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weekly nightlife section in



# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Chicago Gourmet roundup; Links' LGBTQ event

BY JERRY NUNN AND ANDREW DAVIS

Bon Appetit magazine presented Chicago Gourmet with surrounding events on Sept. 19-24 for a 10th anniversary. There were cocktails on the Crown of the Tribune Tower, and the massive outdoor event in Millennium Park on Sept. 23-24, among other events.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel kicked things off Sept. 23 with a champagne toast and press conference on the main stage of the Pritzker Pavillion.

A multitude of celebrity chefs made appearances, signed books and provided cooking demonstrations throughout the weekend, including Curtis Stone, Carla Hall (from TV's *The Chew*) and Stephanie Izard.

Under the stainless-steel ribbons throughout the park were many vendors supplying samples of food and drinks. Among them were Texas de Brazil, Mastro's Steakhouse and Supreme Lobster & Seafood Co. (which had long lines for its lobster roll).

The Grand Cru event, presented by Celebrity Cruises, closed the weekend with global wine tastings on the Harris Theater rooftop.

Also, for the first time, Windy City Times cov-



Above: From the Chicago Gourmet event at Millennium Park.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



Above: The Dawson burger from the Hamburger Hop.

Photo by Andrew Davis

ered the Chicago Gourmet event known as the Hamburger Hop, which Buckhead Pride and Blue Moon Brewing Company presented.

Chefs John Hogan and Tony Mantuano of River Roast, returning champions, were named the judges' Buckhead Pride Hamburger Hop Award winners for their Takashi Express. Chef Martial Noguier of Bistronomic, also a returning champion, earned the People's Choice Award for the Le French Burger. Among the judges were celebrity chefs Hall and Stone. WCT's personal favorite was D4 Irish Pub's burger that was topped with giardiniera, sauerkraut and Thousand Island dressing.

#### Links' LGBTQ event

Links Taproom (LinksTaproom.com)—an all-American craft beer- and sausage-focused neighborhood bar at 1559 N. Milwaukee Ave.—will host a fundraising "F U Hate" event for LGBTQ+ and immigrant children's rights charities on Sunday, Oct. 1.

For the event, 100 percent of all craft beer, liquor, wine and food sales at Links from open to close (11:30 a.m.-2 a.m.) will be donated to the Chicago House and Social Service Agency (Chica-

goHouse.org) and Chicago location of The Young Center For Immigrant Children's Rights (TheYoungCenter.org). Links owner/beer director Mike Quinlan, a proud member of LGBTQ+ community, will personally match the total amount of money raised at Links that day.

**Note: Restaurant profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.**

## Sidetrack's OUTspoken! Series: October's featured storytellers



Megan Brennan



Rodrigo Carrillo



Marlaina Eastman



Randy L. Estes



Kimmy Fleishman



Michael Jackson



Mak Kelm

The October edition of OUTspoken! LGBTQ storyteller series takes place Tuesday, Oct. 3, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. Doors open at 6 pm, stories begin at 7.

See [www.outspokenchicago.com](http://www.outspokenchicago.com) for more info.

—Megan Brennan is a Chicago-based comedian who loves a good denim vest and a long denim skirt. She is a producer of *The Kiki: A Queer Comedy Show* and *The Drive*, a fundraising show for Chicago homeless. Her willingness to push boundaries, natural stage presence and unique world view color her richly detailed and poignant personal stories. (Her girlfriend wrote that last part.)

—Rodrigo Carrillo is a graduate of East-West University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management. He currently serves as Deputy Clerk for the City of Chicago since February 2017. He is a current board member of the Association of Latinos Motivating in Action, which supports advocacy and family acceptance for the LGBTQ community.

—Marlaina Eastman has been a tenured English Professor for over 15 years. She spent three of those years directing an LGBTQ Resource Center. Today, she is focusing on important questions, including: How does the expression of identity impact marginalized student empowerment?

—Randy L. Estes grew up in Fisher, a small farm town in East-Central Illinois. Randy moved back to Fisher for over three years to help care for his mom with Alzheimer's. He served as an Ambassador with the Illinois Alzheimer's Association, highlighted by lobbying our legislators in Washington, DC, this past March, and has recently become an ambassador with Eastern Iowa Alzheimer's Association.

—Kimmy Fleishman used to charge a penny to every person who came over to visit her parents as a kid to watch her perform in a one-woman show. Since then, she's graduated from the Second City Music Conservatory, tells stories throughout the city to anyone who will listen, and secretly hopes she can quit her day job and make a living on stage. She guesses it's not a secret anymore.

—Michael Jackson landed in Chicago in 1973 at the age of 30. He had worked in India and the Middle East as a bank VP for a British overseas bank. During that time, he had come out and been an active homosexual. After 30 years of banking, Michael switched to teaching economics and geography at Columbia College Chicago.

—Mak Kelm was adopted by a German-American Family at the age of three. He lived in Chicago, Texas (in various regions of the state) and then moved back to Chicago in 2013. He was hired by Chicagopride.com as a photographer, and to work in client services, and has loved his job ever since. He is currently working on bringing his own company, MAK Accessories, to where he has envisioned it. Mak is an avid artist who loves to sketch, draw, paint and design new products, and enjoys biking in his free time.

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## BILLY Masters

"In Florida, you got hit with the strongest winds ever recorded. It actually hit the Keys with a Category 5. I never even knew a Category 5 existed."—**Donald Trump** talks about the devastation following Hurricane Irma. Perhaps this will be part of his next book, *Other Things I Don't Know*, by Donald Trump!

For the first time in eons, I wasn't at the Emmy Awards. In fact, I wasn't in the country. But through the miracle of modern technology, I didn't miss a beat—even in a minor Eastern European city. Even there, people knew who **RuPaul** was and enjoyed her turn as "Emmy." I surely wasn't the only one who thought **Jane Fonda's** homage to *I Dream of Jeannie* was inspired, and cringed a bit when **Cicely Tyson** wandered out to the wrong side of the stage. (Alas, it only got worse.) Personally, I think she was disoriented by the sight of **Anika Noni Rose's** breasts. Girl, put those things away—this ain't the Golden Globes!

But the highlight for me was watching the fabulous **Jackie "Mamacita" Hoffman** lose to **Laura Dern**. Most also-rans put on their game face—but not Hoffman, who clearly mouthed "Damn it!" The subsequent tweets were a little bit of heaven. "Laura Dern had famous parents. Forgive me for being from real people," said Hoffman. In case people took Jackie seriously, her next tweets should have put the matter to rest: "I hear that Laura Dern runs a child porn ring" and "I hear Laura Dern looted art from Nazi victims."

Leave it to *The View* to shake up its cast days into the new season. Last week, **Jedediah Bila** announced she was leaving the show—effective immediately. While Bila had the balls to not say it was her choice, she also didn't go so far as to say she was fired. But make no mistake—she was pushed out the door. Although the initial word on the street was the ABC brass axed her after asking **Hillary Clinton** some tough questions, that isn't the case. Days before Bila's departure, **Meghan McCain** announced she was leaving Fox News. *The View* has always wanted to bring McCain on as a permanent guest host because she is a high-profile conservative. While Bila is also conservative, they feel her being a libertarian was simply confusing. They began clandestine negotiations with McCain, which Bila got wind of; she went to the top and asked if the McCain negotiations would affect her. She was told, "Oh, you weren't supposed to find out this way." Oops! We hear the network graciously said Bila could stay with the show until the deal with McCain was finalized; instead, she opted to leave that day. And so, as has happened many times in the past, Jedediah Bila said all the right things, and just slipped away. But not before hearing that "View" mantra—"You're welcome back anytime!"

Anyone looking for a graceful way to handle exiting co-hosts should look no further than *The Talk*. Only a few weeks after **Aisha Tyler** left, she actually was welcomed back—and as a guest co-host. Last week, she slid back into her old chair effortlessly and everything was smooth as silk. Of



**Matthew Rush** (seen here in better days, apparently) has had a rough run, **Billy** says. Instagram photo

course, she left of her own accord.

Last week, troubled gay-porn star **Matthew Rush** was arrested in Fort Lauderdale for alleged possession of crystal meth and drug paraphernalia. People seem to be quite concerned after seeing his mug shot, which shows Rush a far cry from his glory days for Falcon Studios. For those of you playing at home, he was also arrested back in March after his boyfriend filed assault charges. And you know what that means? After one more arrest, his next mug shot is free! Or, at the very least, they'll throw in Photoshopping!

I was struck by the following headline: "Town Tries To Legally Ban Drag Show." And I thought, "Isn't it too soon for another remake of *Footloose*?" But wait—an all-drag version. Hmm. We might have to change some of the words to "Let's Hear It For The Boy," but I'm in. The story is from Portland, Tennessee—the drag capital of the world—and the city council heard arguments for and against a proposed ordinance that would outlaw drag shows. Ray Guillermo, the owner of the club putting on the shows, said, "I think a lack of knowledge is the problem here. There is no nudity. This is not adult entertainment." Turns out, some people think drag shows include nudity or eroticism—clearly they don't have basic cable! But some of the other residents made comments which indicate homophobia is driving this potential ban. One man said of drag queens, "If they're on the side of the road with a flat tire, I'll stop and help ... but I don't support this type of activity." He just described the plot of *To Wong Foo!*

After years of protecting his musicals from same-sex interpretation, **Stephen Sondheim** has consented to a gender-bending version of *Company*. A London revival opening next September will find bachelor Bobby as a female named Bobbie. Sondheim said, "What is there to lose? It can only make the play either interesting or, if you dislike it, dislikable. So I'm always open." In this version, most of the other characters will also

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undergo a gender shift; for instance, flight attendant April will now be a man named Andy. But one character will remain the same—the judgmental Joanne will still be Joanne. And she will be played by **Patti LuPone**, who will be available since the Broadway production of *War Paint* will close Dec. 30. At least, I think the press release said it would be Patti LuPone. I suppose it could be her brother, **Robert LuPone**. Maybe he's the standby...

When Sondheim is gender-fluid, it's definitely time to end yet another column. For all this and more fluids, check out [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com), the site that's definitely too gay. If you have a question, send it along to me at [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Jedediah Bila joins *The Talk!* Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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