

WINDY CITY TIMES

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PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT



Terry Cosgrove marks 30 years as Personal PAC CEO.

Photo courtesy of Personal PAC



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SWEET SUCCESS

Lost Larson delivers the goods while fulfilling other goals.

Photo courtesy of Bree Schaffer

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CHICAGO HOUSE

Organization looks into alleged internal theft.

Photo of Board Chair Ryan Garrison courtesy of Garrison



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Chaon Cross from Court Theatre's *Lady from the Sea*.
Photo by Joe Mazza



SPRING THEATER PREVIEW

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Find out what plays and musicals are on the slate this season

Interviews, charts and LGBTQ info about the 2020 Illinois primary elections, plus a Super Tuesday roundup



RACE TO THE BALLOT

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UPCOMING 2020

WINDY CITY TIMES PRINT DATES:

March 18, 2020	May 13, 2020	July 8, 2020
April 1, 2020	May 27, 2020	July 22, 2020
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April 29, 2020	June 24, 2020	

online exclusives at
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AMAZING GRACE

Gaywheels says that the 2020 Jeep Wrangler (left) and a diesel engine go together like Grace and Frankie.

Photo courtesy of Gaywheels

POLITICAL PLATFORMS



Visit WCT's website for more interviews with political candidates such as Jimmy Garfield (above).

Photo courtesy of Garfield

MIND OVER 'MATTER'

The unique exhibit "The Allure of Matter" shows Chinese material art at two venues on opposite sides of the city.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

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plus
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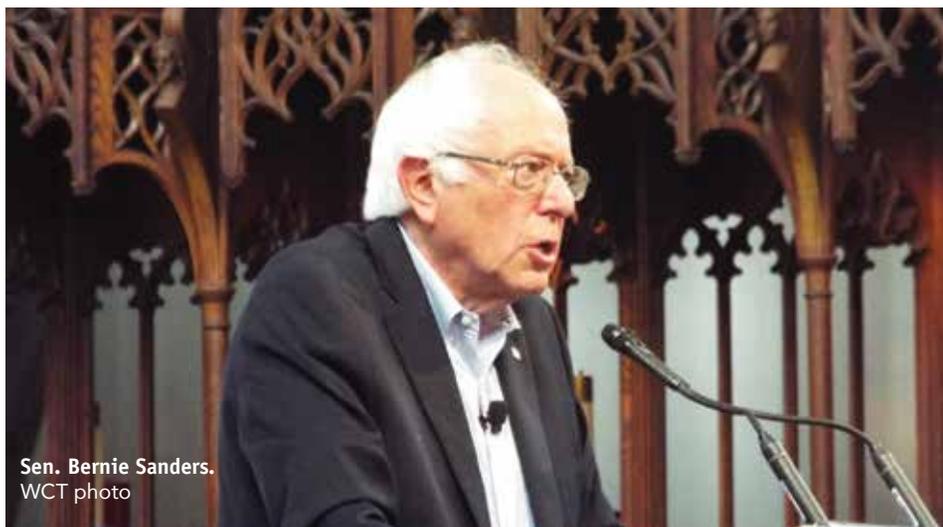
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Sen. Bernie Sanders.
WCT photo



Joe Biden.
Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

Biden makes big Super Tuesday primary gains

BY MATT SIMONETTE
AND ANDREW DAVIS

The tumultuous primary season only intensified March 3 as voters in 14 states and one territory went to the polls to make their choices for the Democratic candidate who'll face off against incumbent President Donald Trump in November, among other races.

The Democrats' electoral landscape was significantly reconfigured a few days before, as centrist candidates Pete Buttigieg—the first openly LGBT Democratic presidential candidate—and Sen. Amy Klobuchar both withdrew from the race and gave their endorsements to Joe Biden. Biden, basking in a first-place victory in the South Carolina pri-

mary, was able to seize the media's "momentum" narrative from Sen. Bernie Sanders and went on to primary victories in several states March 3.

Besides Biden and Sanders, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, billionaire Michael Bloomberg and U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard were all competing for the Democratic nomination March 3.

While the Super Tuesday was hyped by the media and political campaigns as a pivoting-point, its true impact on the election likely won't be determined until well after March 3. The endgame in presidential primary contests is accumulating pledged convention delegates, and determining those is sometimes a more convoluted process than counting votes, particularly in populous states such as California, which was in play Super Tuesday.

As Windy City Times went to press the evening of March 3 (following results on Politico and CNN), the following results were in:

—Alabama: Biden readily won the state with 62.4 percent of the vote, followed by Sanders (16.9 percent), Michael Bloomberg (12.3 percent) and Warren (5.6 percent). Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions appeared poised to win the Republican primary to compete for his old U.S. Senate seat; among Sessions' opponents was anti-LGBT activist judge Roy Moore.

—Arkansas: Biden led with 35.8 percent of the vote, followed by Sanders (20.9 percent), Bloomberg (19.2 percent) and Warren (12.6 percent). Buttigieg nevertheless had 6.4 percent of the vote, presumably thanks to early voting.

—California: The AP projected Bernie Sanders as the winner of the state with the most delegates (415) as of 10:18 p.m. CT.

—Colorado: Sanders won with about 36 percent of the vote, followed by Bloomberg (22.7 percent, Biden (21.3 percent), Warren (17.2 percent) and Gabbard (1.2 percent).

—Maine: Biden (34.1 percent) etched out a narrow lead ahead of Sanders (33.3 percent). They were followed by Warren (16 percent) and Bloomberg (11.7 percent).

—Massachusetts: Warren came in third in her home state, capturing just 11.5 percent of the

vote there. Biden won, followed by Sanders (27.3 percent), Warren and Bloomberg and Buttigieg. Former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld, a Republican, mounted a primary challenge against Trump, but he was trounced by the incumbent president, receiving only 9 percent of the vote in his home state.

—Minnesota: Biden won Klobuchar's home state with 38.2 percent of the vote; he was followed by Sanders (30.2 percent), Warren (15.8 percent) and Bloomberg (8.3 percent).

—North Carolina: With 87 percent of the ballots counted, Biden won the state, with 43 percent of the vote, followed by Sanders (24 percent) and Bloomberg (13 percent). Two transgender individuals are competing for legislator positions in the Tarheel State for the first time.

—Oklahoma: Biden was called the projected winner in The Sooner State shortly after 9 p.m. CT. With 76 percent of the vote in, Biden had 38.2 percent of the vote.

—Tennessee: Voters in some areas of this state had an unusual obstacle in the form of several tornadoes that took the lives of almost two dozen people, at last report. However, Biden was credited with the win, with 42.5 percent of the vote

with 68 percent of all ballots counted.

—Texas: Biden may have gotten most of the Southern states on Super Tuesday, but the biggest prize in that region—Texas, with 15.3 million registered voters, including 858,000 LGBTQ individuals—went to Sanders.

—Utah: Sanders was the projected winner in Utah. With 62 percent of the vote in, Sanders had 32 percent of the vote, with Michael Bloomberg second, at 19 percent.

—Vermont: To no one's surprise, Sanders secured a win in his home state, garnering 16 delegates. Elizabeth Warren, Sanders' progressive rival from Massachusetts, took second.

—Virginia: Biden scored a big win in this state, giving him 99 delegates. This victory relatively early in the night suggested he is enjoying genuine political momentum after his huge South Carolina primary win on Feb. 29.

—American Samoa: This unincorporated U.S. territory held a caucus. On March 2, Samoan chief Fa'alagiga Nina Tu'au-Glaude endorsed Bloomberg for president—and this became the billionaire's only win of the night.

Note: Results will be updated March 4. See WindyCityMediaGroup.com."

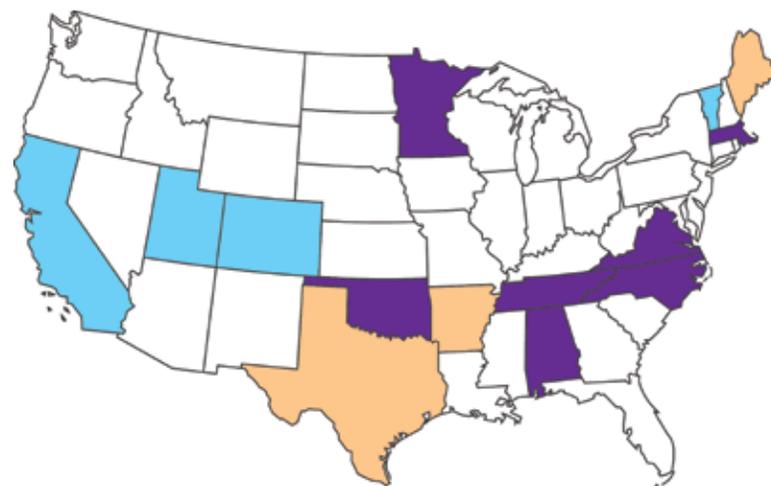
State Equality Index released

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation and the Equality Federation Institute released their 5th annual State Equality Index (SEI)—a comprehensive report detailing statewide laws and policies that affect LGBTQ people and their families, and assessing how well states are protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination.

Illinois falls into the highest-rated category, "Working Toward Innovative Equality." In 30 states, LGBTQ people remain at risk of being fired, evicted or denied services because of who they are. These top-rated states and Washington, D.C., have robust LGBTQ non-discrimination laws covering employment, housing and public accommodations.

Three states are in the category "Solidifying Equality," two are categorized as "Building Equality" and 28 are in the lowest-rated area, "High Priority to Achieve Basic Equality."

The full index is at HRC.org/campaigns/state-equality-index.



Super Tuesday state wins*

(data from Politico and CNN at press time, 11 pm, Tuesday, March 3)

■ Sen. Bernie Sanders ■ Joe Biden ■ No projection made

*Michael Bloomberg scored a win in American Samoa



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Trans scientist kicks off TGNC-affirming symposium

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Transgender climate scientist, humanist and activist Dr. Mika Tosca's keynote kicked off the day-long "Being a Stronger Ally: A Trans/GNC Affirming Symposium" Feb. 22 at the Chicago Waldorf School in Andersonville. Andersonville Chamber of Commerce's Trans/GNC Affirming Task Force hosted the event.

Tosca is a School of the Art Institute of Chicago assistant professor and Jet Propulsion Laboratory climate researcher who was featured on WTTW's Chicago Tonight show last summer to talk about her work combining art and science. Her research focuses on how human activities and climate change intersects.

Andersonville Chamber of Commerce Community and Events Manager Laura Austin welcomed approximately 80 people and spoke about the formation of the chamber's Trans/GNC Affirming Task Force in the fall of 2018.

"[The task force was created] in response to feedback that our transgender and gender nonconforming residents and visitors were being misgendered and mistreated frequently at our businesses," said Austin. "They felt unrepresented and unseen. Andersonville has always been a safe and welcoming community so we asked ourselves how and why this was happening, what changes needed to be made and what does an inclusive LGBTQ neighborhood and city look like."

Austin reminded the audience about the first "Being a Stronger Ally" workshop they held last February that helped more than 70 businesses with the tools to create safe and welcoming spaces for their transgender and gender nonconforming (GNC) customers. She also spoke about being the mother of a transgender child and wanting a

better world for them.

Tosca asked audience members if they have ever misgendered someone or been misgendered themselves—and almost all raised their hands. She also asked how that made people feel afterward, adding that everyone should keep that in mind during her talk.

Speaking about her work as a climate scientist, Tosca said the proclamations people have made that the world is ending really mean to her "No, the world is not ending—just this world is ending. But, we have an unprecedented opportunity to make the next world better, and more equitable."

Tosca added that her journey as a transgender woman has shown her the "important parallels between the existential crisis facing the planet and the existential crisis that confronts many transgender folks as we begin to reckon with and acknowledge our own gender."

In terms of the high rates of transgender people who have attempted suicide, Tosca said she is among that percentage because of instances in her adolescence where she "was hopeless and confused and dreaded the idea of transition."

Tosca said her thoughts at that time were centered on being disowned, not having any friends or not living a "normal" life. She spoke about the journey transgender people go on, from realizing their gender identity to needing allies and support because they are vulnerable and scared, to needing access to things like healthcare, jobs and public spaces including bathrooms.

When Tosca moved to Chicago two years ago, she said she was a "newly hatched egg" and chose to live in Andersonville because of the inclusiveness of the neighborhood where LGBTQ people were able to live their lives openly—al-



Dr. Mika Tosca.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

though that has not stopped her from being misgendered even there.

"[That incident] sent me into a spiral. [I was thinking,] 'I am not passing. I will never pass. Nobody sees me as a woman. Am I unsafe using the bathroom?'" said Tosca about an incident in a neighborhood Starbucks. "The fantasy was

ruined."

Tosca said the best way she thinks cisgender people can be better allies is to stop using gendered pronouns and instead use they/them or to not use pronouns at all. She added that being a better ally also means hiring transgender and gender-nonconforming people and treating them with respect among many other actions.

Following Tosca's remarks, About Face Theatre's Education Manager Amy Sheahan introduced troupe members Nico Quinn, Angelica Grace and Aimey Tien, who performed their Power in Pride spoken-word act and answered audience member's questions.

Chicago Therapy Collective trainers facilitated each session—Trans 101 with Chicago Counseling Associate's Blue, Trans-Inclusive Customer Service with The Care Plan's Jackie Boyd and Well Intentioned Organizations and Hostile Work Environments with University of Chicago's Dr. S. Simmons and Youth Empowerment Performance Project's Bonsai Bermudez.

Brave Space Alliance's Stephanie Skora and composer Allie Stephens led a civic engagement panel featuring Ald. Andre Vasquez (40th Ward), Cook County Circuit Court judicial candidate and attorney Jill Rose Quinn, community activist Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth, Helix Cafe's Caitlin Botsios and Big Jones Chef Paul Fehribach.

Among the symposium sponsors were Chicago Waldorf School, Women & Children First, Pet Food Experts, First Midwest Bank, state Rep. Kelly Cassidy (14th District) and Total Wellness Chiropractic Clinic's Dr. Kimberly Beith.

See Andersonville.org and ChicagoTherapyCollective.org.



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Physician brings LGBTQ advocacy to the AMA

BY MATT SIMONETTE

For Milwaukee-based anesthesiologist Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, M.D., becoming the chair of the board of trustees of the Chicago-based American Medical Association (AMA) stemmed from a deep commitment to health policy.

"When I'm working in the operating room, taking care of patients, I love that," said Ehrenfeld, who is openly gay. "There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a patient walk out of the hospital...able to go on and lead a healthy and productive life. But at the same time, that is a one-patient-at-a-time sort of deal—when I think about the influence that policy decisions have on impacting health, at a state and federal level, it's extraordinary."

Ehrenfeld moved to Milwaukee in 2019, after several years at Vanderbilt University. He is currently senior associate dean at the Medical College of Wisconsin School of Medicine as well as director of the school's Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin endowment.

He was first elected as an AMA officer's position in 2014 and was re-elected in 2018. Ehrenfeld is the organization's first openly LGBT officer as well as its first LGBT board of trustees chair. He called his service "an extraordinary privilege."

"There is stuff happening every day," said Ehrenfeld of the board chair position; his one-year term began in mid-2019. "The challenges that we are up against as an organization, a profession and, frankly, as a nation just don't go away. People asked me when I was elected what I wanted to do in my year as chair. There are things I do care deeply about, but what's happened this year and what will happen through the remainder [of his term] are mostly out of my control."

Among those factors, he added, were "the whims of what's happening in Washington" and the Coronavirus outbreak. "We've been deeply engaged with leadership around the country [about the outbreak] in making sure that we're adequately positioned to respond. Those are things you can't predict."

Ehrenfeld has long been active in advocating for LGBT causes, especially as they relate to health policy. He has chaired both the Massachusetts Committee on LGBT Health and the Massachusetts General Hospital LGBT Employee Resource Group, and was a member of both the board committee on quality at Fenway Community Health Center, and the Association of American Medical Colleges' LGBTI liaison group.



Jesse Ehrenfeld.
Photo courtesy
of AMA

He is also a combat veteran and has been a rights-advocate within the military as well. In early 2019, Ehrenfeld testified before the U.S. House Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee alongside five transgender service-members against the transgender military ban.

"It's very personal to me—I have so many friends who happen to be transgender, who are serving in the military who are subject to this incredibly problematic, discriminatory policy," he explained. "As somebody who served under Don't Ask Don't Tell, I know the pain of having to be dishonest in serving in an organization that you love dearly."

Ehrenfeld's term as AMA board of trustees chair ends this summer. He noted that the organization's work has rarely been more important than now, when various authorities have cast skepticism on empirical evidence and hard science.

"We need to play our role as a leading voice in medicine, particularly when it comes to our ability to provide a window into evidence and science for practitioners around the country," he added.

Advocates support health-education bill for public schools

At a press conference on Feb. 26, a group of advocates announce their support for the Responsible Education for Adolescent and Children's Health (REACH) Act, which mandates comprehensive, inclusive and age-appropriate personal health and safety education for K-12 public schools in Illinois.

Co-sponsors of the bill are state Sen. Ram Livalam (D-8) and state Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-77). Currently, 29 states mandate sex education, of which Illinois is not one.

The REACH Act outlines age-appropriate curriculum as:

—Grades K-2: instruction focuses on personal safety, identifying trusted adults who children can rely on for guidance and support, and respecting others.

—Grades 3-5: instruction continues to focus on personal safety and healthy relationships, discusses bullying, harassment, and abuse and covers topics such as anatomy, puberty, hygiene, body image, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

—Grades 6-12: instruction builds on prior instruction about healthy relationships by covering issues like consent, sexual harassment, abuse, and inter-personal violence, provides additional information on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, and covers the benefits of abstinence, behavioral changes, barrier methods like condoms, medication, contraception, and sexually transmitted infection prevention measures.

Many groups support the measure, including ALPHAS (African-American Lesbian Professionals Having A Say), Equality Illinois, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, Lambda Legal and Rainbow Cafe, among others.



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Diana Davies, *Gay Rights Demonstration, Albany, NY, 1971, 1971*. Digital print 14 x 11 inches (35.56 x 27.94 cm). Photo by Diana Davies/© The New York Public Library/Art Resource, NY

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Terry Cosgrove marks 30 years heading Personal PAC

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

For 30 years, the nonpartisan organization Personal PAC has been successfully working toward a society where reproductive justice is the law of the land across Illinois.

To celebrate this milestone, Personal PAC will be holding a roast Saturday, March 7, 7-10 p.m., at the Weinberg/Newton Gallery, 688 N. Milwaukee Ave., to honor founder Marcie Love and former board chairs Jerry Newton and Melissa Widen, with Illinois Cannabis Regulation Oversight Officer and former state Sen. Toi Hutchinson serving as the emcee. Additionally, Personal PAC will be noting Terry Cosgrove's 30 years as the organization's CEO.

Cosgrove's journey to Personal PAC began when he moved back to Chicago in 1987 and joined the board of pro-choice organization Illinois NARAL, where he met Love.

"I am not sure Marcie and I knew what to make of each other then, but her deep commitment to reproductive justice and political sense fit with what I thought was needed, which was winning elections and changing laws," Cosgrove told Windy City Times. "In 1989, when it became clear the U.S. Supreme Court was open to dangerous restrictions on abortion, the pro-choice leaders of Illinois agreed that Marcie and Personal PAC should lead the unified political strategy to fighting all the horrible anti-choice laws that were being introduced and passed in Springfield."

Love said when they decided to hire an executive director and find an office, the search committee narrowed their choices to three people—one of whom was Cosgrove.

"Terry was, by far, the best candidate," said Love. "After many, many discussions and all of us agonizing, we hired him. I took so much grief for hiring a man. But hiring Terry was one of the two best decisions I have ever made, the other was saying yes to my husband's proposal."

Cosgrove said that when he called his father to tell him about accepting the job despite the fact that the organization had no office or phones or computer and hardly any money, he said, "Terry, are you crazy?" and "I responded, 'Dad, have you met me?'" and "Here I am 30-plus years later."

Personal PAC is, according to its website, "dedicated to protecting and advancing reproductive rights for all women by recruiting, electing and holding accountable pro-choice candidates to state and local office in Illinois."

Cosgrove said Personal PAC has been critical in transforming Illinois from one of the most anti-choice states in the nation to one of the most pro-choice states by raising money to win elections for as many pro-choice candidates as possible.

"It takes 30 votes to pass a bill in the Senate, 60 votes in the House and one governor to sign or veto," said Cosgrove. "If the right wing has the

votes, they win. If we have them, we win."

In terms of the most challenging part of getting pro-choice legislation passed in the Illinois General Assembly, Cosgrove said it is getting legislators and candidates to understand that "the anti-choice movement is a small, albeit dedicated, very noisy group of people intent on keeping women second class citizens."

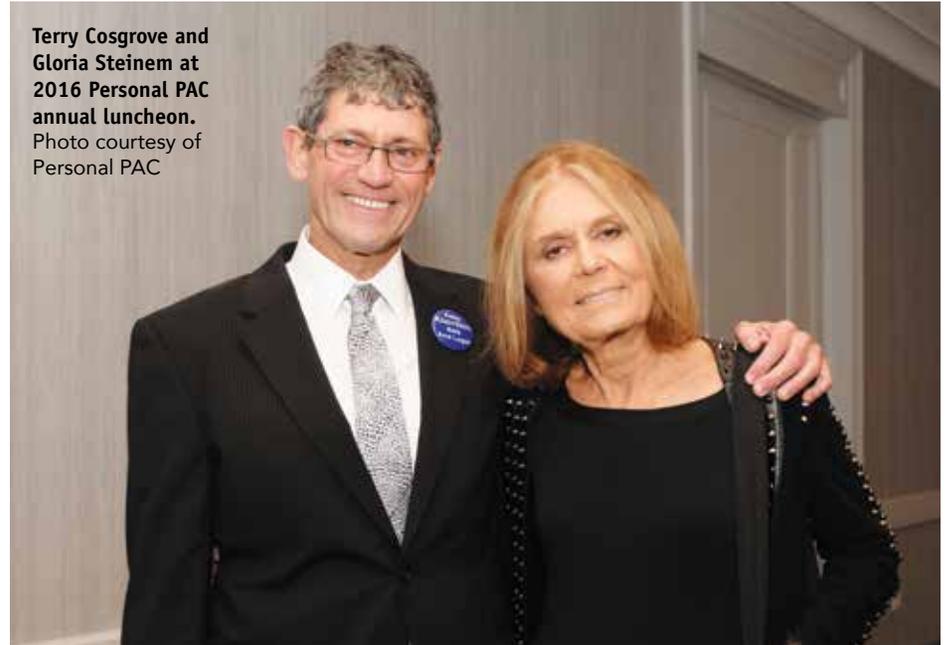
Love said that during her time on the board she was most proud of helping elect 18 pro-choice Republicans in the 1990s because she always felt this should be a nonpartisan issue.

"Another was getting birth control covered by insurance," said Love. "Viagra yes; birth control pill, no. And, as I got involved in this issue because women of means could get an abortion but not poor women, finally getting abortion services paid so poor women could have access."

Newton said, "Personal PAC's ability to educate voters and influence them in considering reproductive justice in their voting decisions has been an evolution. Now we are on the cusp of being the most pro-choice state once we repeal the dangerous and punitive Parental Notice of Abortion (PNA) law. Requiring parental notice for a teenager's abortion is a violation of that teenager's human rights. That is not who we are and



Terry Cosgrove.
Photo courtesy of Caroline Wellford



Terry Cosgrove and Gloria Steinem at 2016 Personal PAC annual luncheon.
Photo courtesy of Personal PAC

the law must be repealed."

"Thirty years of fighting for reproductive justice has gotten us to the strong place where we are today in Illinois," said Personal PAC Board Chair Eileen Dordek. "We must maintain our laser-focus and elect pro-choice champions every two years to ensure access to reproductive healthcare into the future."

Cosgrove said there were two important pieces of pro-choice legislation that got passed that have meant the most to him personally—when the Cook County board restored abortion services at Cook County Hospital and Illinois House Bill 40, which removed the 1977 restriction on Medicaid funding for abortion care.

"I am looking forward to the day when the dangerous PNA law is repealed because it puts the health and lives of pregnant teenagers at risk," said Cosgrove.

In addition to his work at Personal PAC, Cosgrove has been an activist and ally of the LGBTQ community for decades. He received the Equality Illinois Freedom Award in 2017 and was inducted into Chicago's LGBT Hall of Fame in 2014.

"LGBTQ equality and reproductive rights are intertwined because both are about people being able to control their lives and bodies," said

Cosgrove.

Cosgrove said the stakes are sky high right now because "we can lose everything in one election. Just look at 2016. There is never a time when we can afford to not be fully engaged. *Roe v. Wade* is about to be overturned, and with it likely marriage equality, as the foundation of equal marriage is the *Roe* decision."

He told Windy City Times the most effective way to fight back is by voting for candidates in the March 17 Illinois primary and the Nov. 3 general election who have committed to reproductive justice, every marginalized community's equality and climate justice.

"People often ask how I survive doing this work for so many years and I say, being around people who have great senses of humor," said Cosgrove. "I take my work very seriously, but not myself. The roast is going to be about the serious work and accomplishments of Personal PAC, but it is going to be a night of celebration and great humor. I cannot wait to hear the roasts of our three former chairs, and maybe even get in a comment or two of my own."

To purchase tickets for the March 7 event, visit [PersonalPAC.org/events](https://www.personalpac.org/events).

HRC releases 2020 presidential survey, candidate responses

On Feb. 24, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) released its 2020 presidential questionnaire and responses from the leading Democratic candidates.

The release of candidate questionnaire responses is a crucial step in the Human Rights Campaign's endorsement process. HRC asked 16 questions on topics ranging from the Equality Act to health care, and conversion therapy to immigration reform.

For the first time, our questionnaire asks the candidates for their plans to address the epi-

demic of violence facing transgender and gender non-conforming people, especially Black trans women. Since 2013, over 150 transgender and gender non-conforming people, almost entirely Black transgender women, have been killed.

HRC sent questionnaires to all Democratic presidential candidates earlier this year. The organization received questionnaires from Vice President Joe Biden, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, businessman Tom Steyer and U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren. It did not receive responses from Representative Tulsi Gabbard ahead of publication.

See the questionnaire and the candidates' responses at [HRC.org/election2020](https://www.hrc.org/election2020).

Chicago House looks into alleged theft of agency funds

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicago House and Social Service Agency has launched an investigation into alleged theft by its former chief financial officer (CFO), who was arrested in late January for allegedly embezzling from another agency.

The recently discovered theft from Chicago House could significantly impact the agency's discretionary funds, said Board Chair Ryan Garrison, who said that the amount stolen was still being calculated but was likely "in the six figures."

Former CFO Andrea Peoples was in court Feb. 13 due to a number of allegations tied to her previous employment at Planned Parenthood of Illinois. She pled not guilty that day to charges of theft of between \$100,000-500,000; continuing a financial crimes enterprise; misappropriation of financial institution property; and wire fraud, according to Cook County State's Attorney spokesperson Tandra Simonon.

A criminal background check was conducted, Garrison added, and Peoples had no record of financial improprieties since the Planned Parenthood-related charges had not yet been filed yet by Cook County prosecutors. Peoples's resume said that she was still employed at Planned Parenthood and was screened by a human resources



Chicago House Board Chair Ryan Garrison.
Photo courtesy of Garrison

consultant, he added. Former CEO Scott Amarell and the entire board, including its executive and finance committees, interviewed her. Garrison admitted the agency may need to "revisit" specific logistics of its hiring process. Peoples was hired in Aug. 2018.

"It was very clear that she had a vast wealth of knowledge and subject matter expertise relative to our grants, particularly on how to draw down [i.e., properly utilize and account for] all of the grants that we received from state and federal [funding streams]," said Garrison. "It was very clear that she was a subject matter expert on all the nuances."

Chicago House historically had difficulty with the position, Garrison acknowledged.

"There was definitely more transition in that position than we had wanted, more than any organization like ours would want," he explained. "There are complexities to vouchering and grant funds, so you want to make sure that there is a lot of stability in that function."

But Garrison said that Peoples' expertise is also what enabled her to mask her alleged theft: "If she had not had that amount of knowledge or that skill set, it would have been an impossibility."

According to Garrison, Peoples said that Chicago House would not be able to complete its audit—wherein an outside firm reviews the agency's financial records for compliance—in a timely fashion, which she attributed to the performance of the agency's previous CFOs. He said that her explanation seemed at the time to be "a plausible story, just based on what we already knew about our previous [CFOs]. The delay of the audit was certainly concerning, but we also spoke to the audit firm who said this wasn't a huge deal, and that we'd do a two-year, instead of a one-year, audit."

But after the auditing process seemed to stall

further in late 2019, an additional audit, this time specifically of Peoples' work, was undertaken. She was let go in early Jan. 2020.

The agency's total annual budget is about nine million dollars and has about 110 employees. Garrison believes Peoples allegedly took funds from unrestricted funds, rather than grant dollars, since those do not trigger as many audits. But those unrestricted funds are vital to an agency's overhead.

"The effect is pretty devastating," said Garrison. "We believed we had a large, unrestricted cash reserve that we discover has been depleted. Because that doesn't allow us to weather the ebb-and-flows of our funding-grant cycle. ... Those unrestricted dollars are vital."

Garrison said that the Peoples was suspended without pay immediately upon discovery of her alleged improprieties. Two other senior-level employees are believed to be involved. The allegations and supporting documentation were turned over to authorities, he added.

"We're counting on donors to come through and support us in this time," he admitted. "Chicago House has never been on as unsure financial footing as we are right now and that, of course is incredibly disheartening because that is not the result of the lack of anyone's fundraising efforts or the incredible work of our staff. It's the result of a few really self-serving people who held positions of trust. We'll do anything within legal means to recover every dollar possible."

Windy City Times asked Peoples' attorney, Howard Wise, for comment on the allegation, but the call was not returned by deadline.

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BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ **Worsening of Hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

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BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

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ELECTIONS 2020

Victory Fund hosts fundraiser for local endorsed candidates

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

A Victory Fund hosted fundraiser for the organization's endorsed candidates—Cook County Circuit Court Clerk candidate Jacob Meister; state representative candidates Yoni Pizer (12th District), Ken Mejia-Beal (42nd District) and Maggie Trevor (54th District); and Cook County Circuit Court judicial candidates Levander Smith Jr., Jill Rose Quinn, Mary Cay Marubio and Brad Trowbridge—took place Feb. 17 at Wood, in Boystown.

Victory Fund National Campaign Board Member and Midwestern Caucus Chair Eric Wilkerson told attendees that the organization's "goal is to identify, train, recruit and help elect LGBTQ people around the country. Tonight we are here to show support for our endorsed candidates. It is critical for LGBTQ people to pause and appreciate the concept of representation, because it matters so much right now—especially in local races like the ones we have endorsed here in Illinois"

Following Wilkerson's remarks, the endorsed candidates told Windy City Times what this endorsement means to them.

"I am honored to get this endorsement," said Trevor. "Especially given the nature of the race I am running in, against state Rep. Tom Morrison,

endorsement is incredibly meaningful to me. I look forward to serving the constituents of the 12th district and I am honored to be the first LGBTQ person to represent them."

"This endorsement gives me a sense of joy and accomplishment," said Mejia-Beal. "I am from DuPage County and there is not a lot of LGBTQ representation there. The fact that the Victory Fund found this race and my candidacy worthy means the world to me."

"I am very proud to get this endorsement," said Meister. "The Victory Fund is a really important organization that advances our community in significant ways all across the country, especially in communities that do not have out LGBTQ officials."

"I am really glad the Victory Fund exists and does what it does to promote LGBTQ candidates like me," said Quinn. "I am happy to have their endorsement."

"It is such an honor to have the Victory Fund's endorsement because it comes from my own LGBTQ community," said Smith.

Event host committee members included Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore, state Rep. Lamont Robinson Jr. (5th District), Cook County Commissioner Kevin



Candidates Jacob Meister, Jill Rose Quinn and Levander Smith Jr. at the Victory Fund event.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

who is so clearly against LGBTQ rights; [Victory Fund's] support is so critical."

"I have been in the political arena for a long time, but this is the first time I am actually running myself," said Pizer. "To get the Victory Fund

B. Morrison (15th District), Ald. Tom Tunney (44th Ward), Daniel Dozier, Justin DeJong, Clark Pellett and Robert Kohl, John Litchfield and Joe Olszewski, Greg Schweizer and Wilkerson.

See VictoryFund.org.



Candidates Ken Mejia-Beal, Maggie Trevor and Yoni Pizer at the Victory Fund event.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

LAGBAC welcomes new board members

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A number of prominent area judges, among them Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans, and legal professionals were in attendance when Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) swore its new board at a reception the evening of Feb. 27.

Shortly before administering the incoming board's oaths, Evans praised the courage of legal personnel who were unafraid of being out within their professional lives, adding that the majority of colleagues within the profession were supportive.

"The only way for the [overall] community to survive is [when] everyone feels they can support each one of us," Evans said.

Judge Mary Catherine Marubio gave keynote remarks. She also emphasized the need for changing the culture and building community within the legal profession, noting, "It's still important that we take care of each other and remind ourselves what community is."

LAGBAC's Matthew Janusch, who was chair of the organization's nominating committee, said that the organization had a "proud history of celebrating diversity" reflected in the incoming leadership.

"I am proud of the diversity our board represents," Janusch said.

The Feb. 27 event was held at the offices of the Schiller, DuCanto & Fleck law firm.



Judge Timothy Evans administers the oath to LAGBAC's new board.

Photo by Matt Simonette

ELECTIONS 2020

**Early voting info;
some 17-year-olds
can vote**

Early voting for the March 17 primary elections will take place through Monday, March 16—and some people as young as 17 can participate.

Any ballots that voters cast in early voting are final. After casting ballots in early voting, voters may not return to amend, change or undo a ballot for any reason. It is a felony to vote more than once—or to attempt to vote more than once—in the same election.

A government-issued photo ID is not required but is helpful if there is a question about the registration, address, signature or if there are two voters with the same or similar names at the same address. Also, note that 17-year-olds in Illinois can vote; however, they must be 17 on or before the date of the Primary Election and turn 18 on or before the date of the General or Consolidated Election.

To view a list of sites, visit ChicagoElections.com/en/early-voting.html. For those who reside outside Chicago but within Cook County, visit CookCountyClerk.com/agency/early-voting.

Also, people can apply to be election judges. The pay is \$230 for new judges (and \$255 for experienced ones) who complete training and then serve on Election Day; visit <https://chicagoelections.com/en/serving-as-a-judge-of-election.html>.

ELECTIONS 2020

**Report: 378K trans
citizens could have
voting hurdles**

A new report by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law says that an estimated 965,350 transgender adults will be eligible to vote in the 2020 general election—but that approximately 378,000 of them could have problems voting at the polls because they do not have IDs that correctly reflect their name and/or gender.

Eight states with the strictest voter ID laws—Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin—require that voters provide a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, U.S. passport or military ID, in order to vote on a regular ballot at the polls. (Alabama, Tennessee, and Virginia hold primaries Tuesday, March 3.)

Transgender people of color, young adults, students, people with low incomes and people with disabilities are likely overrepresented among those who do not have accurate IDs for voting.

The report, "The Potential Impact of Voter Identification Laws on Transgender Voters in the 2020 General Election," is at williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-Voter-ID-Feb-2020.pdf.

ELECTIONS 2020

**Feigenholtz endorses
Pizer to succeed her**

State Sen. Sara Feigenholtz endorsed Yoni Pizer in the Democratic primary election for the House seat she held for 24 years, calling Pizer "the best candidate to represent the diverse needs of the 12th District."

Pizer, an openly gay activist, was sworn Feb. 10 into his new post as the 12th District state House representative, temporarily succeeding Feigenholtz, as she became state senator before finishing her term as representative. He is one of four gay men (and five total candidates) running in the March 17 primary for a two-year term as 12th District representative.

In endorsing Pizer, Feigenholtz said in a statement, "Yoni has a history of working with community groups and leaders and has been a lifelong partner in fighting for justice and shares our common values. We have fought alongside each other in the spirit of advocacy for a long time. Yoni is my friend, with a track record spanning many years and has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to all I have fought for as your representative."

"In the years that I have served, I realize how representation matters. Yoni is an openly gay Jewish person who moved to Lakeview with his husband and raised two sons right here in our neighborhood because he felt safe and at home. He is emblematic of the diversity of this district. At a time when hate crimes and antisemitism are

on the rise, we need leaders like Yoni fighting for our community in Springfield."

ELECTIONS 2020

**Lightfoot backs trans
candidate Quinn**

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has endorsed transgender candidate Jill Rose Quinn for Cook County judge (the K. Sheehan vacancy).

"I'm proud to endorse the historic candidacy of Jill Rose Quinn," Lightfoot said in a release Politico obtained. "She is an accomplished attorney and would be the first openly transgender judge in Illinois—and one of only five in our entire nation. Jill has fought for fairness, equality and justice her entire life and her perspective and experience will be invaluable for our courts and our community. She has my full support on March 17."

Quinn is running in the March 17 Democratic primary against James Worley and Wendelin "Wendi" DeLoach.



Howard Brown Health invites the LGBTQ community and allies to support services for lesbians, bisexual women, and trans and gender nonconforming people with an evening of dancing, entertainment, full open bar, light bites, and community.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION:
HOWARBROWN.ORG/CHI Q2020

ELECTIONS 2020:
ILLINOIS STATE REP (12TH DISTRICT)

New incumbent Yoni Pizer talks LGBT youth, district, gun violence

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Lake View activist and businessman Yoni Pizer was recently named by Democratic Party officials to replace outgoing state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz when she departed for the state senate. Pizer had already been a part of the crowded field competing for Feigenholtz's House seat, and he still must campaign to hold onto his new seat in the next term.

Pizer was the longtime LGBT liaison for U.S. Rep Mike Quigley, and he and husband Brad Lipitz have been prominent fundraisers for Democratic politicians for several years.

Windy City Times: Why do you think you're the 12th District's residents' best choice?

Yoni Pizer: I feel I'm uniquely qualified for this role. I've lived in the district for over 27 years. I met my husband in the district. I got married in the district. I raised two kids in the district. I coached soccer in the district. I've worshipped in the district.

Congressman Mike Quigley approached me five years ago, and asked me to be his community liaison, knowing my close ties with the community. Through that I gained experience on how best to govern ethically, morally and with clarity. I've started two small business in the district and have what it takes to fight for this community in Springfield.

I believe leadership matters. I'm a gay Jew and in these challenging times—when white nationalism, anti-Semitism and homophobia are

rising—I think it's critical not just to have a representative who can speak personally on these issues, but can effectively lead. I believe I'm that person.

WCT: How would your service be different from, or along the same lines as, former state Rep. (now state Sen.) Feigenholtz's?

YP: The 12th District has been fortunate to be represented so wonderfully by Sara Feigenholtz for the last 25 years. She's got big shoes [I have] to fill, especially with her encyclopedic knowledge of the budget. But I believe that I bring a slightly different perspective—I believe that I can continue what she has started, but there are some really major issues that need [to be] resolved and need attention.

Ethics reform is critically important. You can't pick up the newspaper without seeing news of people being indicted or "wearing a wire," etc. My three platforms I'm running on are trust, equality and safety, and within all those areas, I can build on and continue to grow the legacy that Sara Feigenholtz is now taking to the senate.

WCT: What are two or three of the most important issues facing the 12th District's LGBT community?

YP: We're blessed with a lot of LGBT assets in the 12th District. People come from around the state, around the country and around the world to come to what many believe is the LGBT capital of the Midwest. We have Halsted Street, Center on Halsted and Howard Brown Health. We've got so many wonderful things in the community.



State Rep. Yoni Pizer.
Photo courtesy of Pizer

However, we have some serious challenges. There are some people who believe that, once we got marriage, our fights were over. If the last three years have shown us anything, it's that our battles are not yet behind us. We need to protect our trans siblings, especially trans women of color, who are literally being murdered in the street. They need our protection, support and love. They need to know that there are jobs out there for them.

Our LGBTQ youth are more likely to be homeless and be involved in the criminal justice system—that's not right. Also, our LGBTQ seniors are often forced back into the closet when they go into assisted living facilities. Off the top of my head, those are three really important issues.

The Trump administration is doing everything they can to roll back our hard-fought victories. Even with marriage they're trying to roll back the

clock and also, in terms of adoption—they're trying to carve out these religious set-asides that are not going to happen on my watch. It's just not acceptable.

WCT: This is ostensibly a "local" issue, but you're a Lake View business owner and much of your support comes from the neighborhood. What are your thoughts on LGBT youth who experience difficulties, be it from business owners or residents? How do you not get sink to an "us-versus-them" [engagement] with folks visiting here? What can a state rep do?

YP: Representation matters. To have someone with a loud, proud, strong, clear voice representing the community is really important. Discrimination in any form is wrong. It's not just on the right, it's on the left too. We've seen incidents in Boystown that are unacceptable and shameful. We need to have a community that is safe, but welcoming to all.

We also need to make sure though that our police force has cultural competency in the LGBT community, especially the trans community. We also need to deal with some of the root causes of violence, such as education. With the budget stalemate in Springfield, we're harvesting some of the bitter fruits from those years, in terms of cutting back on MAP grants and Aim High grants. We need to make sure that our education system is fully-funded and welcoming, and that we don't force our young people to leave the state.

We also need to make sure our violence—especially gun-violence—prevention programs are fully funded. We all need to make sure our mental health programs is caring for those who need it. We obviously need to get weapons of war off the street. We need to close the gun show loophole. We need need to fix the firearm-owner ID laws. But we need to make sure that we're using best practices when we're designing a system within the district that is going to make people feel safe but also make the community welcoming.

See Yonifor12.com.

Read the full interview with Yoni Pizer at WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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ELECTIONS 2020:
ILLINOIS STATE REP (62ND DISTRICT)

Incumbent Sam Yingling talks economy, LGBTQ issues, website

BY TIM PEACOCK

State representative Sam Yingling—the first openly gay person elected to the state legislature from outside of Chicago—sees economics as the driving issue in his re-election campaign in the Illinois House's 62nd District.

Economic issues—like property taxes, funding for public education and the state budget crisis—have constituted Yingling's core campaign issue since he was first elected to office several years ago.

Despite that narrow focus, his actions in office demonstrate a longstanding commitment to equal rights for LGBTQ people.

Heading into this year's election cycle, he's ready to keep that focus on the economy and fiscal responsibility while reminding voters he has a strong record in defending and promoting equality.

Windy City Times (WCT): During your previous campaigns, you focused more on the economy and fiscal responsibility. Is that your primary focus this election as well?

Sam Yingling (SY): The main focus is property-tax reform—that is my singular focus in this session—and will continue to be my focus going into November. The make-up of this General Assembly has recognized that we are facing a property tax crisis, and I believe there is finally the political willpower to address it. We're looking to utilize those possibilities. I'm cautiously optimistic that we can have a comprehensive property tax reform bill that gets passed by the end of session.

WCT: You've been in office a while now after winning several elections. What would you say are some of your biggest accomplishments over the past few terms?

SY: The most notable accomplishment that I have participated in with other legislators would be the passage of marriage equality. That happened my first year [in office]. I was the first LGBT legislator outside of Chicago. I brought a very unique perspective in helping a lot of suburban members on that bill. It was a big accomplishment for me my first year.

My larger accomplishments have been my involvement with the equal rights amendment. That was a massive accomplishment for the state of Illinois and really took a solid team effort to pass that. The pro-choice legislation that we passed to protect a woman's right to choose. We are now the leading state in the nation on that—I know Representative [Kelly] Cassidy led the charge on that and it was great working with her.

I would say that to date those are what I would consider to be huge advancements within the state of Illinois and I'm really honored to have

been able to be a part of those.

WCT: Keeping on the theme of LGBTQ issues, what would you say are the most pressing issues for your LGBTQ constituents and for other LGBTQ people across the state?

SY: I think right now what we need to focus on is transgender rights and protections. That is primarily what I am hearing from the overall LGBTQ community. We've made some advances on that—I carried the all gender bathroom bill which went into effect in January. We're already starting to see establishments adhere to that new

law, which is great. There's a lot of work to be done. I'm working with the Human Rights Commission right now to modify the language in our laws so it gives them greater flexibility in helping transgender individuals who have filed discrimination claims.

WCT: On a related note, your campaign website makes no mention of LGBTQ issues, nor does it feature your husband either in photos or in your biography. You are in a conservative district—was that an intentional move?

SY: I'm really embarrassed to admit this. That site desperately needs to be updated. So, in large part, I think it just has to do with updates; there's no specific rhyme or reason to it. It's just not been updated.

WCT: Do you have anything else to add we didn't touch on that you believe voters should know about your campaign?

SY: My district is very fiscally conservative, but they are also very interested in social justice. And those primary arenas are where my focus will remain.

See SamYingling.com.



State Rep. Sam Yingling.
Photo courtesy of Yingling

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- James Crawley is, **"hardworking ... has extensive practice experience... and is well regarded for his dedication to the law and his integrity."**
[Source: Chicago Bar Association]
- Crawley is **"Qualified"** to be Circuit Court Judge because he **"has substantial experience doing complex litigation. [He] is praised as a solid litigator who is hard-working with a good temperament. He is considered to have good legal ability and is exceptionally knowledgeable."** [Source: Chicago Council of Lawyers]



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**ELECTIONS 2020: JUDGES
(COGHLAN VACANCY)**

James Derico Jr. talks current judgeship, church and LGBTQ history

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Cook County Circuit Court Judge James Derico Jr.—a member of the LGBTQ community—finds himself in the position of several of his colleagues in which he's a sitting judge running for a vacancy.

His qualifications would impress many, as he has been involved in the legal field (in one aspect or another) for more than three decades. In 1992, Derico became the owner and founding partner of Derico & Associates, P.C. In that capacity, Judge represented Fortune 500 companies and private individuals in a wide range of transactional and litigation matters.

Windy City Times: Like some others, such as Lavander Smith Jr., you're a judge running for a vacancy.

James Derico Jr.: Yes; my term expires Dec. 7. The difference is I'm in the Coghlan vacancy. All I know is that Judge Matthew Coghlan is the first judge to not be retained in 28 years. [Note: It was reported that Coghlan fell short of the 60

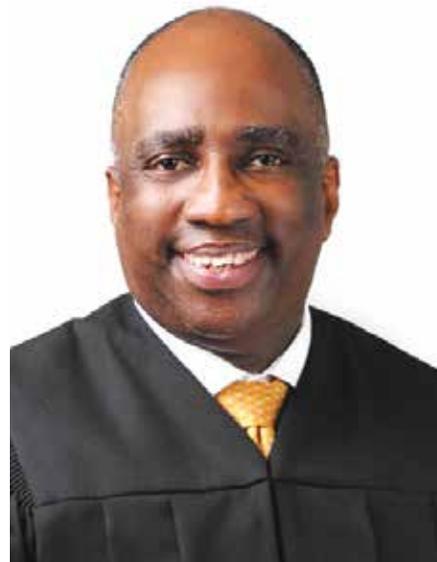
percent of "yes" votes from the public needed to keep his/her/their seat.] My political spin on the situation is that the Illinois Supreme Court knew people were watching who was put in that spot [the bench Derico currently occupies]. I heard that there are about 90,000 attorneys in Cook County—and I was picked.

WCT: Would you say you're in a closely watched race?

JDJ: At this point, not really. There might be some "lakefront liberals" watching, but usually when I mention the Coghlan vacancy, people are like, "Whatchu talkin' 'bout, Willis?" They don't have any concept of it. It was closely watched when it happened, but people have moved on. When I first ran, there was the joke that I was the "nobody nobody knew"—it's based on an urban legend.

Also, I am a man of faith, and I believe that if God decides to live for you, nothing else really matters.

WCT: Speaking of faith, you attend Trinity United Church of Christ. How long have you



Judge James Derico Jr.
Photo courtesy of Derico

attended?

JDJ: Twenty-one years. You know, they supported abolitionists and paid for the lawyers for the Amistad people; it has a very long history.

WCT: What drew you to that particular church?

JDJ: I grew up in church where we went for 9:30-2 on Sundays, went back at night, go on Tuesday and Friday; when we were teenagers, we stopped going so much. So I thought I had

enough church growing up.

But in January 1998, I made a New Year's resolution to go to church. Two of my college friends were members of Trinity, and it was the only church I had really heard of, so I went there. I instantly liked [Rev.] Jeremiah Wright.

WCT: What was your reaction when the controversy surfaced about Jeremiah Wright when [President] Obama ran for office? Did you think it was much ado about nothing?

JDJ: I did. It's interesting you asked that because one of my very good friends from college, who happens to be white, had parents in town—and I was good friends with them. My friend's father asked me about Jeremiah Wright and I said, "Jeremiah Wright was a decorated veteran of the Marines, and who am I—who's never been in the military—to criticize a man who fought for this country?" I heard when he said, "God damn America," and I moved on. He did say [later], "I shouldn't have said that from the pulpit."

The other piece is that I thought "Who in the world can judge a person's whole body of work from a 30-second sound bite?" He took a church that had 80 people and built it to 15,000.

Also, it's hard out there for a brother. It's a system. But the church just became a wonderful place for me. I go to an elementary school near the church, and mentor fourth- and fifth-grade boys. Last year, they asked me to be their commencement speaker. Also, we have partnered with Trinity for a legal clinic where people can get free legal advice; I was co-chair of the committee from 2006 until I went on the bench in 2019. I've received the Chicago Volunteer Legal

Justice
Margaret Stanton
McBride
for Supreme Court

Over 30 years of **Highly Qualified** ratings

"Highly Qualified"

- Chicago Bar Assoc.

"Highly Qualified"

- Illinois State Bar Assoc.

"Highly Recommended"

- Lesbian and Gay Bar Assoc. of Chicago

Only woman in the race endorsed by
Personal PAC

Punch
#165



www.mcbrideforsupremecourt.com

Paid for by the Committee for Margaret McBride

Cristin McDonald
DUFFY
duffyforjudge2020.com

**On March 17 vote for
Cristin Keely McDonald Duffy
for Cook County Judge**

RICK GARCIA - LGBTQ ACTIVIST
"Cristin will be a judge WE can count on"

LAGBAC
"Highly Recommended"

Chicago Tribune What the Tribune has to say:
"Cristin Keely McDonald Duffy, an experienced prosecutor who comes highly rated by the Chicago Bar Association."
- The Chicago Tribune Editorial Board

Paid for by Friends of Cristin McDonald Duffy

Services Distinguished Service Award.

WCT: So can a judge ever be an advocate for someone or a cause?

JDJ: No—absolutely not. I can't give legal advice or even opinions on matters that come before me. Someone asked me my thoughts about Mayor Lightfoot's set-asides for LGBTs, and I said, "I can't give my opinion." I haven't ruled on it, but I never know when I might have to decide something related to that.

WCT: What do you think are the biggest issues affecting the LGBTQ community?

JDJ: I think one—like one of the many facing African Americans—is a loss of sense of history. I'm not young, so I don't know how much younger LGBTQ people know of their history. With the Legacy Walk [in Boystown], I didn't know half of the people featured are [LGBTQ]. George Washington Carver—the peanut man? [Laughs] It's a concern to me because those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it.

So that sense of history is important. All of those people on the Legacy Walk, for example, are good to know. I have a strong feeling that 20 years from now, young gay people won't know about when they couldn't marry.

WCT: What are your biggest advantages and disadvantages in this political race?

JDJ: My biggest advantage—and biggest disadvantage—is that people see my name and don't know I'm Black. I can't tell you how many African American senior citizens who've said to me, "I'm so glad I met you because I wouldn't know what to do with your name."

See Derico4Judge.com.

30 Under 30 Awards to be held June 24

Windy City Times will again mark Pride Month with its annual 30 Under 30 Awards.

The ceremony will take place Wed, June 24. As in the past few years, the event will take place at Polo Cafe and Catering, 3322 S. Morgan St.

There will be a 5:30 p.m. reception, with the program being 6-7:30 p.m.

Honorees are 30 years or under as of June 30, and have made some substantial contributions to the Chicagoland LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas.

Nominations are due Friday, April 24.

Windy City Times Managing Editor Matt Simonette coordinates the awards program for the paper. Hundreds of people have been honored by the paper in the more than 10 years since the awards were established.

Most honorees have gone on to great success in their careers and educations, including working for the Obama presidential campaign and administration, plus individual successes in music, legal, professional and academic careers and much more.

Send nominations to matt.simonette@gmail.com and Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Jesse G. Reyes

DEMOCRAT
for Illinois Supreme Court

Recipient of the 2019
Lesbian and Gay Bar Association
of Chicago Foundation
"Distinguished Jurist Award"

Found "Highly Qualified"
Illinois State Bar Association
Chicago Bar Association



"One day I was working in a factory to help support my family, today I am an Appellate Court Judge about to embark on a journey that may take me to the highest court in the Land of Lincoln."



Justice Jesse Reyes is a longtime friend of our community. He is a founding member of the *Diversity Scholarship Foundation*, a not-for-profit organization that provides scholarships to diverse and deserving law students.



Early voting has started | Election day is March 17th

JusticeReyes.com

Paid for by Committee to Elect Jesse G Reyes

ENDORSED DEMOCRAT **PUNCH #220**

MAURA

MCMAHON ZELLER

Cook County Circuit Court Judge
Vacancy of Hon. Colleen F. Sheehan

Bringing compassion and fairness to the courtroom.

Endorsed by:
Rep. Greg Harris
Ald. James Capplemann
Personal PAC
Chicago Federation of Labor

Rated Qualified/Recommended:
Lesbian and Gay Bar Assoc.
Chicago Council of Lawyers
Women's Bar Assoc. of Illinois
Chicago Bar Association

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www.mauramcmahonzellerforjudge.com



ELECTIONS 2020:
ILLINOIS STATE REP (54TH DISTRICT)

Maggie Trevor on her district, gun control and LGBTQ issues

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Maggie Trevor is back.

Two years after losing to Republican Tom Morrison by 43 votes (out of almost 45,000 ballots cast), Trevor who identifies as lesbian, faces Ryan Huffman in the March 17 Democratic primary for the state rep seat in the 54th District—with the winner facing Morrison in the general election in November.

Trevor was born and raised in Rolling Meadows, where her parents were among the city's original residents.

Windy City Times: Since you lost your last general election race by 43 votes, how are you feeling about this primary race—and what did you learn from the last election?

Maggie Trevor: Well, you always campaign like you're 43 votes behind. I do have a primary competitor [Ryan Huffman], and one of the frustrations I had about 2018 is that nobody ran in 2016 [with Morrison running unopposed]—and I think a lot of people wrote this district, a Republican stronghold, off.

WCT: Could you talk a little bit about the 54th District?

MT: The 54th District is in the northwest suburbs. It's primarily Palatine Township, with a little bit of Elk Grove Township. Cities in it are Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Arlington Heights, Hoffman Estates and a little bit of Barrington. It has been a traditionally Republican district for decades, but it's rapidly changing district; it's a

diverse district.

The housing in this area was built in the 1950s so it's been turning over at an accelerated rate. It's ethnically diverse, and it's been trending Democratic. For the past four years or so, it's been in the national spotlight because the high school district is 211—and it's been embroiled in a controversy over its transgender access policy for student's locker rooms. [Editor's note: Palatine-Schaumburg High School District 211 recently settled a lawsuit brought by transgender former student Nova Maday, who alleged discrimination.]

There was a small group called Parents for Privacy that made some [anti-LGBT] noise; Tom Morrison is closely aligned with this group, and he introduced an [anti-]transgender bathroom bill into the state legislature. He also introduced a bill that would basically criminalize medically appropriate care for transgender students. So nearly losing to me didn't teach him anything. For me, that was the straw that broke the camel's back—and that's why I decided to enter the race. This is where I grew up, and my mother was a civil-rights activist in this area for decades.

This area still has its problems, but it's far more welcome and diverse than it was when I was a



Maggie Trevor.

Photo courtesy of Trevor

kid. Seeing someone trying to turn the clock back in my home—I can't abide by it, so I'm not going to stop until I see him out of office.

WCT: On your website, you mention LGBTQ issues as well as other topics like gun safety. Could you explain why the latter is important to you?

MT: For a number of reasons... I'm not opposed to gun ownership, in general. My father was a gun owner, and he was a very responsible person. I understand the need for guns—for protection. But there's no reason to have the kind of weaponry we've seen in these mass shootings—guns that fire large amounts of rounds quickly.



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Elizabeth "Beth"
Ryan
DEMOCRAT for JUDGE

PUNCH
186



Paid for by Beth Ryan for Judge.

- 15+ years of experience practicing law
- Political Science Degree, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Juris Doctor Degree, DePaul Univ. School of Law
- Chicago native, resides on Northwest Side
- Married, mother of four daughters

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"RECOMMENDED" and "QUALIFIED"
BY EVALUATING BAR ASSOCIATIONS

RyanForJudge.com

DEMOCRAT FOR
COOK COUNTY JUDGE

March 17, 2020

Punch #232

Bradley R.
TROWBRIDGE

...because justice still matters

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need to look at social services, particularly services for homeless youth. However, from a national perspective, I think employment discrimination is the biggest issue.

WCT: With the primary race, what do you feel is your biggest advantage as well as your biggest disadvantage?

MT: I think my biggest advantage is that I have a whole lot of experience in issues that are important to Illinois. [Huffman and I] are fairly close on a lot of issues, but I have a lot of professional experience. I have six years' experience working at a public university, which is critical for

understanding issues related to higher education and school funding. I also have about 20 years of experience in the business world, most of it in healthcare; I understand the healthcare marketplace. Having affordable, accessible healthcare in Illinois is really important.

My biggest disadvantage is [my opponent's] youth. It's tough to get out of bed every day, knock on doors and convince people I have the energy to do this. He's young and has a bright future; I have a bright future, too—but sometimes it's a little hard to convince people of that.

Trevor's website is MaggieTrevor4il54.net.

Honorees named for Impact Awards

The honorees have been named for the Chicago Foundation for Women's 2020 Impact Awards, which celebrate the people that are working to make a better future for women and girls in our region a reality.

—Founders Award: Wendy Pollack, founder and director of the Women's Law and Policy Initiative at the Shriver Center on Poverty Law

—Pioneer Award: Christina Frasier, co-founder of the Students for Reproductive Justice

—Impact Awards (three recipients): Neha Gill, executive director of Apna Ghar; Colette Payne, policy associate of Cabrini Green Legal Aid; and Imani Rupert-Gordon, (outgoing) executive director of Affinity Community Services

—The Rev. Willie Taplin Barrow Emerging

Leaders Award: Assata's Daughters

The ceremony will take place Wed., March 18, 6-8 p.m., at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St.

See CFW.org/2020-impact-awards.

Jewish LGBTQ group expands in Chicago

Keshet—the nation's largest organization working for LGBTQ equality in all facets of Jewish life—has expanded in Chicago with the addition of a full-time staff member, a press release noted.

Essie Shachar-Hill recently came on board as Keshet's first full-time education/training manager in Chicago.

See KeshetOnline.org.

Heather Anne
KENT
DEMOCRAT FOR JUDGE



“RECOMMENDED”

Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago

“QUALIFIED”

Chicago Bar Association

- Sexual assault & domestic violence prosecutor
- Experienced trial attorney
- Found *Qualified/Recommended* by evaluating Bar Associations
- Married, mother of two young sons

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yoni
PIZER
State Representative
Democrat 12th District



JILL ROSE QUINN
DEMOCRAT FOR JUDGE



Two Candidates. One vision for **Equality.**

“Jill and I know the challenges the LGBTQ+ community faces. I will reform laws criminalizing the transmission of HIV, ensure LGBTQ+ seniors are receiving culturally-competent support, and fight for protections for the Trans community, especially Trans women of color.”

- State Representative Yoni Pizer

“Yoni and I believe it is critical for our community, our democracy, and our nation that all people receive equal justice under the law. I will always stand up for the constitutional rights of individuals and for the principal that the law should treat everyone equally.”

- Jill Rose Quinn

Election 2020

US PRESIDENT

HRC = Human Rights Campaign (marked "support/yes" out of 17 key issues)

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

RC = Reclaim Chicago

	HRC	IVI	PP	RC
Joseph R. Biden (D)	17/17	Y		
Bernie Sanders (D)	17/17			Y
Michael R. Bloomberg (D)	17/17			
Elizabeth Warren (D)	17/17			
Tulsi Gabbard (D)				
Donald J. Trump (R)				
Roque "Rocky" DeLaFuente (R)				

COOK COUNTY RACES

EI = Equality Illinois PAC

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

PPAC = Personal PAC

RC = Reclaim Chicago

SEIU = SEIU Illinois State Council

	EI	IVI	PPAC	RC	SEIU
COOK COUNTY CLERK					
Jacob Meister (D)					
Iris Y. Martinez (D)			Y		
Richard R. Boykin (D)					
Michael M. Cabonargi (D)			Y		
Barbara Bellar (R)					
STATE'S ATTORNEY					
Bill Conway (D)					
Kim Foxx (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Patrick W. "Pat" O'Brien (R)					
Christopher E. K. Pfannkuche (R)					
Donna Moore (D)					
Bob Fioretti (D)					
COOK CO. BOARD OF REVIEW-1ST DIST. COMMISSIONER					
Dan Patlak (R)					
Tammy Wendt (D)					
Abdelnasser Rashid (D)			Y		Y
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT					
VOTE FOR THREE SIX-YEAR TERMS					
Patricia Theresa Flynn (D)					
Frank Avila (D)		Y			
Heather Boyle (D)					
M. Cameron "Cam" Davis (D)		Y	Y		Y
Kimberly Neely Dubuclet (D)		Y	Y		Y
Eira L. Corral Sepulveda (D)			Y		
Michael G. Grace (D)					
Kim L. Dulaney (D)					
Mike Cashman (D)					
Tammie Felicia Vinson (G)					
Troy Antonio Hernandez (G)					
Rachel Wales (G)					
Deyon Dean (D)					
Shundar Lin (D)					

US SENATE

HRC = Human Rights Campaign 115th Congress, ratings are a percentage of total 100% based on HRC tracking of how candidates voted in the 115th Congress

IFT = Illinois Federation of Teachers

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

SEIU = SEIU Illinois State Council

	HRC	IFT	PP	SEIU
Richard J. Durbin (D)	100	Y	Y	Y
Mark C. Curran Jr. (D)				
Tom Tarter (R)				
Casey Chlebek (R)				
Peggy Hubbard (R)				
Robert Marshall (R)				

US CONGRESS RACES

HRC = Human Rights Campaign 115th Congress, ratings are a percentage of total 100% based on HRC tracking of how candidates voted in the 115th Congress

IFT = Illinois Federation of Teachers

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

RC = Reclaim Chicago

SEIU = SEIU Illinois State Council

	HRC	IFT	IVI	PP	RC	SEIU
1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT						
Bobby L. Rush (D)	100			Y		Y
Ameena Nuur Matthews (D)						
Robert Emmons, Jr. (D)						
Sarah Gad (D)						
Philanise White (R)						
2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT						
Robin Kelly (D)	100	Y		Y		Y
Marcus Lewis (D)						
Theresa J. Raborn (R)						
3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT						
Rush Darwish (D)						
Daniel William Lipinski (D)	58		Y	Y	Y	Y
Marie Newman (D)						
Charles M. Hughes (D)						
Mike Fricilone (R)						
Arthur J. Jones (R)						
Catherine A O'Shea (R)						
4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT						
Jesus "Chuy" Garcia (D)		Y		Y		Y
Christopher Lasky (R)						
5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT						
Mike Quigley (D)	100	Y		Y		Y
Brian Burns (D)						
Tommy Hanson (R)						
Kimball Ladien (R)						
6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT						
Sean Casten (D)		Y		Y		Y
Jeanne Ives (R)						
Gordon (Jay) Kinzler (R)						
7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT						
Danny K. Davis (D)	88	Y	Y	Y		Y
Kina Collins (D)						
Anthony Clark (D)						
Kristine Schanbacher (D)						
Craig Cameron (R)						

8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Raja Krishnamoorthi (D)

William Olson (D)

Inam Hussain (D)

9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Janice D. Schakowsky (D)

Sargis Sangari (R)

10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Brad Schneider (D)

Valerie Ramirez Mukherjee (R)

11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Rachel Ventura (D)

Bill Foster (D)

Rick Laib (R)

Krishna K. Bansal (R)

12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Raymond C. Lenzi (D)

Joel D. Funk (D)

Michael Bost (R)

13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Betsy Dirksen Londrigan (D)

Stefanie Smith (D)

Rodney Davis (R)

14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lauren Underwood (D)

Jim Oberweis (R)

Catalina Lauf (R)

James T. "Jim" Marter (R)

Ted Gradel (R)

Sue Rezin (R)

Jerry Evans (R)

Anthony Catella (R)

15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Craig Morton (D)

Kevin Gaither (D)

Erika C. Weaver (D)

John W. Hursey, Jr. (D)

Mary Miller (R)

Darren E. Duncan (R)

Kerry A. Wolff (R)

Chuck Ellington (R)

16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Dani Brzozowski (D)

Adam Kinzinger (R)

17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Cheri Bustos (D)

Esther Joy King (R)

William W. Fawell (R)

18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Darin LaHood (R)

Individual races for which no data were applicable have been eliminated from the print version of this chart.

Please see our website for full charts.

JUDICIAL EVALUATIONS

Windy City Times does not endorse candidates. Rather, we list the ratings of legal organizations so that readers can make informed choices when they vote.

Key to Organizations:

IFT = Illinois Federation of Teachers

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent

Precinct Organization

PPAC = Personal PAC

SEIU = SEIU Illinois State Council

CCL = Chicago Council of Lawyers

CCBA = Cook County Bar Association

DSL = Decalogue Society of Lawyers

ISBA = Illinois State Bar Association

LAGBAC = Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago

WBAI = Women's Bar Association of Illinois

Key to Ratings:

Q – Qualified / NQ – Not Qualified

WQ – Well Qualified / HQ - Highly Qualified

HR - Highly Recommended / R - Recommended

NR - Not Recommended / NE - Not Evaluated

(D) = Democrat

(R) = Republican

To view additional ratings from the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area, Black Women's Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago, Hellenic Bar Association, Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois and Puerto Rican Bar Association of Illinois, go to www.voteforjudges.org.

	IFT	IVI	PPAC	SEIU	CCL	CCBA	DSL	ISBA	LAGBAC	WBAI
1st Supreme (Freeman vacancy)										
P. Scott Neville, Jr. (D)	Y	Y		Y	WQ	HR	R	HQ	R	R
Daniel Epstein (D)			Y		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Shelly A. Harris (D)			Y		Q	NR	R	NQ	NR	R
Margaret Stanton McBride (D)			Y		WQ	NR	R	HQ	HR	R
Cynthia Y. Cobbs (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Jesse G. Reyes (D)			Y		Q	R	R	HQ	R	R
Nathaniel Roosevelt Howse (D)			Y		WQ	R	R	HQ	HR	R
5th Supreme (Karmeier vacancy)										
Judy Cates (D)	Y		Y							
David K. Overstreet (R)										
John B. Barberis, Jr. (R)										
1st Appellate (Neville, Jr. vacancy)										
Michael B. Hyman (D)	Y	Y			HQ	HR	HR	HQ	HR	R
Carolyn J. Gallagher (D)			Y		Q	R	NR	NQ	R	R
Maureen Patricia O'Leary (D)					NQ	NR	NR	NQ		NR
Sandra Gisela Ramos (D)			Y		Q	R	NR	NQ	NR	NR
1st Appellate (Simon vacancy)										
Sharon O. Johnson (D)	Y	Y			Q	R	R	Q		R
John Griffin (D)					WQ	R	HR	HQ	HR	R
5th Appellate (Chapman vacancy)										
Sarah Smith (D)	Y									
Mark M. Boie (R)										
Katherine Ruocco (R)										
Cook Circuit Court (Bellows vacancy)										
Kerrie Maloney Laytin (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Cristin Keely McDonald Duffy (D)		Y			Q	R	HR	Q	HR	R
Tiesha L. Smith (D)					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Cook Circuit Court (Coghlan vacancy)										
James T. Derico, Jr. (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Kelly Marie McCarthy (D)					Q	R	HR	Q	R	R
Elizabeth "Beth" Ryan (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q		R
Aileen Bhandari (D)		Y			Q	R	R	Q	HR	R
Cook Circuit Court (Ford vacancy)										
Laura Ayala-Gonzalez (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	HR	R
John O'Meara (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
U. O'Neal (D)					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Cook Circuit Court (Funderburk vacancy)										
Celestia L. Mays (D)			Y		WQ	HR	R	Q	R	R
Jacqueline Marie Griffin (D)					Q	R	NR	Q	NR	R
Daniel L. Collins (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Mary Therese Quinn (D)					Q	R	R	Q		R
Cook Circuit Court (Larsen vacancy)										
Levander "Van" Smith, Jr. (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Suzanne Therese McEneely (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Megan Kathleen Mulay (D)		Y			Q	R	R	Q	R	R

	IFT	IVI	PPAC	SEIU	CCL	CCBA	DSL	ISBA	LAGBAC	WBAI
Cook Circuit Court (Mason vacancy)										
Chris Stacey (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Arthur D. Sutton (D)					Q	R	R	Q		R
Jennifer Patricia Callahan (D)					Q	R	R	Q		R
Joy E. Tolbert Nelson (D)					Q	R	R	Q		R
Joseph Chico (D)		Y			NQ	R	R	NQ		NR
Bonnie Carol McGrath (D)			Y		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Cook Circuit Court (McCarthy vacancy)										
Teresa Molina (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Michael O'Malley (D)		Y			Q	R	R	Q		R
Cook Circuit Court (Murphy Gorman vacancy)										
Sheree Desiree Henry (D)		Y			Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Keely Patricia Hillison (D)					Q	NR	R	NQ	R	R
Amanda "Mandy" Pillsbury (D)					NQ	NR	R	NQ	R	R
Dan Walsh (D)					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Cook Circuit Court (O'Brien vacancy)										
Lloyd James Brooks (D)		Y	Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Heather Anne Kent (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Elizabeth Anne Walsh (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Cook Circuit Court (Patti vacancy)										
Lynn Weaver Boyle (D)			Y		Q	R	HR	Q	HR	R
Cook Circuit Court (Roti vacancy)										
Araceli Reyes de la Cruz (D)		Y			Q	R	R	NQ	HR	R
Lorraine Mary Murphy (D)					Q	R	R	Q	HR	R
James Patrick Crawley (D)		Y	Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Cook Circuit Court (Sheehan, C. vacancy)										
Maura McMahon Zeller (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Russell W. Hartigan (D)					WQ	R	HR	HQ	R	R
Deidre Baumann (D)		Y	Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Cook Circuit Court (Sheehan, K. vacancy)										
Jill Rose Quinn (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
James Samuel Worley (D)		Y			Q	NR	R	NQ		R
Wendelin "Wendi" DeLoach (D)					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Cook Circuit Court-1st Sub (Brooks vacancy)										
Krista D. Butler (D)					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Cook Circuit Court-1st Sub (Crawford vacancy)										
Tyria B. Walton (D)					WQ	R	R	Q	HR	R
Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub ('A' vacancy)										
Sondra Nicole Denmark (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	HR	R
Felicia H. Simmons-Stovall (D)					Q	R	R	NQ		R
Chelsey R. Robinson (D)		Y			Q	R	R	NQ	R	R
Cook Circuit Court-3rd Sub (Filan vacancy)										
Daniel Edward Maloney (D)					Q	R	R	Q	Q	R
Cook Circuit Court-3rd Sub (Flynn vacancy)										
Regina Ann Mescall (D)					Q	NR	R	HQ		R
Lauren Brougham Glennon (D)					Q	R	R	NQ		NR
David A. Bonoma (D)			Y		Q	R	R	NQ	R	NR
Thomas J. Condon, Jr. (D)					Q	R	R	Q		R
James John Knibbs (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Brad S. Telander (D)					Q	R	R	Q		R
Scott Edward Lipinski (D)					NQ	R	NR	Q		NR
Cook Circuit Court-3rd Sub (Murphy vacancy)										
Erin Haggerty Antonietti (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Thomas G. O'Brien (D)					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Cook Circuit Court-6th Sub (Nega vacancy)										
Jamie Guerra Dickler (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Anne Shaw (D)			Y		NQ	R	R	NQ	R	NR
Cook Circuit Court-6th Sub (Pantle vacancy)										
Eileen Marie O'Connor (D)		Y	Y		Q	R	R	Q	HR	R
Cory Eli Oshita (D)					NQ	R	R	NQ		NR
Anthony Lucafo (D)					Q	R	R	Q	HR	R
Cook Circuit Court-7th Sub (Jackson vacancy)										
Pamela Reaves-Harris (D)					Q	R	R	Q		R
Owens "Joe" Shelby (D)		Y			Q	R	R	Q		R
Marcia O'Brien Conway (D)					Q	R	R	Q		R
Mable Taylor (D)					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Kristen Marie Lyons (D)					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Cook Circuit Court-8th Sub (Fleming vacancy)										
Jonathan Clark Green (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Bradley R. Trowbridge (D)		Y	Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R

	IFT	IVI	PPAC	SEIU	CCL	CCBA	DSL	ISBA	LAGBAC	WBAI
Cook Circuit Court-8th Sub (Gubin vacancy)										
Michael A. Forti (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Cook Circuit Court-9th Sub (Axelrood vacancy)										
Ira I. Silverstein (D)					NQ	NR	R	NQ		NR
Pamela "Pam" Stratigakis (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Thomas M. Cushing (D)					WQ	R	HR	Q	R	R
Timothy Patrick Carter (D)					Q	R	R	Q		R
Cook Circuit Court-9th Sub (Luckman vacancy)										
Julie Bess Aimen (D)					WQ	R	R	HQ	R	R
Thomas Peter Kougias (D)					NQ	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR
Basileios "Bill" Foutris (D)					Q	R	R	Q		
Michael Aan Strom (D)		Y	Y		WQ	R	HR	Q	HR	R
Cook Circuit Court-10th Sub (Allen vacancy)										
John G. Mulroe (D)		Y			Q		R	Q	R	R
Cook Circuit Court-10th Sub (McGing vacancy)										
John Garrido (D)					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Jon Stromsta (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Marie Aileen Dempsey (D)		Y			Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Cook Circuit Court-10th Sub (O'Brien vacancy)										
Daniel Alexander Trevino (D)					WQ	R	R	Q	R	R
John Hourihane (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Audrey Victoria Cosgrove (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Mary Catherine Marubio (D)			Y		Q	R	HR	HQ	HR	R
Liam Kelly (D)			Y		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Cook Circuit Court-12th Sub (Hanlon vacancy)										
Howard J. Wise (D)					Q	R	R	Q		R
Patricia M. Fallon (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Carmine Trombetta (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Frank R. DiFranco (R)					Q	R	R	Q		R
Cook Circuit Court-13th Sub (Kulys Hoffman vacancy)										
Matt Flamm (D)					WQ	R	R	Q		R
Joe Gump (D)		Y	Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Michael Harry Minton (D)			Y		Q	NR	NR	NQ		NR
Susanne Michele Groebner (D)			Y		Q	NR	R	Q	R	R
Michael P. Gerber (D)					Q	R	HR	HQ		R
Gary William Seyring (R)					Q	R	R	Q	NR	R
Angel Garcia (R)					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Cook Circuit Court-14th Sub (Bertucci vacancy)										
Gerardo Tristan, Jr. (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Steve Demitro (D)					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Cook Circuit Court-14th Sub (Lacy vacancy)										
Perla Tirado (D)					Q	R	NR	NQ		NR
Daniel O. Tiernan (D)					Q	R	HR	HQ	R	R
Cook Circuit Court-15th Sub (Griffin vacancy)										
Nichole C. Patton (D)					Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Heather Mulligan Begley (D)			Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R
6th Circuit Court (Jones vacancy)										
Ramona Sullivan (D)										
Troy Lozar (D)										
Ruth E. Wyman (D)			Y							
David R. Moore (D)										
Cheralyn (Cherie) Kesler (R)										
18th Circuit Court (Bakalis vacancy)										
Margaret "Peggy" O'Connell (D)			Y							
James F. McCluskey (R)										
18th Circuit Court (Sutter vacancy)										
Jill Otte (D)			Y							
Alice Wilson (D)										
Ann Celine Walsh (R)										
18th Circuit Court (Anderson vacancy)										
Jeffret M. Jacobson (D)			Y							
Monique O'Toole (R)										
19th Circuit Court, 3rd Subcircuit (Schippers vacancy)										
Rhonda Kind Bruno (D)										
Danielle M. Pascucci (D)										
Marnie Michelle Slavin (D)			Y							
Donald R. Tyer (D)										
Christopher Morozin (R)										
22nd Circuit Court-3rd Subcircuit ('A' vacancy)										
Jeannie Ridings (D)										
Mary Elizabeth McClellan (R)			Y							
Justin Hansen (R)										
Donald R. Brewer (R)										

ELECTIONS 2020: ILLINOIS STATE REP (5TH DISTRICT)

Lamont Robinson on past accomplishments, future goals

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Lamont Robinson, Jr.—a Chicago business owner and insurance agent who became the first openly gay Black state legislator in Illinois history—is running for a second term representing the 5th District in the Illinois House. According to his website, Robinson wants to “help residents protect and grow their prosperity by helping to shape a community built on economic growth and development, employment and support for essential social services.”

Windy City Times: What do you feel like you've accomplished in your first term?

Lamont Robinson: I learned about the legislative process, and worked to bring resources back to the district—resources that, because of the budget impasse, had not been in the district for many years.

WCT: What resources are you referring to, specifically?

LR: I secured \$15 million to bring an LGBTQ center to the South Side, which is much-needed. It'll have a health center and it will have a space for organizations which are already doing work on the south sides. Also, housing resources, which are very much needed.

Secondly, [I helped secure] two million dollars to the South Side Community Art Center. That was founded by Margaret Burroughs, the creator of the DuSable Museum. Then, a million-dollar for economic development development at 39th and State Street. That's going to bring a Pete's Produce, jobs and retailers to an area that was formerly public housing. I've also been working with my colleagues to bring a senior center to the Bronzeville community.

WCT: What's been the most challenging part of the job?

LR: Probably moving things along at the state. Because of the budget impasse, we're really trying to get the state back on a secure footing. That has been tough. A lot of organizations have closed. We've lost staff. One of the biggest frustrations has been is things are not moving as fast as I'd like them too.

WCT: So what kind of work would you like to get done in a subsequent term?

LR: Putting more funding into—and working alongside the governor for—putting an end to HIV by the year 2030. Specifically, that means adding more funding to the African-American Response Act. Secondly, working on housing for the LGBTQ community, especially for our trans brothers and sisters. Also irradiating lead, which is something I'm also working on, and then creating opportunities around minority contracts and jobs.

Jobs are a key staple of my legislation for this year, because I believe jobs will stem the vio-



State Rep. Lamont Robinson.

Photo courtesy of Robinson

lence that we're seeing, particularly in the South end of my district, and jobs will be able to improve our communities.

WCT: What kinds of initiatives would be successful in materializing those jobs?

LR: My lead bill would create jobs, because we are removing lead pipes from the streets to someone's home. Also, creating opportunities for minorities to have contracts with the state would create jobs. I'm a small-business owner, so if I look at the agencies that I own, employees are the folks that I hire. Small businesses are the backbone of a community. Helping someone to get a state contract is very important because that person will go out and hire folks from within the community.

WCT: What's it been like being openly gay—and the first openly Black member—in the state legislature?

LR: I've received a lot of love and a lot of support. Passing the PrEP bill was frustrating. That gives youth the opportunity to obtain PrEP without parental consent. That was a bill that I was a sponsor for. Also the bill [requiring LGBT-history] be taught in schools—both of those were very challenging to get through. People still have a stereotype of the LGBT community. My plan of attack is to figure out a way to circumvent that, so that we can get the same opportunities as anybody else.

WCT: You alluded to them previously, but what are the biggest challenges facing LGBT residents of the district?

LR: Housing, jobs and educational opportunities. Healthcare services and safety are issues as well.

See facebook.com/vote4lamont.

Read the full interview with Lamont Robinson at WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

**ELECTIONS 2020: JUDICIAL
(ROTI VACANCY)**

James Crawley on running again, having LGBTQ judges

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

James Crawley has been an attorney for 30 years working for both the government and in private practice where he represented plaintiffs and defendants on a variety of cases.

Crawley, an openly gay candidate, is running for the Cook County Circuit Court countywide Roti vacancy in the March 17 Democratic primary. He has been rated qualified or recommended by every bar association that rates judicial candidates.

Windy City Times: Why did you decide to run again? I see that you were a candidate in 2014.

James Crawley: I have been before judges four or five days a week for nearly the last 30 years and over that time I have come to recognize the traits and characteristics required to be a judge. Everyone who comes to a courtroom wants to be treated fairly. They want to leave knowing they were heard and the judge followed the law.

I know that I will bring the dedication, integrity and compassion required for the job. I think I would be an excellent judge.

WCT: How has the campaign gone so far?

JC: It is very personal because you are asking strangers for their vote. You are asking people to look at your past career and the life that you have led and make a decision based on that information alone. You are asking them to put trust in what you will do but as a judicial candidate it is difficult because you are prohibited from sharing your political positions. When you say that you cannot talk about your positions people think you are not being forthright.

WCT: You were appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to serve on the court's Judicial Performance and Evaluation Committee. What does that entail and will you be able to do it if you become a judge?

JC: Yes, I will still be able to do this work and actually most of the members of the committee are judges from around the state. I am one of two people who are not sitting judges.

Courts and judges actually rate one another and attorneys rate judges who are sitting on the bench. The Judicial Performance and Evaluation committee informs judges about what their peers and attorney's think. This is all confidential and a way for judges to improve their performance and



James Crawley.

Photo courtesy of Robinson

their peers to be honest without any retribution. Most people do not know this very important committee exists.

WCT: What sets you apart from your two Democratic primary challengers, Lorraine Murphy and Araceli Reyes De La Cruz?

JC: I commend both of them for wanting to go into public service. I do not know them personally but I recognize the sacrifice it takes to run for judge.

The truth is I have far more experience than either of them. One of them has been in administrative positions the last ten years and has not practiced law in a courtroom for some time. She is also very politically connected which I find

concerning for a judicial candidate.

My other opponent has been a prosecutor her entire career. I think it is very difficult for prosecutors to take off that hat when they become judges. You have to be impartial and I do not feel that former prosecutors can do that as judges. I think we need to be cognizant that there are entire communities in Cook County that feel the justice system is stacked against them. Putting another prosecutor on the bench will not instill trust and confidence for people in those communities.

The truth is [that] I have far more experience than either of my challengers and both have been found not qualified by at least one bar association in recent years.

WCT: Is there anything else you want the voters to know about you?

JC: The most important thing I want known, especially for LGBTQ voters, is my extensive career work for the community going back to the late 1980s including at one of the first AIDS legal clinics in the country. We had a case come before the federal court that was a landmark decision forcing states to pay for AIDS medication.

I was on the first boards of directors of AIDS Care of Chicago, one of the first residential facilities in the city for people living with AIDS. I have done a lot of *pro bono* work for Lambda Legal, ACLU and other organizations that promote LGBTQ rights.

I have also been with my husband, Daniel Ingram, for 20 years.

See CrawleyForJudge.com. Read the full interview at WindyCityMediaGroup.com

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- Graduate of University of Notre Dame & University of Pennsylvania School of Law
- Former Board Member of the Legacy Project of Chicago
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ELECTIONS 2020

Guide to the LGBTQs

This year's primary elections will feature a record number of openly LGBT candidates throughout Illinois. They include:

1. Karla Bailey-Smith

Race: Illinois state representative (88th District)

Website: Unite88.org

The skinny: The skinny: Bailey-Smith was born in Greencastle, Indiana. She earned an undergraduate degree at Illinois Wesleyan University in 1990 and a graduate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1993. Bailey-Smith's career experience includes working as a painter and scenic artist.

2. Deidre Baumann

Race: Cook County Circuit Court (C. Sheehan vacancy)

Website: DeidreForJudge.com

The skinny: Baumann has spent more than 25 years representing people against the government and large corporations, and was lead counsel in the Burr Oak Cemetery litigation. She is currently president of the Suburban Bar Coalition, and serves on the boards of directors for both the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago and the Decalogue Foundation.

3. Kelly Cassidy

Race: Illinois state representative (14th District)

Website: citizensforcassidy.com

The skinny: Cassidy, who recently wed activist Candice Gingrich, has served her district since 2011. Cassidy (the only openly lesbian member of the General Assembly) is running unopposed in this race.

4. Ty Cratic

Race: Illinois state representative (9th District)

Website: TyCratic.com

The skinny: Cratic (a onetime Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree) has been heavily involved in politics for quite some time, although this is his first time running. He is a native Chicagoan and has earned his B.A. degree in political science from Southern Illinois University. Among other accomplishments, Cratic served as senior staff on two Congressional campaigns in Ohio and Georgia, and has worked in the office of Alderman Jason C. Ervin, of Chicago's 28th Ward.

5. James Patrick Crawley

Race: Circuit Court of Cook County (Roti vacancy)

Website: crawleyforjudge.com

The skinny: The openly gay Crawley has been endorsed by Personal PAC as well as a number of other organizations. He previously served on the boards of Jane Addams Hull House and AIDS Care.

6. Michelle Darbro

Race: Illinois state representative (20th District)

Website: DarbroForRep.com

The skinny: A Norwood Park resident, Darbro is a career firefighter and paramedic who is a 2015 inductee to the University of Chicago Athletic Hall of Fame.

7. James T. Derico Jr.

Race: Cook County Circuit Court (Coghlan vacancy)

Website: Derico4Judge.com

The skinny: Derico is a 1982 graduate of the University of Notre Dame and a 1985 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. In December 2018, the Illinois Supreme Court appointed him to serve as a Circuit Court judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County.

8. Michael Forti

Race: Cook County Judicial Circuit Courtve (8th Subcircuit/Gubin vacancy)

Website: None

The skinny: Forti is a judge for the 8th Subcircuit of the Cook County Judicial Circuit Court in Illinois. However, his current term expires Dec.

7, necessitating a run. He faces no opponents in this race.

9. Jimmy Garfield

Race: Illinois state representative (12th District)

Website: JimmyGarfield.com

The skinny: Attorney Jimmy Garfield is one of four openly gay men running in the highly competitive race to fill the spot left behind by Sara Feigenholtz when she departed for the state senate. His platform focuses on ethics reform, and he has been vocal in his criticism of House Speaker Mike Madigan.

10. Greg Harris

Race: Illinois state representative (13th District)

Website: GregHarris.org

The skinny: Harris who was chief co-sponsor of SB10, the legislation that brought about marriage equality in Illinois, has a district that includes several North Side neighborhoods. Harris (who was first elected to the state House in 2006, and is the first openly gay person in Illinois to become a member of legislative leadership) is running unopposed in the March 17 primary.

11. Marty Malone

Race: Illinois state representative (12th Dis-

trict)

Website: martymalone.com

The skinny: Lake View resident Marty Malone is making his first bid for office as one of four openly gay men vying to be the 12th District's House representative. His platform focuses in large part on property tax reform.

12. Mary Cay Marubio

Race: Cook County Circuit Court (O'Brien vacancy-10th Subcircuit)

Website: JudgeMarubio.com

The skinny: Mary Catherine "Mary Cay" Marubio is currently an associate judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County. Elected by her peers in 2016, she is currently assigned to the Pretrial Division and previously served in the Domestic Relations Division. Also, Marubio is president of the Alliance of Illinois Judges—whose mission is to promote and encourage respect and unbiased treatment for LGBTQ individuals as they relate to the judiciary, the legal profession and the administration of justice.

13. Denika McMillen

Race: Illinois state representative (41st District)

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All photos courtesy of individuals campaigns or WCT staff photos

GUIDE from page 26

Website: McMillen4U.com

The skinny: McMillen is a licensed clinical social worker and resident of Naperville. Since moving to Naperville in 2016 with her wife and their three children, McMillen has been an active member of the Diversity Advisory Committee for District 203, Indivisible Naperville and other groups, and was an original board member of the Naper Pride organization.

14. Jacob Meister

Race: Cook County clerk of the Circuit Court
Social media site: "Jacob Meister," on Facebook

The skinny: Branding himself a progressive reformer, Meister has been practicing law in Chicago for almost three decades. He is also the founder of The Civil Rights Agenda, an LGBTQ-advocacy organization.

15. Ken Mejia-Beal

Race: Illinois state representative (42nd District)

Website: KMBfor42.com

The skinny: A first-time political candidate in the DuPage County district, Mejia-Beal's platform centers on three major issues he intends to change in his district: halting any revenue increases on alcohol, establishing simpler distribution of affordable insulin and HIV medication, and ending puppy mills in Illinois.

16. Yoni Pizer

Race: Illinois state representative (12th District)

Website: yonifor12.com

The skinny: Activist Pizer, a longtime Lake View

resident, is a realtor/developer who, with husband Brad Lippitz, has been intensely involved in politics for years, hosting fundraisers for politicians such as Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg. Like his openly gay opponents Ryan Podges, Jimmy Garfield and Marty Malone, Pizer is a first-time political candidate. He was named to replace departing state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz in the interim period prior to the next term.

17. Ryan Podges

Race: Illinois state representative (12th District)

Website: RyanPodges.com

The skinny: There are several gay men running for this Illinois House seat, including Podges and now-current 12th District rep Yoni Pizer, as well as Jimmy Garfield and Marty Malone. Podges, a Chicago attorney, feels there should be more LGBTQ representation in politics, and that the biggest problem for LGBTQs is access to proper healthcare.

18. Jill Rose Quinn

Race: Cook County Court judge (K. Sheehan vacancy)

Website: VoteJillRoseQuinn.com

The skinny: Quinn, a transgender attorney, has private practice experience that includes working at general legal practices in Chicago, Bloomington, Lombard, Glen Ellyn and Franklin Park. She has also gotten the backing of several key political figures, including Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

19. Lamont Robinson

Race: Illinois state representative (5th District)

Website: VoteLamontRobinson.com

The skinny: Robinson—who runs two Chicago Allstate Insurance offices, in Bronzeville and Humboldt Park—made history as the first openly gay African-American person in the General Assembly. During this primary, he is running unopposed.

20. Brian Sager

Race: Illinois state representative (63rd District)

Website: People4BrianSager.com

The skinny: Sager is a retired college professor and administrator who has been the mayor of Woodstock since 2005. Among his top legislative priorities are economic and job growth as well political ethics and early childhood education.

21. Levander "Van" Smith Jr.

Race: Cook County Circuit Court (Larson vacancy)

Website: SmithJrForJudge.com

The skinny: Smith, an Oak Park resident, is waging his first campaign for Cook County Circuit Court judge—but he already sits on the bench. In February 2019, the Illinois Supreme Court appointed Smith as a judge (in the domestic-violence division), with a term set to expire Dec. 7, 2020.

22. Maggie Trevor

Race: Illinois state representative (54th District)

Website: MaggieTrevor4il54.net

The skinny: Trevor, who identifies as lesbian, faces Ryan Huffman in the Democratic primary—with the winner facing Republican incumbent Tom Morrison in the general election in Novem-

ber. Trevor was born and raised in Rolling Meadows, where her parents were among the city's original residents.

23. Brad Trowbridge

Race: Circuit Court of Cook County (Fleming vacancy)

Website: BradTrowbridgeForJudge.com

The skinny: Family-law attorney Brad Trowbridge was a social worker before he became a lawyer. The 2020 race is his third attempt running for a judicial post.

24. Emiliano Vera

Race: Illinois state representative (93rd District)

Website: VoteVeraIL.org

The skinny: Vera, 26, is running against Scott Stoll in the Democratic primary in the western Illinois district, which has Republican Norine Hammond as the incumbent. This district is one of 710 state legislative districts throughout the nation that intersects with one or more pivot counties (those that went from Obama in 2008 and 2012 to Trump in 2016).

25. Sam Yingling

Race: Illinois state representative (62nd District)

Website: SamYingling.com

The skinny: Grayslake resident Yingling ran unopposed in the primary for his fourth term. He is the first openly gay House member from outside metropolitan Chicago. Yingling proposed to long-time partner Lowell Jaffe at the party former Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn threw to celebrate the passage of Illinois' marriage-equality bill in 2013. (They married in 2015.)



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MOMBIAN

Needing more than a moment: LGBTQ representation in children's media

The Academy Award-winning songwriters behind Disney's *Frozen*, Kristen Anderson-Lopez and husband Bobby Lopez, announced recently that they are working on Universal Pictures' movie musical adaptation of *The Prince and the Dressmaker*, Jen Wang's award-winning graphic novel about a gender-queer prince. Although no release date has been announced, it will likely be the first children's feature film to star a clearly queer character—making this a good time to assess the state of LGBTQ representation in children's film and television.

Much queer representation in children's media has felt like too little, too late. The new Disney Pixar film *Onward*, about two teenage elf brothers on a quest to magically reunite with their dead father, includes the studio's first clearly queer character who speaks, cyclops Police Officer Specter (voiced by actor Lena Waithe, herself a lesbian). She appears only in one scene, though, pulling over a driver who complains about his girlfriend's children. She comments, "My girlfriend's daughter got me pulling my hair out."

Because the character has a name and dialog, though, her depiction is a step up from the brief moments in Disney Pixar's 2019 *Toy Story 4* when a background character is dropped off at school by two moms, then picked up and hugged by them. (Some have also argued that the studio's *Finding Dory* briefly showed a two-mom couple, but the filmmakers refused to confirm it, and lead voice actor Ellen DeGeneres, who should know these things, denied it to the Associated Press.)

Dreamworks' 2019 *How to Train Your Dragon 3* did a little better. Blacksmith Gobber, a secondary but important character, clearly admired another male character's physique in a couple of scenes. The 2014 *How to Train Your Dragon 2* had also hinted at his sexuality with a vague reference to a "reason" he hadn't married, although that line makes less sense after marriage equality.

The first clear instance of an LGBTQ character in a mainstream children's film, however, was Universal Pictures' 2012 *ParaNorman*. Right before the end, we learn that the older brother of the protagonist's best friend is gay. The point may have been that his gayness didn't matter as much as the rest of his character, and that's valid—but it felt like it was played



Billy Porter (above) recently appeared on Sesame Street.

Photo by Hal Baim

for the surprise factor.

Similarly, Disney's 2014 live-action feature film *Beauty and the Beast*, which director Bill Condon said would have an "exclusively gay moment," saved that moment until the very end, when villain LeFou dances with a man for a couple of seconds, in what could also be read as an accidental stumble on the dance floor.

A number of television shows for elementary and middle-grade children, too, have shown same-sex relationships only in the last season or last episode, including *Gravity Falls* (Disney XD), *Good Luck Charlie* (Disney Channel), *My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic* (Discovery Family), *Adventure Time* (Cartoon Network), *Dawn of the Croods* (Netflix), and *Star vs. the Forces of Evil* (Hulu). And in *Legend of Korra* (Nickelodeon), the revelation of a same-sex relationship in the very last scene of the series was so vague that the creators issued a statement to confirm it.

Netflix's *Voltron: Legendary Defender* showed a main character, Shiro, with a male fiancée in the penultimate season, but the fiancée died shortly thereafter. Many fans complained that this exemplified the "bury your gays" trope, and that the series never authentically developed Shiro's identity. They weren't assuaged when Shiro married another man in the series' very last episode.

Other shows for this age group, however, have shown more LGBTQ inclusion across the spectrum and with ongoing characters. They include *Steven Universe* (Cartoon Network); *She-Ra and the Prin-*

cesses of Power (Netflix); *Kipo and the Age of Wonderbeasts* (Netflix); *The Dragon Prince* (Netflix); *Twelve Forever* (Netflix); *OK K.O.! Let's Be Heroes* (Cartoon Network); *Craig of the Creek* (Cartoon Network); *The Loud House* (Nickelodeon); *Danger & Eggs* (Amazon); *Andi Mack* (Disney); *Clarence* (Cartoon Network); and *Rocko's Modern Life: Static Cling* (Nickelodeon).

Shows for preschoolers, too, are slowly becoming more inclusive. *Chip and Potato* (Netflix), *Pete the Cat* (Amazon), and *Bug Diaries* (Amazon) all have ongoing characters with same-sex parents, and the rainbow-themed school on *Chip and Potato* has all-gender restrooms. A few others have had queer characters in single episodes, starting with the 2005 *Postcards from Buster* episode "Sugartime" (PBS), which showed a two-mom family. This episode was denounced by President George W. Bush's Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, who asked the producers to return all federal funding. More recently, the 2017 *Doc McStuffins* episode "The Emergency Plan" (Disney Channel) featured a two-mom family, and the 2019 *Arthur* episode, "Mr. Ratburn and the Special Someone" (PBS), showed *Arthur's* teacher marrying a husband.

The venerable *Sesame Street* has given a few mentions to two-mom and two-dad families in recent years and showed Muppet Grover in a dress in the 2017 song "Anyone Can Play," about breaking down gender roles. And actor Billy Porter (*Kinky Boots*, *Pose*) appeared as a guest in the upcoming 51st season, wearing a black tuxedo dress, per photos that the show posted to social media. This will be the first season where episodes will debut on the streaming service HBO Max before airing on PBS Kids. Given the *Postcards from Buster* hullabaloo and the current federal administration, that may unfortunately be the only way the show can both survive and produce queer-inclusive content.

The first and only mainstream television series for very young children that focuses primarily on a family with queer members, however, is Hulu's *The Bravest Knight*, about a girl learning to be a knight with the help of her two dads. The first season premiered last year; a second has not yet been confirmed.

We need more LGBTQ characters in children's media for all ages, both as minor characters who are simply part of the world and, more importantly, as protagonists or parents of protagonists, so that viewers can engage with them more fully. Studios should come up with original stories or, like Universal, look to some of the many excellent LGBTQ-inclusive children's books for ideas. All children will benefit from seeing themselves, their families, and their world more fully represented.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.

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WINDY
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ARTS + THEATER

Billy Harrigan Tighe
stars in *The Secret
of My Success*.
Photo by Liz Lauren/
Paramount Theatre

SPRING THEATER PREVIEW



New shows worth singing about

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Spring brings forth new life, and so, too, do Chicago area theaters with new stage productions. Take your pick between local or world premieres, both big and small. All shows in Chicago unless otherwise noted.

Aiming for New York

—**Once Upon a One More Time**, James M. Nederlander Theatre, running April 14-May 17: Songs popularized by pop princess Britney Spears become plot points in this Broadway-bound musical inspired by fairytale princesses. Bar hoppers who dance at Roscoe's to "Slave 4 Britney Sundays" won't want to miss seeing Spears' songs becoming Broadway canon. Details: BroadwayInChicago.com; 800-775-2000

—**Hit Her With the Skates**, Royal George Theatre Center, running March 10-June 21: The South Suburban Lynwood Roller Rink serves as inspiration for this world-premiere musical comedy that jumps between the years 1994 to 1977. American Idol alums Diana DeGarmo and Ace Young are in the cast. Details: HitHerWithTheSkates.com; 312-988-9000

—**Middletown**, Apollo Theater, running to March 22: Sandy Duncan (*The Hogan Family*, *Peter Pan*), Donny Most (*Ralph Malph* from *Happy Days*), Adrian Zmed (*T.J. Hooker*, *Grease 2*) and multiple Jeff Award-winner Kate Buddeke each star in Dan Clancy's 2018 play that looks at two couples' long-term marriages. Details: ApolloChicago.com; 773-935-6100

—**The Secret of My Success**, Paramount Theatre, Aurora, running to March 29: The 1987

Michael J. Fox film gets turned into a big musical comedy. Co-creators Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen (book) and Michael Mahler and Alan Schmuckler (score) update the action to today to make it much more palatable. Details: ParamountAurora.com; 630-896-6666

Post-Broadway

—**Be More Chill**, Apollo Theater, running April 6-Sept. 6: The late Ned Vizzini's 2004 novel about a teenager who gets a supercomputer in his head lives on thanks to a 2015 regional musical comedy adaptation. Social media furor and loads of downloads (particularly the song "James in The Bathroom") propelled the musical off-Broadway in 2018, and then to Broadway the following season. Details: ApolloChicago.com; 773-935-6100

—**What the Constitution Means to Me**, Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place, running to April 12: Maria Dizzia (*Orange Is the New Black*) stars in Heidi Schreck's critically acclaimed play that traces four generations of women and their relationship to one of the country's founding documents. Details: BroadwayInChicago.com; 800-775-2000

—**My Fair Lady**, Cadillac Palace Theater, running March 24-April 12: Lincoln Center Theater's massive 2018 revival of Lerner and Loewe's 1956 Broadway classic goes out on tour. Director Bartlett Sher's revised ending led to lots of audiences arguments. Details: BroadwayInChicago.com; 800-775-2000

World premieres

—**Her Honor Jane Byrne**, Lookingglass Theatre, running to April 12: J. Nicole Brooks' new

play looks at Chicago's first female mayor and the time she moved into the Cabrini-Green housing projects. Details: LookingglassTheatres.org; 312-337-0665

—**My Dear Hussein**, Silk Road Rising at Chicago Temple, running March 17-April 19: The Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s is seen through the eyes of a child in Nahal Navidar's new play. Details: SilkRoadRising.org; 312-857-1234

—**Dhaba on Devon Avenue**, TimeLine Theatre, running March 27-April 26: Madhuri Shekar's new Chicago drama is set at a long-standing Devon Avenue restaurant that faces foreclosure. Details: VictoryGardens.org; 773-871-3000

—**Under the Tree**, The New Colony at The Den Theatre, running April 1-May 3: K.L. Parker's new Texas-set drama explores what happens when a patriarch dies, and a family discovers that he led a secret life with a second family. Details: TheNewColony.org; 773-697-3830

—**Welcome to Keene, New Hampshire**, Strawdog Theatre at Filament Theatre, running April 16-May 30: Brian James Polak explores a small town's troubles with guns, opioids and divided political opinions. Details: Strawdog.org; 773-697-3830

—**Notes & Letters**, Underscore Theatre at The Understudy, running April 24-May 23: World War I puts four musically inclined Chicago friends to the test in this new musical inspired by a true story by Annabelle Revak. Details: UnderscoreTheatre.org

—**Relentless**, TimeLine Theatre, running May 6-June 27: Two African-America sisters are forced to deal with their late mother's past in this 1919 Philadelphia-set drama by Tyla Abercromble. De-

tails: TimeLineTheatre.com; 773-281-8463

—**King James**, Steppenwolf Theatre, running May 7-June 21: Two estranged friends argue over the impact of LeBron James' reign in Cleveland in ensemble member Rajiv Joseph's new play. Details: Steppenwolf.org; 312-335-1650

Local premieres

—**Judy and Liza—Once in a Lifetime**, Greenhouse Theater Center, running March 5-April 5: Nancy Hays and Alexa Castelveccchi pay tribute to the 1964 London Palladium Theatre mother-daughter concert that paired Judy Garland with an 18-year-old Liza Minnelli. Details: GreenhouseTheater.org; 773-404-7336

—**Teenage Dick**, Theater Wit, running March 6-April 19: Mike Lew's 2018 off-Broadway comedy modernizes Shakespeare's Richard III to a U.S. high school where an outcast teen with cerebral palsy runs for class president. Details: TheaterWit.org; 773-975-8150

—**Hundred Days**, Kokandy Productions at Chopin Theatre, running March 6-April 12: The Bengsons and Sarah Gancher's 2017 off-Broadway musical questions what you would do if you found out that you only had 100 days left to live. Details: KokandyProductions.com

—**School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play**, Goodman Theatre, running March 7-April 12: Jocelyn Bioh won rave reviews for her 2017 off-Broadway comedy set at an exclusive Ghana boarding school. Sparks fly when two students set their sights on entering the Miss Universe pageant. Details: GoodmanTheatre.org; 312-443-3800

Turn to page 34

THEATER REVIEW

Charley's Aunt

Playwright: Brandon Thomas

At: Saint Sebastian Players at St. Bonaventure Oratory, 1641 W. Diversey Ave.

Tickets: \$25; SaintSebastianPlayers.org, 773-404-7922

Runs through: March 15

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Scholars may attribute the birth of cross-dressing comedy to Plautus and Shakespeare, but the genre as we know it today traces its origins to Brandon Thomas' record-breaking farce (running for 1,466 performances before closing). Since its premiere in 1892, it has been adapted for stage, film, opera and musicals in productions as far-ranging as Egypt, India and China, its rom-com premise duplicated by authors from Oscar Wilde in *The Importance of Being Earnest* to Jean Poiret in *La Cage Aux Folles*.

The premise: Oxford lads Jack and Charley have invited their respective girlfriends to tea, followed by marriage proposals. To be sure, Victorian propriety mandates a chaperone for ladies

Joshua Paul Wright, Sean Michael Barrett and Garrett Wiegel in *Charley's Aunt*.

Photography by Eryn Walanka

visiting men's dormitories, but luckily, Charley's aunt and benefactor, after living expatriate for 20 years in Brazil ("where the nuts come from" as opposed to Scotland, "where the whisky comes from"), is to return that day to her native England, having in the intervening years advanced from secretary to wife of the late Dom Pedro

by Petro—one of the best in the play—but it makes some of her actions, like handing Titus's daughter Lavinia (Tarina Bradshaw) over to be raped and disfigured by her sons, very difficult to digest.

Titus himself (Colin Jones) ironically could do with a little more humor in his deliveries. His clearly comic moments—such as his handling of Tamora and sons when they come to him disguised—sound pretty much the same as his righteous ones or his hurt and shocked ones, and many of them are painfully overacted. He is never less than perfectly clear in his intentions and phrasing, but the exaggerated style is a constant reminder that he is performing.

The best performances in the play belong to several women. In addition to Petro, Laketia Harris acquits herself well as Saturnine's sister (originally his brother) Bassanius, whose love for Lavinia is both honorable and lustful. (That the couple are now lesbians glides easily into the play.) Bradshaw too is strong as Lavinia. Though her articulation in the early stages leaves something to be desired, her post-rape characterization is heartbreaking. Most powerful of all, though, is Gabrielle Lott-Rogers as Marcus, Titus's sister (originally brother) and one of the Tribunes of Rome. Lott-Rogers becomes the soul of the second act of the play as the actions of both Titus and Tamora devolve into chaos and bloodshed.

This ambitious but uneven Titus stands out for its nontraditional casting and its fight design (R&D Choreography) and handles its gruesome elements well. I can't help wishing, though, that Martin had edited it a lot more. This is not one of Shakespeare's greatest artistic achievements. His poetry does not stand up to his later works (or the contemporaneous Richard III). Without trimming, it makes for a very long evening.

d'Alvadorez. When her arrival is unexpectedly delayed, though, fellow student Fancourt Babberly ("Babbs" to his intimates) is persuaded to dress up in his costume for the upcoming school play and pose as the elderly relative. Further complicating this charade are two fathers eager to make a match with the wealthy widow, a pair of long-lost sweethearts, a much overworked butler and Byzantine legal complications regarding terms of inheritance.

THEATER REVIEW

Middle Passage

Playwright: Ilesa Duncan & David Barr III

from Charles Johnson's novel

At: Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave.

Tickets: 773-761-4477; LifelineTheatre.com; \$45

Runs through: April 5

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Set in 1830, this classic picaresque tale concerns self-absorbed young Rutherford Calhoun, a Free Man of Color who is better educated than most men (black or white) of the era. Nonetheless, he chooses to be a petty thief and rake, especially when he travels to New Orleans to make his fortune. When his debts catch up with him, his only way out is unwanted marriage to wealthy Isadora (Shelby Lynn Bias). Instead, he stows away on a ship, the Republic, and is pressed into the crew, quickly learning it's an illegal slaver bound for Africa.

Soon enough, Rutherford faces true perils through which he matures into a worthy human being. After picking up human cargo on the Guinea coast, and surviving a storm that cripples the Republic, Rutherford must thread his way between a crew mutiny, a slave rebellion and his promise to spy for ship Captain Falcon, who has befriended him for self-serving reasons. To reveal more would spoil things, except there's something besides slaves below decks: there's a mystical African god or creature that's key to Rutherford's spiritual awakening. Also, the ship's ironic name is central to the tale, embodying Rutherford's identity struggle long before we had

The secret to playing this brand of mayhem is verbal and physical alacrity sufficient to set a pace reflecting impulse over introspection, along with the stamina to maintain it to its logical conclusion—but in that word "logical" lurks the factor too often derailing stagings in our age of abbreviated performance spans. The instant that actors succumb to their own screwball giddiness, their audience is left behind to founder in confusion until they drop out of the chase altogether.

One of the advantages to a membership-based company like the Saint Sebastian Players (celebrating its 40th anniversary next year), however, is the group rapport developed by performers working together over decades. While the heaviest lifting may fall upon Sean Michael Barrett—whose extended impersonation of the titular kinswoman calls to mind Nathan Lane—each of his teammates shoulder their share of the airborne progress at every second. Director Jack Dugan Carpenter likewise never permits his show's panoramic intricacy to eclipse its individual components, nor does dialect consultant Lizzie Williams allow the accents to fray at the edges, or stage manager Kaeley Osterman sanction scene changes devolving into noisy furniture removals.

As an increasing number of theater companies in 2020 are beginning to assess the merits of long-forgotten milestones of Western repertoire, playgoers should be grateful for the opportunity to rediscover this deserving classic.

a term for being both African and American.

It's an engaging show, and why not? Lifeline Theatre has presented page-to-stage adaptations for nearly 40 years, so they have the narrative techniques and story-telling tricks down pat. Also, the cast features veteran Lifeline Ensemble members in key roles—Patrick Blashill as Falcon, Andres Enriquez as First Mate Cringle & Christopher Hainsworth as Squibb the cook—and they bring experience and versatility to the production.

As Rutherford Calhoun, Michael Morrow makes a very good impression in his Lifeline debut and really centers the show, which has been fluidly staged by Lifeline artistic director Ilesa Duncan. The production's excellent design elements also add a great deal: scenic (Alan Donahue), costumes (Anna Wooden), lighting (Simeon Carpenter, Scott Tobin) and projections (Paul Deziel, Alex. J. Gendal).

Middle Passage is adapted by Duncan and David Barr III from the award-winning 1990 novel by Charles Johnson. Their version was staged previously at Congo Square Theatre, notwithstanding which it still could use some refinements. First, Capt. Falcon is not depicted as villainous or cruel—especially compared to other 19th-century literary sea captains—so what inspires the crew mutiny? The real villain is Papa Zeringue, the black New Orleans criminal mastermind who partners in the illegal slave trade. He's given almost comic treatment here, which doesn't feel right. Also, Rutherford's interaction with the mystical thing in the hold, which triggers his crucial spirit journey, could be longer and more intense. These refinements would make this worthy adventure even better.

THEATER REVIEW

Titus Andronicus

Playwright: William Shakespeare

At: Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave

Tickets: HavenChi.org

Price: \$35

Runs through: March 14

BY KAREN TOPHAM

Director Ian Damont Martin's vision of Shakespeare's most graphically bloody play, *Titus Andronicus*, incorporates so much silly comedy that sustaining the play's darkness becomes difficult.

Shakespeare himself, of course, used comedy to offset his uglier themes (*Othello's* Iago, for example, is often hilarious as he plots the main character's demise) and here his poetry is often couched in what could reasonably be called black comedy. But Martin's often outlandish interpretations go to the heart of some of his characters, rendering them far less menacing than the Bard intended.

This production's Emperor Saturninus (Christopher Wayland) is more of a child throwing tantrums than the vindictive leader who has two of Titus's sons beheaded. (He is even shown in one scene having an actual tantrum, throwing himself on the floor and whining before collapsing into his wife's lap and "sucking his thumb.")

That wife, formerly the defeated Goth Queen Tamora (Michaela Petro), despite her desperate and secret desire for vengeance against Titus, becomes an Iago-like comic villain rather than a bereaved mother angry about the loss of her son. She routinely breaks the fourth wall with facial expressions that elicit knowing laughter from the audience as she coddles her emperor husband like a mother. It's a fine performance



Cage Sebastian Pierre, Kai A. Ealy and Charles Andrew Gardner in Kill Move Paradise.

Photo by Lara Goetsch

THEATER REVIEW

Kill Move Paradise

Playwright: James Ijames

At: TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave.

Tickets: 773-281-8463 or

TimeLineTheatre.com; \$42-\$57

Runs through: April 5

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There's a lot of rightful anger and anguish in Kill Move Paradise. It's playwright James Ijames' powerfully theatrical 2017 off-Broadway response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

TimeLine Theatre presents a jolting Chicago premiere of Kill Move Paradise, with director Wardell Julius Clark more than meeting the demands of Ijames' phantasmagorical script.

Kill Move Paradise is full of tonal shifts to serve as both an artistic memorial and a protest piece, at times feeling like a politically motivated Samuel Beckett piece. Clark and his cast thrillingly meet these challenges head-on.

For TimeLine's Kill Move Paradise, set designer Ryan Emans creates a dark, marbled limbo framed by a classical pediment up top, a curved sliding back wall and a warehouse door to the left. An old dot-matrix printer to the right activates to herald a new arrival, which also spurs flashy and unnerving effects work by lighting designer Jason Lynch and sound designer/composer Jeffrey Levin.

The first to appear is the Isa (Kai A. Ealy), and he physically struggles to make sense of where

he is and how he got here. Bearing hand wounds suggesting they were held aloft in a shielding "Don't Shoot!" manner, Isa eventually deduces that he's in a strange afterlife.

Isa is soon joined by Grif (Cage Sebastian Pierre), Daz (Charles Andrew Gardner), and most upsettingly Tiny (a role played by Trent Davis with Donovan Session at select performances). Each new arrival jests, questions and pleads with the others as they all take in the harrowing implications of what has just happened to each of them. Each figure hurls himself around the set, and they all struggle over what they should do next.

Director Clark and his amazing cast find playful ways to wring as much humor out of Kill Move Paradise as possible. And that's necessary because Ijames' script can be a gut-puncher as it pays homage to a long list of African Americans (also memorialized in the lobby) whose lives were brutally cut short.

The fourth wall between performers and spectators is also frequently broken down. Sometimes it's ironically funny about American representation. Other times the actors disquietingly scan the audience to see if they have the courage to meet their gaze when the question of bias and fear is brought up.

All of this makes Kill Move Paradise a strong theatrical piece that makes an audience think and question their assumptions and biases. While some may find this to be too hectoring, I instead found Kill Move Paradise to be a stirring lament for so many lost African-American lives.

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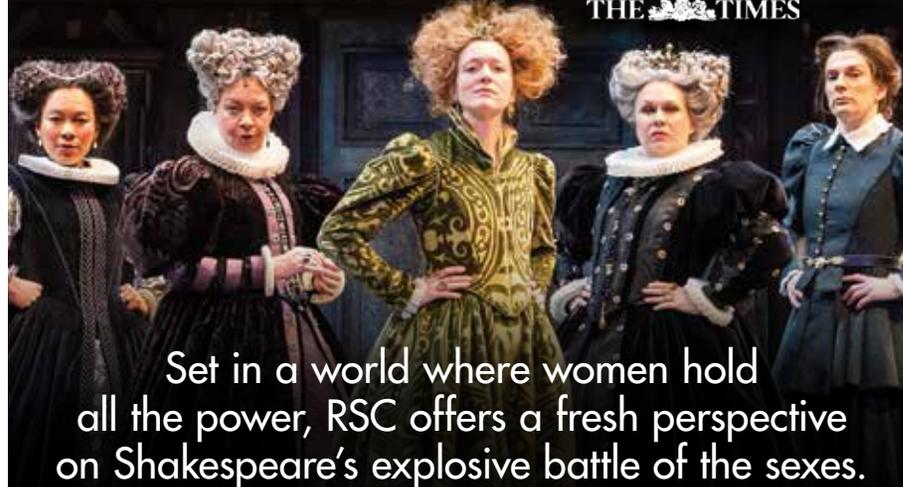
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POETRY

SPRING THEATER PREVIEW

Origin stories highlight theater in Chicago

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The equinox is only two weeks away, but it's still wet and snowy—not the kind that gives us an excuse to snuggle down by the fire with a hot drink, but the sloppy shivery kind that creeps down collars and up sleeves. Rather than surrender to meteorological malaise while waiting impatiently for the days to get longer and the crocuses to bloom, people may have to don thermals one more time and go to a show.

Plays to see quick before they close

(all running to March 15)

—**Charley's Aunt**, Saint Sebastian Players: Brandon Thomas' smash-hit 1892 romantic comedy was the prototype for Oscar Wilde's *Importance of Being Earnest*, but this is your chance to see the rarely-staged original. Details: SaintSebastianPlayers.org; 773-404-7922

—**Bug**, Steppenwolf Theatre: Nobody knew Tracy Letts would win a Pulitzer 12 years later, but the premiere of this sexy thriller in 1996 (and subsequent Hollywood film) proved that he was no one-hit wonder. Details: Steppenwolf.org; 312-335-1650

—**A Raisin in the Sun**, Invictus Theatre Company: Lorraine Hansberry's seminal portrait of housing segregation amid the racial bigotry of 1959 fits snugly and intimately into Pride Arts Buena's shoebox-sized storefront studio. Details: InvictusTheatre.com

—**Stick Fly**, Writers Theatre: Lydia Diamond's affluent/accomplished African-American family summering on Martha's Vineyard flouted demographic stereotype in 2006 to expose the universality of unease arising from ambiguities in social status. Details: WritersTheatre.org; 847-242-6000

Plays that recently opened

—**The Boys in the Band**, Windy City Playhouse, running to April 19: This environmental-staged production of Mart Crowley's ground-breaking pre-Stonewall drama seats playgoers right in the midst of the chic Manhattan loft where a coterie of men-who-love-men have convened for a party (we even get to share the refreshments). Details: WindyCityPlayhouse.com; 773-897-8985

—**Day of Absence**, Congo Square Theatre Company, running to March 22: Douglas Turner Ward, founder of New York's Negro Ensemble Company in 1965, marked its place in history with this 1970 satire proposing a crisis among clueless southern whites when all the town's Black citizens suddenly vanish. Details: CongoSquareTheatre.org; 773-871-3000

—**Mrs. Warren's Profession**, Promethean Theatre Ensemble, running to March 29: A young woman owes her privileged emancipation to her mother's business savvy at managing a successful chain of brothels—so why, asks George Bernard Shaw, does the ungrateful child opt for a career as a drab conservative corporate paper-pusher? Details: PrometheanTheatre.org

Mark your calendars

—**Two-Character Play**, Theatre L'Acadie, running March 13-29: What do a brother and sister do when their theatrical troupe abandons them in the sticks? Why, go into their act, of course—but did I mention that this late-career play is authored by Tennessee Williams, whose sister we have met before? Details: AtheneumTheatre.com; 773-278-6875

—**Intimate Apparel**, Northlight Theatre, running March 20-April 19: The so-called "gilded age" had its tarnished underside, too, sensitively explored by Lynn Nottage in this bittersweet tale of urban working-class romance thwarted by inter-ethnic prejudice. Details: Northlight.org; 847-673-6300

—**Molly Sweeney**, Goodman Theatre, running April 6-26: The opportunity to regain her sight would seem to be a gift for the blind girl in Brian Friel's symposial play—but is it? More important, who gets to decide? (Hint: the production is directed by Robert Falls) Details: GoodmanTheatre.org; 312-443-3800

—**The Lady from the Sea**, Court Theatre, running March 21-April 12: Nora Helmer abandoned her family and Hedda Gabler committed suicide, so it's easy to forget that one of Henrik Ibsen's famous unhappy housewives actually chose to stay within the marital purview—after some negotiating. Chaon Cross and Kelli Simpkins show us why. Details: CourtTheatre.org; 773-753-4472

—**Blackbird**, Den Theater, running March 24-April 26: A pair of lovers meet after 15 years to recall their illicit passion (begun when he was 40 and she was 12) in the cold light of a complex maturity that goes beyond simple villain/victim role assignments. Details: TheDenTheatre.com; 773-697-3830

Rethinking Shakespeare

—**Henry V**, House Theatre of Chicago, running March 29-May 10: Would you follow a young rookie general into battle? You would if your troop leader was played by award-winning Chicago favorite Brenda Barrie (aka *Mortal Kombat's* motion-capture Wonder Woman). Details: TheHouseTheatre.com 773-278-1500

—**The Taming of the Shrew**, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, running April 15-May 2: CST hosts England's Royal Shakespeare Company at The Yard for a reverse-gender adaptation of the bard's most sexist comedy. Details: ChicagoShakes.com; 312-595-5600

—**As You Like It**, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, running April 30-June 21: All you need is love—along with a mid-1960s Beatles score and Peter Max palate—for a home-grown version of this back-to-nature romantic comedy. Details: ChicagoShakes.com; 312-595-5600

Spring giddiness

—**Shear Madness**, Mercury Theater, running to March 29: The USA adaptation of Paul Portner's 1963 comedy may read as a live-action cartoon whodunit for grown-ups, but it arrives boasting a 17-year run in Chicago's Loop (even longer in other cities), and you can't argue with a record like that. Details: MercuryTheaterChicago.com; 773-325-1700



Chaon Cross from Court Theatre's *The Lady from the Sea*. Photo by Joe Mazza/BraveLux



DiMonte Henning, David Alan Anderson, Eric Gerard and Jennifer Latimore in Writers Theatre's *Stick Fly*. Photo by Michael Brosilow



Sonya Madrigal, Ann Joseph and Bryant Hayes in Congo Square Theatre's *Day of Absence*. Photo by Ikin Yum



Richard Clews (left) and Joseph Arkley in Chicago Shakespeare Theatre's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Photo by Ikin Yum

NEA supports dozens of Chicago arts organizations

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Mary Anne Carter announced that organizations in every state in the nation, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, will receive federal funding for arts projects from the National Endowment for the Arts in this round of fiscal year 2020 funding.

recipients include 3Arts, Inc. (\$15,000); American Indian Center, Inc. (\$10,000); Art Institute of Chicago (on behalf of Gene Siskel Film Center) (\$20,000); Art Institute of Chicago (on behalf of Video Data Bank) (\$20,000); Artists' Cooperative Residency and Exhibitions Project (aka ACRE) (\$10,000); Arts of Life, Inc. (\$20,000); Assitej/

(\$40,000); the Chicago Human Rhythm Project (\$25,000); the Chicago International Film Festival Inc. Cinema-Chicago (\$25,000); the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic (\$15,000); the Chicago Latino Theater Alliance (\$15,000); the Chicago Opera Theater (\$25,000); the Chicago Sinfonietta, Inc. (\$20,000); the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (\$60,000); the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (on behalf of Civic Orchestra of Chicago) (\$45,000); the Chicago Theatre Group, Inc. (aka Goodman Theatre) (\$25,000); and Columbia College Chicago (\$25,000).

In addition, there are Facets Multimedia In-

Ingenuity (\$100,000); the International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago (\$20,000); the International Music Foundation (\$20,000); Joffrey Ballet (\$10,000); Lyric Opera of Chicago (\$65,000); Maplewood Housing for the Visually Impaired (aka Friedman Place) (\$10,000); the National Indo-American Museum (\$20,000); and New Music Chicago (\$20,000).

Pegasus Theatre Chicago (\$15,000); Puerto Rican Arts Alliance (\$15,000); Skyart NFP (aka SkyART) (\$35,000); Snow City Arts Foundation (\$30,000); Sones de Mexico Ensemble (\$20,000); Steppenwolf Theatre Company (\$50,000); Sto-



Left: The Joffrey Ballet.
Photo by Cheryl Mann
Right: BPM, which ran at the Chicago International Film Festival.
Photo from the festival



Overall, 1,187 grants totaling \$27.3 million will provide people and organizations opportunities for arts participation, and this year include projects that celebrate the Women's Suffrage Centennial.

The Chicago organizations that are grant re-

USA, Incorporated (aka Theatre for Young Audiences USA) (\$40,000); Association of Architecture Organizations, Inc. (\$20,000); Chicago A Cappella (\$10,000); and the Chicago Architecture Foundation (\$35,000)

They also include the Chicago Children's Choir

corporated (\$25,000); Fifth House Ensemble (aka 5HE) (\$20,000); Full Spectrum Features NFP (\$10,000); Hyde Park Art Center (\$35,000); the Hyde Park Jazz Festival (\$20,000); the Illinois Arts Alliance (aka Arts Alliance Illinois) (\$25,000); Ingenuity Incorporated Chicago (aka

rycatchers Theatre (\$50,000); Territory NFP (\$15,000); TimeLine Theatre Company (\$15,000); University of Chicago (\$20,000); and Victory Gardens Theater (\$20,000) round out the city's recipients.

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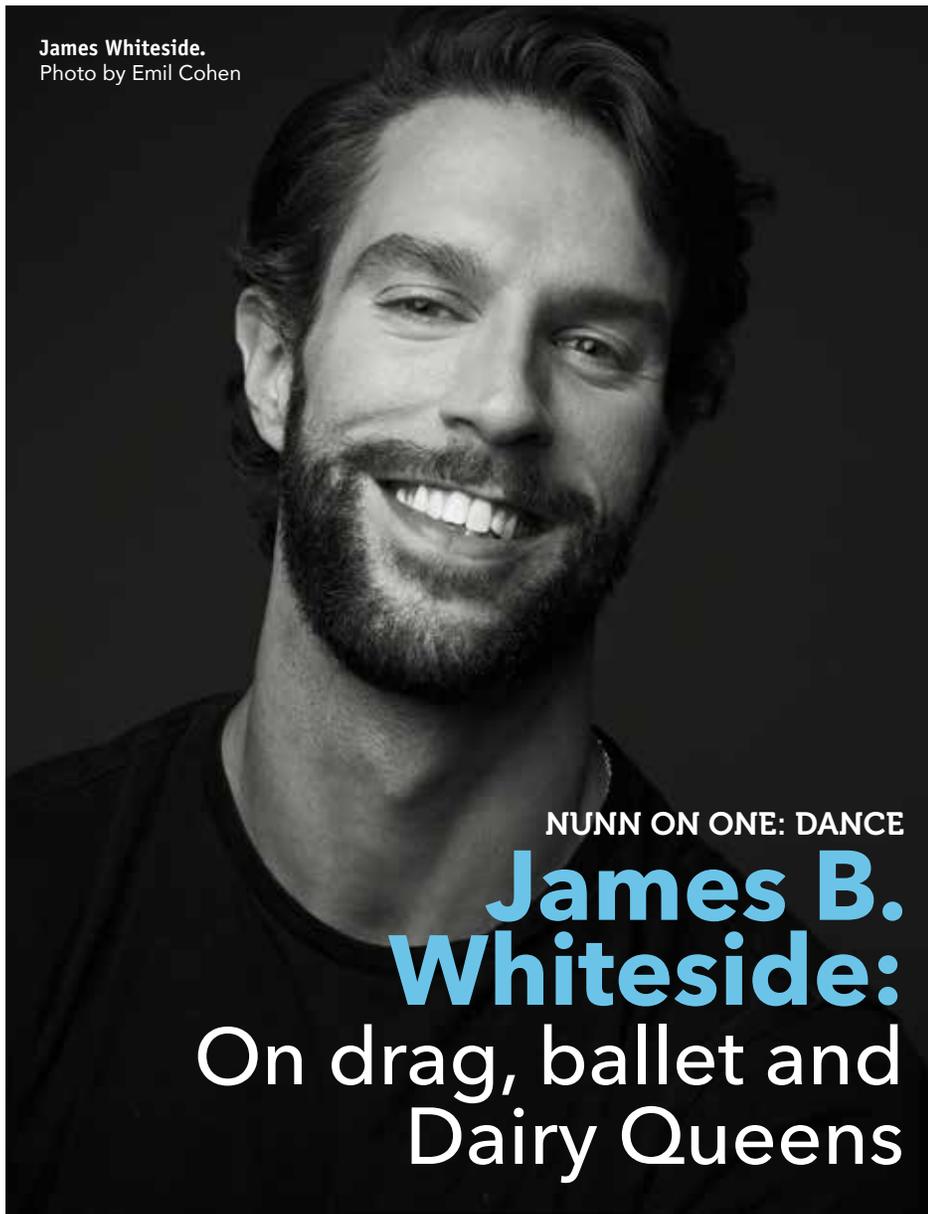
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James Whiteside.
Photo by Emil Cohen



NUNN ON ONE: DANCE

James B. Whiteside: On drag, ballet and Dairy Queens

BY JERRY NUNN

American Ballet Theatre is returning to the Auditorium Theatre to celebrate an 80th anniversary. One of the pieces brought to life is Twyla Tharp's *Deuce Coupe* that was first performed by ABT in 2019 and now has a premiere in Chicago.

One of the principal dancers in the piece is James B. Whiteside, who brings a lifetime of experience to the table. Beginning his training at 9 years old at the D'Valda & Sirico Dance and Music Centre, he eventually became a principal dancer in the Boston Ballet by 2009. This led to him performing classics like Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*.

Whiteside—who has been with drag queen Milk for more than a decade—joined American Ballet Theatre as a soloist in 2012, then became a principal dancer in 2013. That company had him performing in Shakespearean works such as *Othello*, *The Tempest* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

This openly gay performer records his own music, models and does drag.

Windy City Times: You studied dance at a young age?

James B. Whiteside: I began dancing when I was 9 years old. I went to a small school in Fairfield, Connecticut. I started with jazz, tap, acrobatics and ballet. Over the years, ballet moved to the forefront. I decided I wanted to be a professional ballet dancer, specifically with ABT.

WCT: Do you prefer classic pieces or modern?

JBW: I like to do a mix. As an American dancer, something that we do really well is versatility. I like to go from *Swan Lake* to contemporary works.

WCT: Are you noticing more gay partnering as a trend in the dance world?

JBW: I just think inclusivity and representation is on the up. I'm hoping it's not a trend and I'm hoping it takes root. I want to see different types of stories being represented on the stage.

WCT: What are you performing in Chicago?

JBW: I will be dancing in a very frenetic Twyla Tharp piece called *Deuce Coupe*, set to the music of The Beach Boys. My character in the ballet is really wild and exuberant. It shows a lot of my personality.

WCT: Had you studied Twyla in the past?

JBW: I have done a number of Twyla's ballets in the past. The first one I ever did was when I was

20 years old called *In the Upper Room*.

WCT: How long have you worked with American Ballet Theatre?

JBW: This is my eighth season with them.

WCT: How would you describe this upcoming show in Chicago?

JBW: It's a pu pu platter of ABT's celebrated works from the past and now. If you have never seen a ballet before, this is an excellent introduction. You don't have to be an expert on ballet to enjoy the show.

WCT: Have you been to Chicago much?

JBW: Yes, we come here almost every year. We have performed at the Auditorium Theatre, like this year, and the Harris Theater in the past.

WCT: Are there other gay members in the ABT dance company?

JBW: Of course.

WCT: Talk about performing in drag.

JBW: Honestly, it's a way to get outside of my world while expressing myself in a fearless, fun way. I've been doing drag since I was 19 or 20. My drag name is Ühu Betch and I make music under the name JbDubs.

WCT: Have you auditioned for RuPaul's Drag Race?

JBW: No, I haven't.

WCT: You are a bearded queen?

JBW: Yes. I will do whatever. I'm not terribly concerned about being the most beautiful queen in the stable.

WCT: Well, you have legs for days—and nothing beats great legs.

JBW: Amen!

WCT: Where did your drag name come from?

JBW: I'm from a drag group called The Dairy Queens. That is led by my boyfriend Milk from *Drag Race*. All of our names are dairy based. We have a Skim Burley and Juggz. My name is from the Yoo-hoo drink. It's nasty.

WCT: I think Yoo-hoo is good.

JBW: It's really poison.

WCT: That's why the kids love it! How long have you been together with Milk?

JBW: For 12 years.

WCT: Congrats on that. What continues to challenge you as a dancer?

JBW: I really like repeating roles. I can really build on the knowledge that I have gained by doing the piece. I have been performing as *Romeo* for years and I learn more each time that I do it. That really excites me.

I also like to choreograph. I had my first premiere with ABT this past fall. I have some other things coming down the pipeline that I can't talk about yet.

WCT: Do you teach dance?

JBW: No, I don't.

WCT: With choreography you could go on after not being a dancer, though. Age factors in with the longevity of dancer in many cases.

JBW: Correct. Your body gives out after a while.

WCT: Have you ever had a dance-related injury?

JBW: No, but I have chronic patellar tendinitis. I have learned how to manage it over the years. I can still keep dancing and keep serving!

The American Ballet Theatre will take place March 19-22 at Auditorium Theatre, 50 East Ida B. Wells Dr. For more information or tickets, visit AuditoriumTheatre.org.

SPRING THEATER from page 29

—**The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington**, Steppenwolf Theatre, running April 2-May 17: James IJames (currently represented at Timeline Theatre with *Kill Move Paradise*) examines America's ugly history with slavery via a death-bed "trial" of the "Mother of America." The cast features Saturday Night Live alumna Nora Dunn. Details: Steppenwolf.org; 312-335-1650

—**Freaky Friday**, Porchlight Music Theatre, running April 10-May 24: Mary Rodgers' oft-adapted novel about a mother and teenage daughter who switch bodies gets to sing in a musical comedy adaptation. It features a contemporary script by Bridget Carpenter and a score by Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey (*Next to Normal*, *If/Then*). Details: PorchlightMusicTheatre.org; 773-777-9884

—**American Mariachi**, Teatro Vista and Goodman Theatre, running April 25-May 31: Two sisters are inspired to create an all-female mariachi band in this music-infused drama by José Cruz González. Details: GoodmanTheatre.org; 312-443-3800

Opera matters

—**Two Remain**, Chicago Fringe Opera at Stage 773, running March 28-April 4: Two Holocaust survivors, one Jewish and the other gay, look back on their lives in this chamber opera by composer Jake Heggie (*Dead Man Walking*, *Three Decembers*) and librettist Gene Scheer (*Moby-Dick*, *Cold Mountain*). Details: ChicagoFringeOpera.com; 773-327-5252

—**The Ring Cycle**, Lyric Opera of Chicago, April 4-May 3: British director David Pountney's approach to Wagner's massive four-opera Norse mythology epic is finally realized with three full cycles and two extra performances of *Götterdämmerung* (*Twilight of the Gods*). Details: LyricOpera.org; 312-827-5600

—**Soldier Songs**, Chicago Opera Theater at Museum of Contemporary Art, running May 14-17: Baritone Nathan Gunn stars in composer David T. Little and filmmaker Bill Morrison's one-man opera that draws from interviews with veterans of five wars. Details: ChicagoOperaTheater.org; 312-704-8414

Musical revivals of LGBTQ interest

—**Grey Gardens**, Theo Ubiqwe Cabaret, running March 6-April 26: Drag queen Jinx Monsoon helped to popularize the 1975 film documentary about Jacqueline Kennedy's eccentric aunt and cousin via a winning *Snatch Game* performance on *RuPaul's Drag Race*. But Little Edie and Big Edie were also transformed into musical characters via an acclaimed 2006 musical adaption by songwriters Scott Frankel and Michael Korie (*War Paint*) and playwright Doug Wright (*I Am My Own Wife*). Details: Theo-U.com; 773-347-1109

—**Priscilla, Queen of the Desert**, Mercury Theater, running March 20-June 28: Three drag queens tour across Australia in a wonky bus in this stage musical adaptation of the beloved 1994 film. Details: MercuryTheaterChicago.com; 773-325-1700

—**Kiss Me, Kate**, Marriott Theatre, Lincolnshire, running March 25-May 17: Marvel at the

Turn to page 35

BOOK REVIEW

Headcase: LGBTQ Writers and Artists on Mental Health and Wellness

Edited by **Stephanie Schroeder and Teresa Theophano**

\$29.95; Oxford University Press; 287 pages

REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You had a flu shot this year.

You watch your cholesterol, eat better, stay active, and brush twice a day. So why do you feel so rotten? In *Headcase*, edited by Stephanie Schroeder and Teresa Theophano, you'll see that taking care of your mind is as essential as taking care of your body.

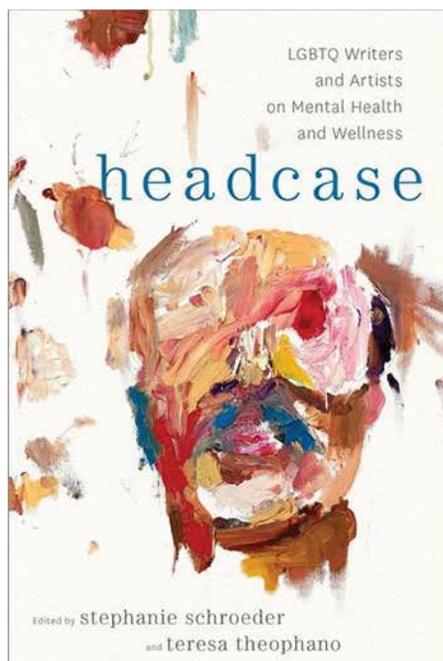
If someone on the street saw you today, he might think you were at the peak of health.

He can't see what's inside, though.

"Real or perceived minority status and ... disenfranchisement make us vulnerable to being labeled as sick," say Schroeder and Theophano. In other words, living as a member of the LGBTQ community may affect your mental health. Furthermore, Christian Huygen, one of the contributors to this book, says, "Research shows that, while LGBTQ people seek mental healthcare more often than our non-LGBTQ counterparts, we are more likely to leave care prematurely..."

Today, therapy is easier to get, if you feel hopeless or empty but not all practitioners understand LGBTQ health issues. Mainstream healthcare has only relatively recently decided that homosexuality was not a disease in need of a "cure." Too many healthcare practitioners don't understand that insurance is sometimes iffy. Never mind those who believe "conversion therapy" is the right "fix."

Have we evolved, when it comes to mental wellness for the LGBTQ community? You might think so, after reading the chapters here: of a lesbian who received comfort from a therapist when her long-time friend wouldn't stop bringing religion up. Of veterans who no longer have to conceal their sexuality. On fitting in with the local Mom's Group when you're the only "queer" mother and, by the way, you've already conquered postpartum depression. On being a lesbian daughter of a lesbian mother who was hospitalized against her will decades ago, only because she dared love another woman.



"Mental illness can be scary for anyone," says writer Lance Hicks. "... you choose between asking for help, knowing you're being judged, or suffering alone."

That latter option doesn't sound like so much of an option, does it? No, and *Headcase*—a title that comes from "reclamation" of a negative word, takes a real-life look at the first parts of Hicks's sentiments: mental health, mental help, and the history of it all within the LGBTQ community.

What you'll learn won't come easy, though.

There are several distinct kinds of chapters inside "*Headcase*," some easier to read than others. Readers will find arty things, poetry and drawings here. There are mini-memoirs of relevance. You'll find short stories, too, many of which have a disjointed feel, as though you just wandered into a half-conversation. There are chapters that are plainly meant for physicians, which might not appeal to laypersons. And you'll find history in this book, some of which—fair warning—will chill you.

Overall, *Headcase* could offer comfort but it's not a substitute for a doctor. It's got subtle advice, but it's not a therapist. It's not even a good stand-in for a sympathetic friend but if you need direction, it's worth a shot.

Want more? Then look for *LGBTQ Clients in Therapy*, by Joe Kort. There's also *A Clinician's Guide to Gender-Affirming Care*, by Sand C. Chang; Anneliese A. Singh, Ph.D., LPC; lore m. dickey, Ph.D.; and Mira Krishnan, Ph.D. APPB.

SPRING THEATER from page 34

brilliance of Cole Porter's clever songs in his hit 1948 Broadway musical about the backstage shenanigans of a troupe performing Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Details: MarriottTheatre.com; 847-634-0200

—*Evita*, Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, running April 10-June 14: Fascist diva worship never looked so much fun as in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's Tony Award-winning pop

opera inspired by the controversial 20th century Argentine first lady Eva Peron. Details: DruryLaneTheatre.com; 630-530-0111

—*Kinky Boots*, Paramount Theatre, Aurora, running April 29-June 14: An inspiring drag queen comes to the rescue of a failing shoe factory in Cyndi Lauper and Harvey Fierstein's Tony Award-winning musical adaptation of the 2005 British film. Paramount produces the first homegrown production since its 2012 Chicago tryout. Details: ParamountAurora.com; 630-896-6666

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NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

The portrait of **Dorian Electra**

Dorian Electra (center) with dancers.
Photo by Jerry Nunn

BY JERRY NUNN

American Ballet Theatre is returning to the AudiDorian Electra is part of a whole new wave of artists currently changing the game.

Being gender-fluid has influenced their work in music videos that continue to be a big component to Electra's art. Through this work, viewers are only entertained and educated on philosophies from the economist Friedrich Hayek, the futurist Ray Kurzweil and theorist Steven Horwitz. Other stimulating topics have been covered over the course of their career with songs such as "Ode to the Clitoris" and "The History of Vibrators."

Chicago drag queens Imp Queen, The Vixen and Lucy Stooie, among others, have been featured prominently in Electra's videos. Many of their videos have been screened at LGBT film festivals around the world to critical acclaim.

Not only did Electra tour with Charli XCX recently, but they also performed on the track "Femmebot," with Mykki Blanco, on the mixtape Pop 2.

Flamboyant, Electra's debut album, was released in 2019, and included catchy bops like the memorable "Daddy Like" as well as "Adam & Steve."

Electra chatted about their career backstage at a recent sold-out Subterranean show in Buck-

town.

Windy City Times: A diverse crowd is lined up outside for your show!

Dorian Electra: I haven't seen them yet, but I am always so in love with all the crowds that come to my shows. It's always a positive energy. That is what I always want to encourage, an inclusive, fun vibe.

WCT: Even the bathrooms are welcoming.

DE: Gender-neutral bathrooms are at all of my shows.

WCT: Tell our readers a little bit about yourself.

DE: I am from Houston, originally. I went to school in Chicago at Shimer College. I lived here four years. I would see shows here at Subterranean all the time. I have played shows as an opening act, but this is my first show headlining here.

WCT: Your name is actually Dorian Electra Fridkin Gomborg.

DE: Yes, my parents named me that. They are really cool people. My dad is actually here tonight. He came in from Austin and is very supportive.

WCT: Was it hard in Texas being different from everyone else?

DE: I was lucky because I was surrounded by a very nice, supportive community.

WCT: I noticed you are familiar with the drag scene in Chicago.

DE: Yes. We collaborated on a video for "2000 Years of Drag." It was part of a Refinery29 video series I did.

Chicago is super-special to me. I feel like that is where my queer family is.

WCT: You used local drag king Tenderoni for the video "VIP."

DE: Yes, Tenderoni is iconic and such a performer.

WCT: How did you wind up on tour with Charli XCX?

DE: We worked on a song together in 2017. We had done parties together. We did one in Chicago in 2018 called Femmebot Fantasy, which was based on our song "Femmebot." We had amazing, local queer performers. That was at Emporium Logan Square.

I came back in November to open for Charli and Allie X at House of Blues. We did an after party that night also.

WCT: Do you come up with the treatments on these creative videos? I believe you directed some.

DE: Yes. My partner, Weston Allen, and I direct all the videos together. Weston edits them and I style them. Our background is in film, so it is a

DIY production where a lot of our friends work on it with us.

It is something we have been doing since 2013. Weston is a full time video director and editor. He also works on my graphic design and other projects with me.

WCT: Your latest video, "Guyliner," you have described as something for the straight guys.

DE: Oh, yeah—but it's for everybody, of course. I said that because the video is very inspired by the 2000 MySpace era. The idea is about celebrating makeup and you don't have to be a woman or a queer person or even feminine to wear makeup.

Music is a tool to express yourself. I identify as gender-fluid, so I originally felt conflicted about makeup and how it played into my identity. I didn't want to feel too fully feminine or masculine. I like to mix it up. Makeup through drag was a way to express myself.

WCT: Is this leading to you [creating] make-up?

DE: I want to put out a full line of makeup, but now we put out a limited edition collector's item. A portion of the profits from that is going to the LGBT Center in LA.

WCT: How you feel about living in LA?

DE: I really love it. A lot of people are making regular pop music, but they are bridging the gap between experimental and underground music. There is an energy there that pushes you to the next level as an artist.

The reason I like the LGBT Center there is that I know the people and they actually do things to help LGBT homeless youth and provide mental health services to people. There are lots of other great organizations, but with this one I see the direct impact.

WCT: How do you pack for a tour with so many different looks and clothing?

DE: I try to bring things that are within the same color scheme, so I can mix and match easily. I try to get the efficiency out of every piece.

I bring a lot of T-shirts. I have a new collection of skeleton-themed T-shirts. I sleep in those or do soundcheck while wearing them.

WCT: How do you come up with your style?

DE: I like to mix in high pop like Britney Spears with BDSM. I have a hardcore vibe with punk and bright colors. I like to juxtapose different styles together.

WCT: What would you like to tell your fans [who] are struggling with their identities?

DE: There are so many people online to connect with. Even if they are from a small town and don't have a supportive community, they are not alone. There are so many people out there like them. It has been cool to see my fans make friends with each other, just from the groups online, then they hang out in real life.

WCT: I've seen your fans online debating on which gender you are attracted to. Want to clear that up?

DE: There's a difference between sexual orientation and gender identity. I can identify as queer or pansexual, but not really categorize people's gender of who I am attracted to personally. People get preoccupied about things but, to me, queerness isn't even about who you are attracted to and more just about who you are.

Follow Electra on tour and keep up with all their projects at DorianElectra.com.



Shirley Bernstein's "Two Cowries."
Art courtesy of the Columbus Museum of Art

'Art after Stonewall' at Columbus museum

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, and organized by the Columbus Museum of Art (CMA), "Art After Stonewall, 1969-1989" will be at CMA March 6-May 31.

The exhibit debuted in 2019 in New York City before traveling to The Patricia & Philip Frost Art Museum in Miami.

"Bringing together works by a remarkably diverse group of artists and activists who lived and worked at the intersections of avant-garde art worlds, radical political movements and profound social change, Art after Stonewall is a testament to their spirit of fearlessness, joy and boundless creativity," a press release noted.

"Art after Stonewall, 1969-1989" focuses on both the work of openly LGBTQ artists—including David Hockney, Harmony Hammond, Andy Warhol, Keith Haring, Tseng Kwong-Chi, Robert Gober, Louise Fishman, Robert Mapplethorpe, Greer Lankton, David Wojnarowicz, Lyle Ashton Harris, Catherine Opie, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Martin Wong, Vaginal Davis and Scott Burton—as well as the practices of straight-identified artists seeking engagement with queer subcultures, such as Alice Neel, Vito Acconci, Lynda Benglis, Judy Chicago, Barkley L. Hendricks, Gordon Matta-Clark and Louise Bourgeois. The exhibit is also a reflection of CMA's commitment to the central Ohio LGBTQ community.

General admission is free (only on Sundays)—\$18/person; call 614-221-6801 or visit ColumbusMuseum.org.

Cantonese opera program March 17

"Si-fu: An Evening of Cantonese Opera" will make its Midwest debut at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts Performance Hall, 915 E. 60th St., on Tuesday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m.

This program will start with a pre-show talk by Ariel Fox, Ph.D., assistant professor of Chinese Literature in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Committee on Theater and Performance Studies, and The College, of the University of Chicago; as well as Eva Tam, American-Orient Performing Arts pPresident and one of

the evening's Si-fu.

The performance, which starts at 7 p.m. and runs approximately 90 minutes, will be immediately followed by a post-show reception with the artists. Tickets, including the pre-show talk and post-show reception, are \$25, with \$10 tickets for seniors, and \$5 tickets for students and children 5 and younger. All tickets can be purchased online at arts.uchicago.edu or by visiting the Logan Center box office.

The performers will include Tam, Hei Yu Chan, Lai Yuk Chow, Wai Ling Ho, Janice Ng and Christie Wing Sum To.

Produced by San Francisco-based American-Orient Performing Arts, "Si-fu" is presented here by the Logan Center and UChicago Global, along with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (NY), the Center for East Asian Studies at The University of Chicago and the Chinese Fine Arts Society.



Catracho lift with Joe Musiel and Rachel Spies.
Photo by William Frederking

Cerqua Rivera Dance holding sneak preview April 16

Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre is building on the momentum from its 20th anniversary (in 2019) by launching three brand new art works and engaging with audiences across Chicago.

The company will kick off its season at Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music, 4545 N. Lincoln Ave., with a spring showcase and sneak preview Thursday, April 16, 7-8 p.m.

The company will perform excerpts from Place Between Earth & Sky (2019); Soul Remedy, a work in progress with music by jazz artist Pharez Whitted; Complicating Incidents, a work in progress with choreography by Hubbard Street Dance Chicago alumna Alice Klock; and American Catracho (2019), by Wilfredo Rivera and Joe Cerqua.

See CerquaRivera.org.

Facets names new executive director

Facets—a nonprofit that connects people to independent ideas through film experiences—has announced Karen Cardarelli as its new executive director.

She succeeds founder and longtime executive director Milos Stehlik, who passed away last July after a six-month battle with lung cancer. Facets opened in 1975.

Cardarelli is the co-founder and former executive director of Emerald City Theatre. During her time as the theater's executive director, she partnered with Broadway in Chicago, KPMG and Chicago Public Schools to create the company's projects.

Facets stated on its website, "With Karen's leadership, the immense dedication of our board and staff, and the generations of audience members, program participants, and Facets Members who have helped sustain us, we will continue to make the world a better place through the power of film."

Women to report, produce Blackhawks match on March 8

International Women's Day is on Sunday, March 8—and NBC Sports Network will celebrate by using an all-female crew to broadcast and produce game coverage of the match between the St. Louis Blues and Chicago Blackhawks, Deadline reported.

The game will mark the first NHL contest broadcast and produced exclusively by women in this country.

Kate Scott (play-by-play) will call the action with U.S. Olympic gold medalists Kendall Coyne-Schofield (inside-the-glass analyst) and AJ Mleczko (analyst) from Chicago's United Center.



Cameron Esposito.
Photo by Kim Newmoney

Out comedian Cameron Esposito in town March 29

Comedian Cameron Esposito will bring her "Save Yourself Tour" to The Den Theatre Sunday, March 29, at 8 p.m. on The Den's Heath Mainstage, 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Esposito is a standup comic, actor and writer who has appeared across television and film and, most recently, in print in the New York Times. She is also a former Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree.

Tickets (\$37.50/person)—which include an autographed copy of Esposito's new book, Save Yourself—are on sale at TheDenTheatre.com, in person at the The Den box office or at 773-697-3830.

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NewTown Writers reading.
Photo by Chuck Kramer

Local LGBTQ writers' group marks 40 years

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Writing another chapter, LGBTQ writers group Newtown Writers celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

Randy Gresham founded the group in August 1980, when he moved to Chicago from Atlanta. He had been involved with some mixed (not LGBTQ-specific) writing groups and knew there were LGBTQ groups in other cities. He was not aware of any LGBTQ writing groups in Chicago; therefore, he decided to found a group.

The group started as a salon where members would meet at each other's apartments, read and then hang out at a bar together. Eventually, the group moved from being a salon and started meeting at local places like Gerber Hart Library and Archives, Cafe Veranda and Ann Sather. Newtown Writers incorporated in 1988 and still holds that corporate status.

"We have short story writers, novelists, poets, films scripts, experimental writing, different types altogether," said Gresham, a past president of Newtown Writers as well as its founder. "We run the gambit of literary types. We meet, at present, on the third Thursday of each month at the Starbucks on Ridge [5970 N. Ridge Ave.]."

Gresham, who grew up in the Atlanta suburbs, said he has been writing since he was 9, starting with journaling, which then became short stories and poetry. In his adult years he has written a novel and short stories, which he published.

He enjoyed being part of a writing group so much in midtown Atlanta, which he described as "the equivalent of Boystown there," that he "wanted to duplicate it."

"Like so many young people, I enjoyed going out to the bars and meeting people, I'm a great one for conversation and I love to find out what makes people tick and I found out a lot of the people that I met were actually writers or aspired to be writers," said Gresham of when he was creating the group. "I thought, 'Okay—we can meet in people's homes, we can advertise in the paper,

we can indicate it's LGBT' and go from there. The idea actually came to me because I did speak to writers who did not have a venue at the time. In the 1980 when it was founded, there was still a very strong need for exclusive gay writing."

"So we actually moved from a need, a necessity, to have a gay writing group because you were safe, you could be yourself, you could put it all out there without censoring and then we moved from then to it's perfectly fine to be LGBT, whatever," said Gresham, who identifies as gay.

Gresham recalled there were about 12 to 16 guys who showed up the first time he formed the group. Over time, he said, the group has evolved, growing in numbers and representation. He noted that Newtown writers has welcomed members from every part of the LGBTQ community.

Although, branded as an LGBTQ writers group, Newtown Writers is open to all literary enthusiasts. At a given time, members cycle, but throughout the years, Gresham said there have been about 400 writers/members. Right now, he said it is a mellow group of about six to 10 people who meet on the third Thursday of every month. The group has also shaken things up by welcoming different local writers and poets to guest speak at workshops and conducting various readings.

"I love the comradery," Gresham said. "As a matter of fact, my initial real reason for founding the group was because I wanted the comradery of fellow writers. So, I enjoy that. I enjoy getting together with the group."

During its 40 years, Newtown Writers has also put out 20 volumes of its *Off The Rocks Anthology*, a collection of written works by writers who attend the group's workshop meetings and writers outside the group who submit their work to be considered for publication. The first volume was published in 1982.

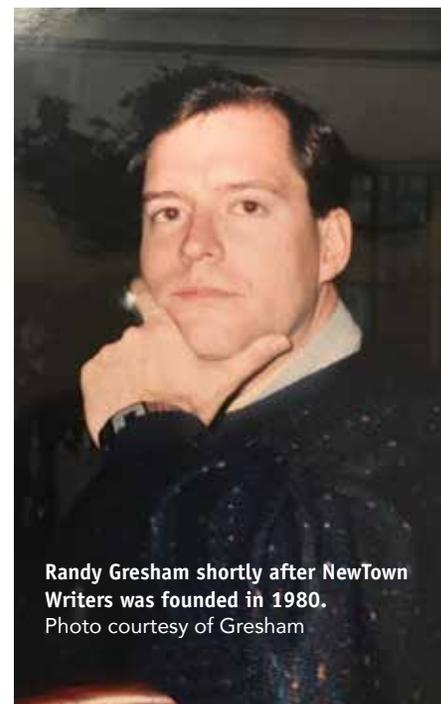
Gresham shared that Newtown Writers used to be connected with a theater troupe that performed for the public. Gresham explained the theater group was made up of actors who volun-

teered their time; they were not necessarily writers in the group. He added the performances were something he really enjoyed during the group's run and are something he would like to bring back to life.

As for celebrating the 40th anniversary, celebration plans are still in the works.

"I'm happy with the group at present," said Gresham. "I want us to continue printing our anthologies and I'd like to see a lot more performance. That's something we did very extensively for a while. I'd love to see that resurrect. I would like lots of public readings open to the public and that type thing and pretty much continue as we have done through the years. Obviously, I'd love to attract some new writers and that type thing."

See "NewTown Writers" on Facebook.



Randy Gresham shortly after Newtown Writers was founded in 1980.
Photo courtesy of Gresham



Honey West.
Photo by Amy Braswell

'Priscilla' at Mercury March 20-June 28

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert will run in the Venus Cabaret Theater at Mercury Theater Chicago, 3745 N. Southport Ave., March 20-June 28.

Cast members include Honey West, as Bernadette; Josh Houghton, as Tick/Mitzi; and Parker Guidry, as Adam/Felicia. Based on the hit movie, Priscilla, Queen of the Desert features the adventures of three friends: Tick, Bernadette and Adam—a glamorous Sydney-based performing trio who agree to take their show to the middle of the Australian outback.

Individual tickets are \$65; visit MercuryTheaterChicago.com, call 773-325-1700 or stop by the Mercury Theater box office.

Reeling co-director stepping down

Richard Knight Jr. is stepping down from his role as co-programming director of the annual event Reeling: The Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival, which takes place in the fall.

In a note sent to Windy City Times, Knight said, "Reeling: The Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival is the second oldest of its kind in the world. And I have had the enormous privilege (and task!) of programming the features for Reeling six times. Now the time has come for me to move on to other creative challenges.

"I remain a devoted fan of this Chicago cultural institution and shall continue to support it with all my heart. My deep affection and admiration for Brenda Webb, its founder and director, continues unabated and I am grateful for the incalculable lessons I have learned from her. A huge thank you to Brenda and to all the filmmakers and supporters of Reeling. It has been an honor.

Knight was also a film writer/critic for Windy City Times, having served in that capacity 2004-17.

A photograph of Mike Bloomberg, an older man with grey hair wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue patterned tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the foreground, a young girl with dark hair is smiling broadly and holding up a smartphone to take a selfie with him. Other people are visible in the background, including a woman with dark hair looking down.

As mayor, Mike extended anti-discrimination laws to include gender identity in 2002. Mike has supported marriage equality since 2005 and helped lead the effort to pass marriage equality in New York State through a Republican legislature and officiated a same-sex wedding on the first day it was legal.

As President, Mike will Fight for passage of the Equality Act and protect LGBTQ+ youth and families.

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Jason Collins and Modesto Valle.

NBA, WNBA figures take part in dinner, talk at Center

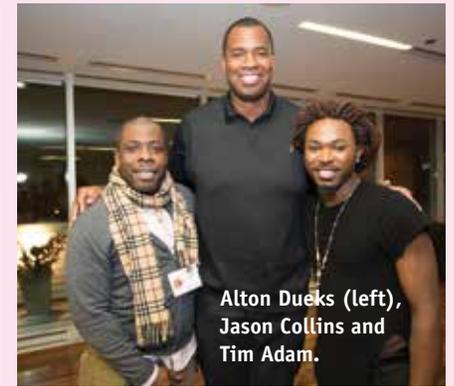
Former NBA and WNBA players and members of the NBA/WNBA family recently participated in a conversation with LGBTQ youth and allies from the Center on Halsted.

Among the current and former athletes were Horace Grant, Jason Collins (who came out after retiring), Mickey Johnson, Cheyenne Parker and Taj McWilliams-Franklin. Also in attendance were NBA President of Social Responsibility & Player Programs Kathy Behrens; and NBA Head of Social Responsibility Todd Jacobson.

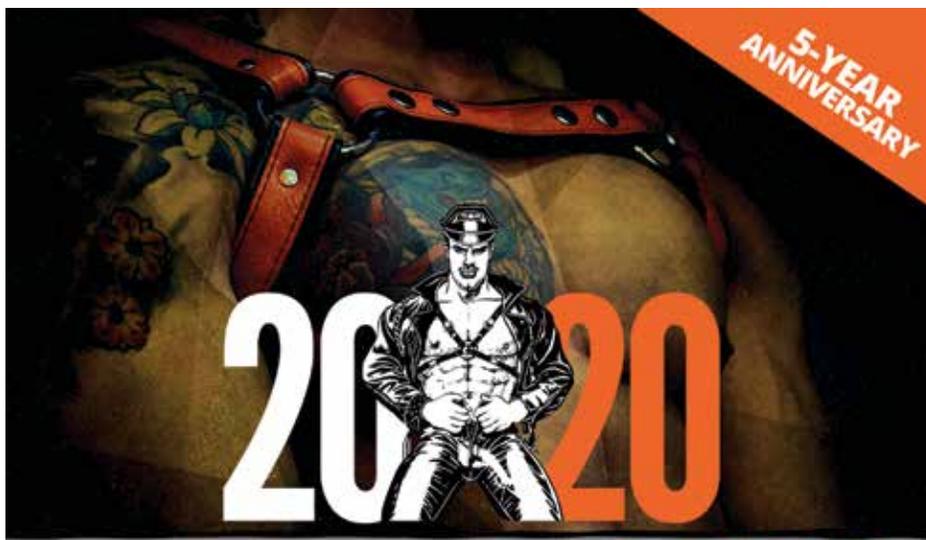
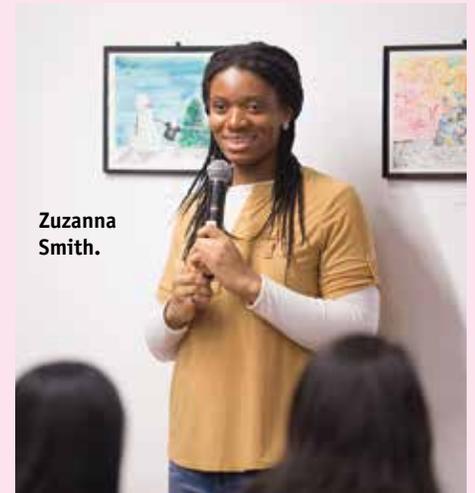
Photos courtesy of the Center



Alton Dueks (left), Jason Collins and Tim Adam.



Zuzanna Smith.



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BUSINESS

Lost Larson: A'ville bakery/cafe has multiple goals

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Andersonville spot Lost Larson has some spectacular bakery items (as this writer discovered), but the people behind it has other goals involving two separate demographics: lesbians and the Swedish.

The amiable Bree Schaffer co-owns the neighborhood bakery/cafe with brother Bobby. (Incidentally, Bree identifies as lesbian while Bobby is gay. "There are four of us—two boys and two girls—and we're the gay ones," Bree said with a laugh.)

Regarding the focus on the lesbian community, Lost Larson held a "Lost Lesbians" series that involved showings of *The L-Word: Generation Q*. "That was something I thought about for so long," Bree said. "I wanted to create a community for queer women."

She added, "When I came out, I had a lesbian mentor who said, 'Go to Andersonville. That's the lesbian mecca of Chicago.' But I would come here alone and I'd be all shy, very unsure of myself. I saw lesbians, but I didn't really a place specifically for lesbians—and there's a whole Boystown for [gay men]. I've been to a few women's nights at gay bars, but even those have been dominated by men."

Turn to page 46



Bree Schaffer.
Photo courtesy of Bree Schaffer



Photo by Andrew Davis



Bobby Schaffer.
Photo by Michael Muser



BILLY Masters

"They think I'm fucking dumb. I'm literally painted out to be this big, dumb idiot." - **Pete Davidson** says what he believes his "Saturday Night Live" castmates think about him. I have my doubts. Nobody uses the word "big" in reference to Pete!

A great headline can really grab your attention. Like this one: "Woman says meth found hidden inside vagina is not hers". Obviously you want to know more. Apparently, 23-year-old Ashley Beth Rolland was "staying" with a guy in Louisiana. While he was in the shower, Ashley allegedly stole his cash and ran off. He called the police, they caught her, and she confessed. However, when a female correctional officer searched her, she found \$6,233 in cash along with a plastic bag containing one gram of meth in Ashley's vagina. Ash says she has no idea how the meth got into her vagina, and I'm inclined to believe her. Maybe it's a popular vagina. We hear she is being held on \$8,000 bail. Apparently she couldn't come up with that much - even after checking all of her orifices (or orifici).

Time for an awkward and yet hilarious segue from a vagina with lots of foot traffic to our First Lady. Look, I don't write the news, I simply report it. **Melania** recently proclaimed that not only has she never had plastic surgery, she's against it, including any form of injections. If I were her, I certainly wouldn't want anything within arm's reach pumped into me. Countering her stance is a former roommate, who alleges that when the former Slovenian model/skier/whatever came back from a two-week vacation, she was considerably more "buxom". Developing.

Just to keep you in the loop, **Jussie Smollett** formally pleaded not guilty to six counts of felony disorderly conduct. When he was charged last year, there were 16 counts. So on the positive side, they're going down - something Jussie ought to get used to should he spend any time in the big house. He is due next in court on March 18th.

You may recall that little **Frankie Muniz** appeared on "Dancing with the Stars" two years ago. He recently dusted off his dancing shoes when he found himself in a dressing room with one of the show's professional hoofers, **Keo Motsepe**. The duo doffed their tops and performed a semi-synchronized rendition of Ginuwine's "Pony". When posting the video, Muniz said, "I know I'm going to regret this later". I suppose the only way to know for sure is to watch it on BillyMasters.com.

I keep reading about these shows **Oprah** is doing around the country. People are paying big bucks to see O's "Vision Tour". Winfrey might wanna have her vision checked because last week, she fell onstage. During a "performance" in Los Angeles, Oprah said, "Wellness to me means all things in balance, and balance doesn't mean all things are equal or at peace at all times." And with that, she lost her balance and landed on her ass. Actually, that doesn't do the fall justice. She



Billy has something to say about Greg Kinnear's Broadway debut.

Photo of Kinnear courtesy of Fox

kinda stumbled around, almost looked like she was about to attempt a cartwheel, and then fell flat on her ass. I can describe it so accurately because, yes, we have the video on BillyMasters.com - and it may be the best video since Beyoncé fell down that flight of stairs. Anyway, when she fell, the audience gasped. Oprah got up and laughed off the incident, saying, "It's nice to be talking about balance and falling." She kicked off her shoes and had an assistant bring out a pair of sneakers. After all, the show must go on.

One of the biggest hits on Broadway is "To Kill a Mockingbird". When the show opened last year, it starred **Jeff Daniels**. Then he left and the role of Atticus Finch was taken over by **Ed Harris**. It's just been announced that when Mr. Harris leaves Broadway on April 19th, he will be replaced by **Greg Kinnear**. Let's play a little game I like to call "Who turned down that role?" Because, lovely as Mr. Kinnear may be, does anyone really think he was the producers' first choice? Don't you think there are a few actors in between Ed Harris and Greg Kinnear? OK, so maybe they couldn't get Scott Baio. But what is David Faustino doing? By the by, the press release indicates that this will be Kinnear's Broadway debut. Shocking!

For years, the stars of "The First Wives Club" have talked about making a sequel. While nothing ever came of that, they're doing the next best thing. **Bette Midler**, **Goldie Hawn** and **Diane Keaton** will reunite for "Family Jewels", which is described as a multigenerational comedy. The ladies are forced to spend Christmas with their children and grandchildren after the man they were all once married to suddenly dies. And I'm sure hilarity will ensue.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Tyler in Dallas: "Do you remember that hot criminal who became a model? Everyone was talking about him a couple years ago. Whatever happened to him? He was gorgeous."

That would be **Jeremy Meeks**, who strutted his stuff on the runway during New York Fashion

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MOUNT GAY THE BOTANIST COGNAC REMY MARTIN

Week after being released from prison in 2017. The so-called "hot felon" got a whole lotta media attention when his mug shot went viral in 2014. After serving just over two years in prison for possession of a firearm (he'd previously done nine years in prison for grand theft felony), he made the most of his second/third chance by cashing in on his chiseled cheekbones and pouty lips. If you're one of Jeremy's fans, you'll be pleased to know that you can see a whole lot more of him. We've got a number of photos where he shows off every inch (close to double digits) of his excited appendage. Apparently prison agreed with him - as you'll see on BillyMasters.com.

When we're trading one convict for another, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Here's a fun fact - Meeks' agent also represents the Octomom ... speaking of vaginas with lots of traffic! Just goes to show there's a bright side to everything. And we show you every side on www.BillyMasters.com - the site that finds the best stories in the oddest places. If you have a question, send it off to Billy@BillyMasters.com. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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the DISH

Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

MAD Social; 'Butches Who Cook'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Few Chicago restaurants capitalize on a thoroughfare like **MAD Social** (1140 W. Madison St.; MADSocialChicago.com), which incorporates Madison Street into everything from menu items to, obviously, its name.

The spot—the first new restaurant from Phil Stefani Signature Restaurants in 14 years—recently marked its fourth anniversary by revealing a new menu. However, the menu (featuring contemporary American cuisine) still showcases the restaurant's inventiveness.

MAD Social is a casual, medium-sized restaurant with lots of dark woods and suitably dim lights—yet it's still inviting. The only issue with decor I saw was with space; for example, the distance between our booth and the table across the way wasn't enough to prevent servers from occasionally bumping our area.

Menu offerings were almost all incredible. Crispy Brussels sprouts (under the "MADness" heading) featured the vegetables shaved into a heaping mass of red cabbage, carrot, cilantro, toasted garlic chips, scallions, wonton strips and sesame seeds—topped with a couple serrano pepper slices. I could've eaten this all night; my guest (not a sprout aficionado) tried a forkful and liked it. Needless to say, I was the one who took that dish home.



Crispy Brussels sprouts at MAD Social.

Photo by Kailley Lindman

The chicken drumettes were also winners. They're stuffed with jalapeño and cheddar, wrapped in bacon and topped with Louisiana hot sauce—but there's ranch blue cheese pickled celery dressing for those who need to call off a little. Speaking of spicy, the place's MAD hot sauce lavash is part of the lentil cashew hummus, which comes with green olive tapenade and baby carrots—and the presentation was pretty cool. Meatloaf cupcakes (also wrapped in bacon) may play with your mind with the presentation that includes mashed-potato "frosting," but they were undeniably delicious. The chicken and churro waffles made for a tasty mix of the savory and sweet, and were accompanied by maple syrup. (People are encouraged to add the house hot sauce for even more flavor.)

Then there were the shrimp and grits—a concoction of white corn grits, shrimp, and

shallot-and-cherry tomato fondue in three parmesan baskets, and topped with kale chips. The cups looked really enticing. However, upon biting into one, my friend/guest immediately remarked, "Where's the seasoning?" I, sadly, had to agree; this dish had no taste—maybe cheese grits would work better.

Pivoting from that dish, the cocktail selections are high notes, especially Rosemary's Baby—a take on a Moscow Mule that utilizes Ketel One rosemary-infused vodka and real ginger beer, as opposed to ginger syrup. Other items include Pretty in Pink (Tito's Vodka, muddled strawberry and basil, lemon juice and simple syrup) and Guapo 2.0 (jalapeno, pineapple tequila, vanilla syrup, lime and angostura bitters). However, be aware that cocktails are \$14 each.

Speaking of names and thoroughfares, was it pure coincidence that our server was named Addison—the daughter of a local TV news anchor who was named after a North Side street? One may never know—but she was incredibly sweet and attentive.

Note: Profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.

'Butches Who Cook' on March 15

The Facebook group LezInColor is hosting its first cooking competition, "Butches Who Cook," Sunday, March 15, 1-6 p.m., at the Grand Ballroom, 6351 S. Cottage Grove Ave. According to the press release, "10 (masculine-centered women) of color are competing."

The event is expected to have more than 200 attendees and will include a fashion show, music by DJ Da Wrek, entertainment, informational tables and vendors.

There is a \$10 entrance fee for the event, which the Midwest Women's Sports Group is co-sponsoring. For more information, email ritasvoice@msn.com.



Seeing red at Otter: Lumbersexual.
Joseph Stevens Photography

A fat and happy Tuesday at Circuit Mom's
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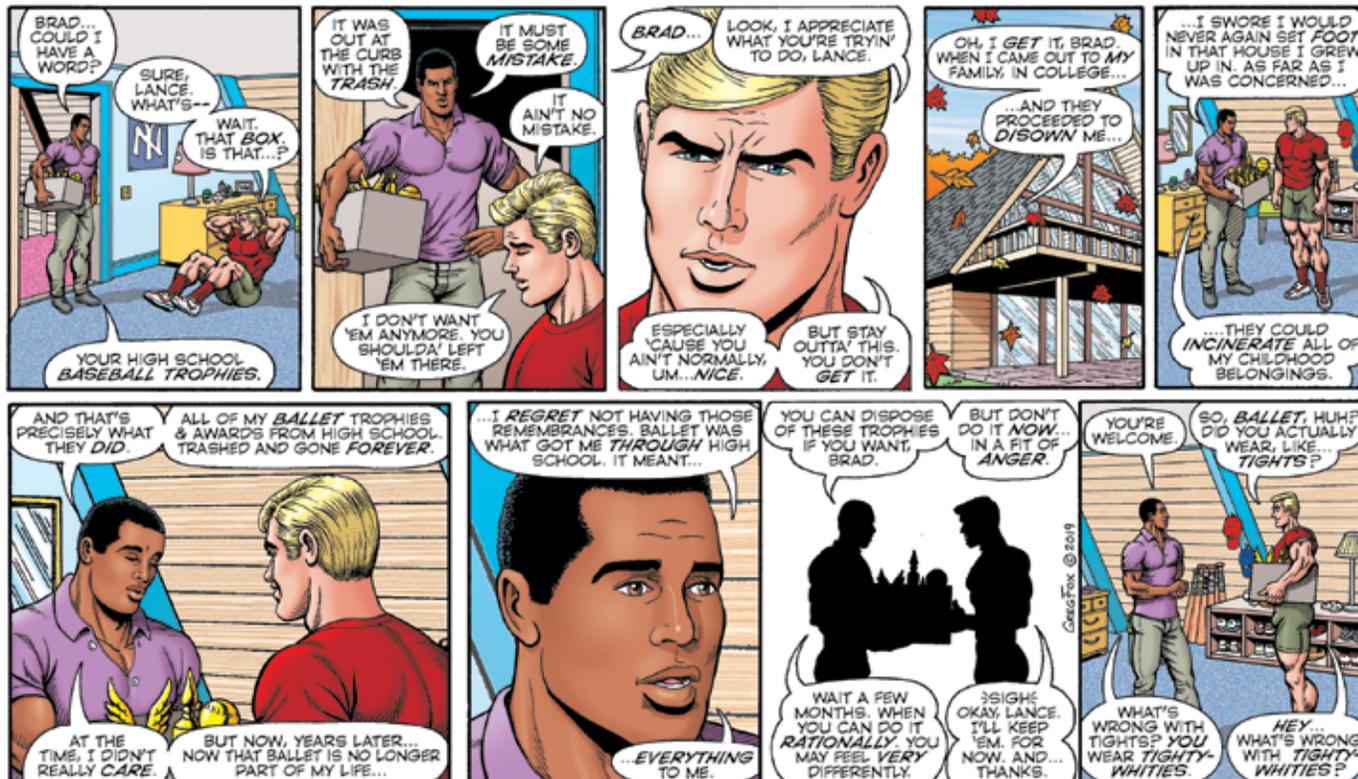
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Wed., March 4

Baton Show Lounge's 51st anniversary Longest running show in Chicago, rated by many as the Top in the Nation Revue, new show through March 8. Three shows a night. Reservations. 10:30pm Baton Show Lounge 4713 N. Broadway Chicago <http://www.thebatonshowlounge.com>

Multi-group press conference and rally, Defend the Right to Abortion A who's who of local pro-choice groups as Supreme Court hears oral arguments about a Louisiana case that could severely limit or overturn the right to abortion. 12:00pm Federal Plaza 50 W. Adams St. Chicago

CGHA participating in Blackhawks Pride Night CGHA athletes and select individuals will be playing in a friendly game. Meet a player, have a locker-room tour, grab some Hawks Pride swag. 7:45pm - 9:00pm United Center 1901 W Madison Ave Chicago <http://chicagoGayHockey.org> Tickets: <http://ChicagoGayHockey.org/blackhawks-pride>

Thursday, March 5

CGHA attending Blackhawks game CGHA watching the Chicago Blackhawks take on the Edmonton Oilers 7:30pm United Center 1901 W Madison Ave Chicago

Friday, March 6

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg A vibrant, comprehensive exploration of Justice Ginsburg's

**CHIN UP**
Friday, March 6

Spoken-word artist Staceyann Chin (above) and musician Meshell Ndegeocello will be featured at the MCA.

Photo by Julia Pearl Robbins

life and her numerous, often-simultaneous roles as a student, wife, mother, lawyer, judge, women's rights pioneer, and Internet phenomenon. Through Aug. 16, 2020 10:00am - 4:00pm Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center 9603 Woods Dr. Skokie, IL 60077 <http://ILHolocaustMuseum.org>

Int'l Women's Day Dance \$60 through 5pm on March 5; \$75 at the door. By the LGBT Giving Council, Chicago Foundation for Women. 21+ 6:00pm - 10:00pm Beauty Bar Chicago 1444 W. Chicago Ave. Chicago Tickets: <http://www.cfw.org/6th-annual-international-womens-day-dance/>

Musician Meshell Ndegeocello and Staceyann Chin Musician Meshell Ndegeocello (neo-soul movement) and Staceyann Chin (spoken-word artist, LBGTQ activist, author) in an evening of conversation and experimentation. 7:00pm - 8:30pm Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) 220 East Chicago Ave. <http://MCAChicago.org/Calendar/2020/03/Music-Talk-Meshell-Ndegeocello>

Saturday, March 7

Personal PACs 30th-anniversary celebration Personal PAC has led the fight for reproductive rights in Illinois., a night of celebration and humor. 7:00pm - 10:00pm 688 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Suite 101 Tickets: <http://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E228808&id=99>

Chicago Sinfonietta Sight + Sound Under-represented composers, Chicago Sinfonietta, the nation's most diverse orchestra, presents a sonic art exhibition, an introspective journey through the world of visual art by way of music. Tickets \$10 to \$62 online 8:00pm Wentz Concert Hall 171 E. Chicago Ave Naperville, IL 6040 Tickets: <http://www.chicagosinfonietta.org>

The Big Queer Variety Show and Fundraiser for Elgin's Pride Parade Ms. Moana Lotte hosts music, celebrity impersonations, ribbon dancing, mind reading, mentalism and comedy. \$20. 21+ Other events in support of the sum-

mer Pride Parade and Fest will be announced. 8:00pm Martini Room, 161 E. Chicago St., Elgin <http://www.elginpride.com>

Queer Comedy w/ Elise Fernandez: Women & Femmes Edition Fabulously funny performances from drag to standup of some of Chicago's best emerging comics. 8:00pm Reunion Chicago, 2557 W. North Ave Tickets: "Queer Comedy w/ Elise Fernandez: Women & Femmes Edition," on Eventbrite.com

Sunday, March 8

Drag Brunch at Hotel Zachary Brunch buffet and mimosas, and special performances by Chicago's top drag queens. \$45. First seating 12:30-2:30. 3:30pm - 5:30pm Hotel Zachary Tickets: <http://bit.ly/HZResyLink>

International Women's Day Edgewater Crawl Come out and celebrate women-owned and/or operated businesses and organizations in Edgewater on International Women's Day with food tastings, drink samples and live pop up activations along the crawl's route, tour women-owned businesses, chat with inspiring small business owners, 11:00pm - 2:00pm Broadway and Granville Tickets: <http://bpt.me/4500893>

Monday, March 9

Chicago Sinfonietta Sight + Sound Under-represented composers, Chicago Sinfonietta, the nation's most diverse orchestra, presents a sonic art exhibition, an introspective journey through the world of visual art by way of music. Tickets \$10 to \$62 online 7:30pm Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave Tickets: <http://www.chicagosinfonietta.org>

Saturday, March 14

5th annual Mr. Leather64TEN Through March 15, 2020, Leather64Ten and The Jackhammer Complex will once again host a weekend of events to promote our search for the next Mr. Leather64Ten to compete at IML 2020. See site for events all weekend 9:00am - 11:30pm Leather Archives & Museum 6418 N Greenview Ave Chicago <http://www.leather4ten.com>

LGBTQ Family Playdates Calling all LGBTQ families! Bring your children (1 - 8 years of age) for a fun, engaging Saturday morning play date. Meet, network, socialize, and enjoy time together in a safe, fun environment. Second Saturdays of the month. Questions to jholliman@centeronhalsted.org 9:30am Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Crafternoon with Mikey Anderson: WNDR Museum Pride 2020 Project Live sessions on a series of craft-based art pieces like embroideries and fabric collages to celebrate Pride 2020 with the WNDR Museum. Free and open to those 55+. Questions to toddwilliams@centeronhalsted.org 1:00pm - 2:30pm Center on Addison Teaching Kitchen, 773-472-6469, ext. 426; <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=17281>

Sunday, March 15

Butches Who Cook The Facebook group LezInColor is hosting its first cooking competition, 10 (masculine-centered women) of color are competing, fashion show, music by DJ Da Wrek, entertainment, informational tables and vendors. \$10 1:00pm - 6:00pm Grand Ballroom, 6351 S. Cottage Grove Ave. <http://ritas-voice@msn.com>

Margaret Cho at Chicago Improv on May 8-9

Actress/comedian/author Margaret Cho will perform at Schaumburg's Chicago Improv Comedy Club, 5 Woodfield Rd., on May 8-9.

Cho, among other accomplishments, has three Grammy Award nominations for Best Comedy Album under her belt. Her tours sell out and she's had two shows debut off-Broadway (I'm The One That I Want and The Sensuous Woman).

In addition, she made her mark in television starting in 1994 with the network comedy All American Girl, followed by one of the first "reality sitcoms" to air on VH1 The Cho Show. Most recently, she starred in the Lifetime series Drop Dead Diva for all six seasons.

See Chicago.improv.com/comedian/tw-eventinfo/Margaret+Cho/10361715.

Margaret Cho.

Photo by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, courtesy of PBS

**LOST LARSON from page 42**

As for the spot's unique name, it's rooted—in vanishing nomenclature. "My brother and I had a [paternal] grandfather who was kind of a sketchy guy. He had the last name 'Larson' until his 30s and then changed it to 'Schaffer' because it was his boss' last name. We think [my grandfather] was a bit of a con man. So I grew up with a detached sense of heritage. On my mom's side, they're 'Larsen,' but with an 'en' instead of an 'on.' So we're doubly Larsen/Larson, but we have the last name Schaffer." Coming into this neighborhood, we're trying to honor its Swedish roots."

The cuisine at Lost Larson offers a smorgasbord of options for patrons, including open-faced sandwiches, bites (like chicken-liver mousse, kaboucha squash soup and more), pastries and many others. (By the way, yes, there's an actual "smorgaasbord" one can order at the spot's wine bar, with choices including herring, piccante, mussels, trout spread and various cheeses.) However, a lot of these items aren't available until 5:30 p.m., when it converts into a wine bar.

When it comes to working together, each has his/her roles clearly sorted. "Bobby is the pastry

chef; that's his wheelhouse. I'm more the coffee/front of house/service person," Bree said. "He's very talented and he's worked at a lot of top restaurants. Everything I try here is delicious." She added that items constantly change on the menu, stating, "We give our sous chefs a lot of freedom."

Regarding her own faves, Bree said the cinnamon roll is tops, but "we have this other thing called afternoon tea bun [that's great]. We do a lot of croissant-based things, and we add lemon zest to the bun and roll it in Earl Grey sugar; it kind of tastes like a Fruit Loop." Her pride in the spot really shone through when she commented that all the whole-grain flour is milled there and that the grain is sourced from Illinois farmers.

And Lost Larson's future certainly looks promising. "We're looking to get a production space in the near-future," Bree said. "We have a small location that we're outgrowing already, and we'd like to move to the next level." In addition, Lost Larson has a second spot (more of a bakery) in the West Loop at Time Out Market Chicago.

Lost Larson is at 5318 N. Clark St., and also has a spot at Time Out Market Chicago, 916 W. Fulton Market. Find out more at LostLarson.com.

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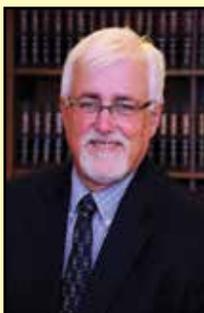
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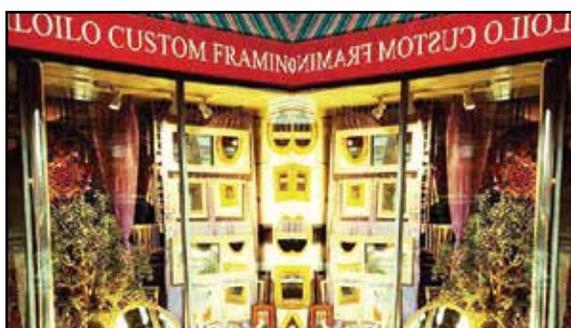


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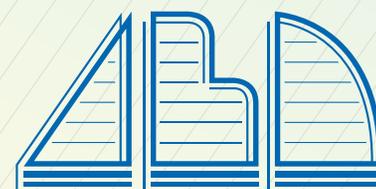
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IMAGE CREDIT: Installation view of *The Allure of Matter: Material Art from China* at Wrightwood 659, featuring works by Yin Xiuzhen and Zhang Huan.

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