ask yourself, which one of these will be watched by future generations? With a base of followers and fan clubs wheeling the movie out at regularly scheduled showings? Yup...maybe, and really, just maybe — La La Land.

It’s not The Sound of Music, it’s not An American in Paris, it’s not Singin’ in the Rain, it’s not This is Spinal Tap... to me, it’s more like a Millennial Curse has been visited upon us, where the current generation of Hollywood whiz-kids think they’re the ones that have discovered everything, because nothing in the world existed before them.

To be honest, any Elvis Presley movie ever made is about as good as La La Land, and with better music to boot (and, even as much as I like her, Emma Stone is no Ann-Margret, either. Not even close...)

Hoo Boy... I get a little weary when looking at popular culture. La La Land is a good movie, and probably good enough to be nominated (like I said, this isn’t a stellar year for movies, anyway) but, it’s so clearly not on a par with many of the other Best Picture winners. And, to have gotten 14 nominations, the same as All About Eve, and Titanic, and if La La Land wins 12 of those categories, to have out-paced Ben Hur, Titanic, and Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King, is, well, a case study in absurdity. Will it win Best Picture? Probably. Should it win more Oscars than Ben, The Big Boat, or the Baggins’? Highly, highly debatable...

I’ll give the entirety of the 2017 Academy Awards a middling ★★☆☆☆...
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- 24-hour emergency maintenance
- Storage space
- Balconies on select units

Features & Amenities
- Semi-private 1 or 2-bedroom townhomes
- On-site management
- Well-managed community
- Spacious kitchens
- Walk-in closets
- In-unit washers and dryers
- Central Air Conditioning
- High-Speed Internet
- 24-hour emergency maintenance
- Storage space
- Balconies on select units

Application Fee; 1 Bdrm starting at $619 & 2 bdrm starting at $672.
Seniors

Gabrielle Senior Apartments
14201 2nd Ave.
Highland Park, MI 48203
(313) 865-4550
TTY (800) 649-3777
Age 62 or Better

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY
FOR 1 & 2 BEDROOMS
Conveniently located close to shopping, banking and public transportation, all within walking distance. All rents are based on income.
• Appliances Included
• Emergency Pull Cords
• Free Heat & Air Conditioning
• Balconies on Selected Units
• 24 Hour Emergency Maintenance

(313) 865-4550

River Towers
65 and Over
Featuring Spacious
1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments Homes
IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY
Spectacular Detroit Landmark building located on the Detroit River.
• Controlled Entry
• Cable Ready
• Individually controlled Heat/Air
• Emergency Pull Cords
• All appliances with washer/dryer in each apartment
• Community room with TV
• Evening Courtesy Attendant
• 24 Hour Maintenance
• Gated Parking
Please Call (313) 822-9377
8:30 am – 5:30 pm Mon – Fri

BISHOP MOORE APARTMENTS
99 MANCHESTER PARKWAY
HIGHLAND PARK, MI 48203
Accepting applications for our newly renovated 1 bedroom Senior/Disabled Apartments. Rent is based on income.
(313) 865-1552
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bella Vista Glen Apartments
369 Glendale
Highland Park, MI 48203
(313) 883-5020
Accepting Applications for our newly renovated 2 bedroom Senior/Disabled Apartments. Rent is based on income.
Mon-Fri 8am-5pm
TTY1-800-567-5857

Drivers Wanted
Flatbed Company Driver.
Experienced Class A CDL.
Home weekends! Good pay, $1K bonus, benefits. New trucks/trailers.
Nick: (855) 259-3747.

(855) 582-2265.

Travel Agent
If you are interested in Humanitarian Travel please contact me. I have a great 7 day cruise for people, who want to make difference. In the Dominican Republic. I also have two great trips planned, for 2017: Martha’s Vineyard, 7 days and Savannah, Georgia, 7 days May, 2017.
Please contact me at (313) 566-2464 or toastofthetowntravel@gmail.com.

Rentals
2 Bedroom Duplex.
369 MEYERS/7 MILE AREA.
Near NW Activities Center & Home Depot. Liv. rm., kitchen, basement, ADT alarm system, water included. $675 month.
(313) 740-3044.

New Center Area
8711 SECOND & 600 PINGREE
Subsidized Housing Studios & 1 bedroom
Appliances included
(313) 872-2463 or (313)872-3356

Jafra
Buy or Sell. Start today, make money tomorrow. Biz kits < $100
Call Veronica (313) 864 5659
Visit www.myjafra.com/vdavis1 to order online.

Music Lessons
JAFRA
Buy or Sell Avon— Shop @ County Line flea market free gift w/purchase, lots of deals, discounts and baskets! Call Nicole 313-414-AVON(2866)

Help Wanted
Part Time
On occasion Grill cook needed. Friday nite/Saturday nite hours. Call 313 864 5659
**OAKWOOD MANOR SENIOR LIVING**
14825 NEHLS AVE, EASTPOINTE, MI
Eastpointe’s finest place for Seniors 55 and older

- Two bedroom apartments available
- Beautiful neighborhood setting
- Community rm.
- Library w/Big Screen TV
- Fitness rm.
- Laundry facility.

2 Bedrooms rent for $705. Income restrictions apply.

(586) 359-2805

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**COTS ON THE BLVD**
Two and Three Bedroom Apartment Homes available in our Historical Building located at 1887 W. Grand Blvd, Detroit 48208

Office Hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Two and Three Bedrooms available.

ALL UTILITIES are included in the rent
HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS are accepted

To fill out an application and to view the community
Call (313) 361-1300 or (313) 935-9363

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**Rentals**

**ST. ANTOINE GARDENS**

Because “Your” Special — $99 Security Deposit and NO APPLICATION FEE!

1 BR Suites available immediately. Income restrictions, vouchers welcome. Rent $680 mo.
Includes heat and hot water!

Call for details and schedule your appointment today.
Office hours M-F 9-5

Tel: 313.833.0175

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**Legal Services**

Michigan Drivers License restoration and DOT-SAP return to duty evals. Mid-town, expert evaluator. Free Consultation.
(313) 673-9073.

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**Records Wanted**

**CASH for RECORDS**
Michigan’s No. 1 Independent Record Store Since 1988
586-774-8480 Ask for Dan
23013 Gratiot • Eastpointe

**RECORDS WANTED**
45s & LPs • Best Prices Paid
PEOPLES RECORDS
1464 Gratiot Ave., Detroit
Across from Eastern Market
313-831-0864
2nd Location at:
20140 Livernois, 2 Blocks South of 8 Mile
peoplesdetroit.com

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**Clothing Give-A-Way**

CRAIG MEMORIAL TABERNACLE
14201 Puritan, Detroit 48227
Winter/Spring/Summer Give-A-Way!! Men, women & children clothes, shoes, coats, etc. Saturday, March 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Get your DOWNTOWN MONITOR every Thursday at Dutch Girl Donuts
19000 Woodward @ 7 Mi.
Ahmed Gallab uses a disciplined mind and an artistic heart to unite rhythms and styles from his native Sudan with East and West African influences. The universal soul music – stylistically nostalgic and simultaneously ultra-modern – urges audiences to move, relate and be. Gallab will be joined by his bandmates as they tour in support of their latest release, Life & Livin’ It.

At 6:30 p.m. Gallab will lead a youth workshop on art and identity.

Presented in partnership with Take on Hate.

MORE INFO + TICKETS: www.bit.ly/GFwinter17