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The Art of Seating

Gay Lutherans reflect on advances

BY CHUCK COLBERT

Reaction has been swift and predictable to what happened in Minneapolis last month with more conservative church members feeling disgruntled, if not betrayed, and progressives bursting with joy, albeit measured and tempered.

But for at least one Chicago same-sex couple and two local pastors, the take-away message from the church-wide assembly is clear enough. "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) has committed itself to being a church of inclusion," said Benjeman Nichols, referring to the ELCA's vote to lift a 20-year-old ban against ministers in same-gender relationships and to open doors for blessing committed same-gender relationships.

Better yet, "The church has moved beyond the tired old paradigm that God loves [gay people] despite our sins," Nichols explained. "Now we're seen as equal" insofar as "God created people the same way, gay or straight," and "the ELCA has committed itself to living out [that principle] in parish communities."

There were, in fact, two key votes during the Aug. 17-23 gathering. And one important resolution passed by a single vote when convention delegates approved a social statement, calling on ELCA congregations to "welcome, care for, and support same-gender couples." The statement required a two-thirds majority. Titled, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," the social statement passed by a vote of 676-338, precisely the 66.67 percent needed for approval.

Turn to page 8



Brian von Rueden (left) and Benjeman Nichols are a couple who belong to Chicago's Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and who recently had a commitment ceremony. Photo courtesy of the couple



'Hannah' Premieres in Chicago

Kelli Strickland is Young Hannah in the new lesbian feature film, Hannah Free, playing in Chicago Sept. 25-Oct. 1 at the Gene Siskel Film Center. Sharon Gless (interviewed in last week's Windy City Times) stars as Hannah in the film, shot in Chicago last fall and based on a Claudia Allen play. Sharon Gless and most of the cast and crew will attend a gala film benefit Sept. 26. See inside this issue for interviews with cast members and crew on Hannah Free. More articles and photos are at www.windycitymediagroup.com and www.hannahfree.com. Photo by Hal Baim

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The opening of the new Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Plant Conservation Science Center confirms the Garden's role as a world leader in plant conservation science. A 38,000-square-foot laboratory building designed to earn a gold LEED rating from the U.S. Green Building Council, the center offers expanded research facilities, dynamic exhibitions, a 16,000-square-foot green roof garden, and public accessibility.



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Windy City Times talked with Dr. Tonda Hughes about her lesbian-health study. Read page 6.

Photo courtesy of Tonda Hughes



The 2010 Nissan 370Z Roadster is featured in this month's Autos section. See page 16.

Photo courtesy of Nissan

Cover photos and credits (from top): Photo of Gloria Steinem by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); Promotional photo of Lily Tomlin; photo of Shah Washington courtesy of Washington

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ONLINE INDEX

PRIDE RULE
The first-ever Peoria Pride took place, and attracted more than 1,700 people. See photos online.

Photo courtesy of Hector Martinez



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AGE AGAINST THE MACHINE
The latest "Couples Connecting" column from Bruce Koff (left) focuses on age differences.



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A CUTE BANGLE
Windy City Times talked with musician Susanna Hoffs, who heads the legendary girl group The Bangles, about her tour with singer Matthew Sweet (both right).





U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., at the Sept. 15 press conference introducing the Respect for Marriage Act. Photo by Patsy Lynch

DOMA appeal: A learning curve

Frank criticizes "controversial" clause and ill timing

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

A bill seeking to repeal the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was introduced Sept. 15 but this "top priority" for the community is already relegated to a legislative obscurity and inaction for this session and, perhaps, beyond.

The bill, introduced by U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., a longtime supporter of equal rights for gays, has essentially no chance for a hearing or vote during this session of Congress, according to U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass. It is the last of eight bills of specific interest to the LGBT community to be introduced to this session of Congress, which is nearing the end of the first of its two years. And Frank, the *de facto* leader on LGBT-related measures in Congress, said four other bills come first.

"We have pending four major pieces of [LGBT] legislation which have a serious chance to pass," said Frank Sept. 14 in a phone interview. Those, he noted, are the Matthew Shepard hate-crimes bill, attached to a bill authorizing defense spending; the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA); a bill to give equal benefits to the partners of gay federal employees as provided to straight spouses; and a bill to repeal the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The Nadler bill, said Frank, "has zero chance of passage, even out of committee. It's a mistake."

Frank's problem with the bill isn't just its timing on a crowded and unusually urgent Congressional calendar monopolized by health care reform, financial regulation reform, appropriations bills and the other LGBT legislation.

"It's a very controversial form" of the bill, he said.

Nadler's bill, the "Respect for Marriage Act," (ROMA) is a simple two-page measure, seeking to do two things:

—Repeal both sections of DOMA: Section 2, which said no state can be "required" to recognize the marriage of a same-sex couple licensed in another state, and Section 3, which limits the interpretation of "marriage" for any federal purpose to only heterosexual couples; and,

—Add language that said "for the purposes of any Federal law in which marital status is a factor, an individual shall be considered married if that individual's marriage is valid in the State where the marriage was entered into or, in the case of a marriage entered into outside any State, if the marriage is valid in the place where entered into and the marriage could have been entered into in a State."

Frank said the latter clause abandons the strategy of "dealing with marriage state by state." If a same-sex couple obtains a marriage license in Massachusetts and moves to California, the federal government would recognize their marriage in California.

Evan Wolfson, executive director of the national Freedom to Marry organization, helped write that latter provision, which has been dubbed the "certainty clause."

"It's called the 'certainty clause,'" said Wolfson in a phone interview after the press conference, "because it establishes certainty that your fed-

eral protections and responsibilities will remain with you no matter where you travel" as a same-sex married couple. "The federal government will have a consistent approach. And it's not telling states what to do."

Frank conceded that it's "a desirable goal," but said, "we're not remotely close to achieving it and it's unwise, politically." For that reason, said Frank, he's not one of the bill's current 90 co-sponsors.

But doesn't Frank's refusal to co-sponsor the bill, even as a starting point for discussion, essentially kill the bill before it's out of the chute?

"It does send a message that it's a bad idea," said Frank. "But I want to send a message."

Top priority for community

While the Nadler bill doesn't have Frank's support, it does have the co-sponsorship of two of Congress' other openly gay members, Reps. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and Jared Polis, D-Colo.

Joining Nadler and others at the Sept. 15 press conference were some of the movement's biggest leaders—Wolfson; Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign; Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; and Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

HRC's Web site said its communications with the LGBT community around the country indicates repealing DOMA is "a top priority." Some 50,000 people responded to the organization's request for examples of how DOMA affects them negatively.

"We're in this for the long haul," said Solmonese, in a phone interview following the press conference. "This is a long-term strategy." He did not seem troubled by Frank's withholding of support.

"We have a difference of opinion about tactics," said Solmonese.

Perhaps, but Frank likened Nadler's bill to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's decision in February 2004 to direct city officials to start issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples even though a state law prohibited it.

"It's an effort to make people in the community happy," said Frank. "That's not our job. We owe people our judgment."

Some political observers have blamed Newsom's tactic as off-putting and responsible for at least some of the vote to approve Proposition 8, which bans same-sex marriage, in California last November.

Frank said he thinks "the way we'll win" repeal of DOMA is through the lawsuit filed by the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) against Section 3 of the law.

GLAD, the Massachusetts-based legal organization that has been leading the charge for same-sex marriage rights and against DOMA, was noticeably absent. But Carisa Cunningham, a spokesperson for GLAD, said the organization supports the bill.

"We just didn't have anyone who could make it to Washington today," said Cunningham.

And Nadler defends ROMA: "Mr. Frank knows better than anyone that our opponents will falsely claim that any DOMA repeal bill 'exports marriage' in an effort to generate fear and misunderstanding. But the dishonest tactics of our opponents should not stop us from aggressively pushing to end this horrific discrimination now, as is the consensus of the nation's top LGBT groups who all support this approach."

Nadler said his bill "does not tell any state who it must marry or what marriage it must recognize under state law."

"Our bill," said Nadler, "allows states to continue deciding those questions, while ensuring uniform access to critically important federal responsibilities and rights that hinge on marriage and upon which all married couples should be able to rely."

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NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Keyontyli Goffney, one half of a pair of gay porn stars who happened to also be twins, has pled guilty to burglary and criminal conspiracy—but will not spend time in prison, according to the Philadelphia Gay News. Goffney was sentenced to two days, but has already served that time; he also received four years' probation. His brother, Taleon, pled guilty in July but received three to eight years in prison.

It's been revealed that **Mass. State Senator Scott Brown—who is running for the late Ted Kennedy's U.S. Senate seat on an anti-gay platform—posed nude for Cosmopolitan magazine back in 1982**, according to an Advocate.com item. Brown, whose daughter is American Idol contestant Ayla Brown, posed when he was a law student at Boston College; he was subsequently voted the magazine's "America's Sexiest Man."



Mass. State Sen. Scott Brown.

The NYC Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center of New York's Board of Directors **has unanimously selected Glenda Testone to be the center's new executive director**, according to 365Gay.com. Testone is the first woman to helm the facility, which is the second-largest LGBT community center in the world. Previously, Testone worked for the Women's Media Center, where she served as the vice president for three years.

The New York-based AIDS organization Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) has released a statement commending Gov. David Paterson for signing a bill **that allows the state's health department to oversee HIV-related programs and policies in prisons and jails**. GMHC's Sean Cahill said that "[w]ith high rates of HIV and Hepatitis C among New York State prisoners, it is essential that the Department of Health overseas HIV prevention and care in our prisons. The Prison Health Bill increases our ability to stop the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in New York."

Lesbian Chai R. Feldblum is among the most recent group of people President Barack Obama has nominated to key administration posts, according to a White House press release. Feldblum, a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, has been nominated as commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She has also worked on advancing LGBT rights and is a leading expert on the Employment Nondiscrimination Act.

The Tennessee Court of Appeals has unanimously ordered a lower court to reconsider a ban that stops Angel Chandler, a divorced mom, from having her partner of 10 years and her own children stay overnight at her home at the same time, according to a press release from the ACLU. The lower court invoked the "par amour clause," which is "a legal restriction in child-custody agreements that bars a divorcee's lover from staying in the house overnight while [s/he] has custody of children from a previous marriage," according to Encyclopedia.com. Heterosexual couples can bypass this clause by getting married.

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David Hoffman. Photo by Blair Mishleau

U.S. Senate candidate talks LGBT rights

BY BLAIR MISHLEAU

Members of the gay community met Sept. 20 to discuss David Hoffman's candidacy for the United States Senate and his position regarding LGBT-related issues. The event was held at the residence of Soo Choi, a former employee of Hoffman.

The evening began with Hoffman mingling around the crowd speaking personally with attendees before he formally spoke on his political ideals and stand on gay issues, among other things.

"I'm in favor of gay marriage," said Hoffman. "I think that the other alternatives that have been offered are poor, second-class alternatives. It is about equality, nothing else. I think that Iowa sent a very important signal to people, and regardless of whether it's going to change quickly or not, that's the position I'm going to take, because I know it's the right answer and I'm ready to fight for it."

Hoffman continued to speak about the unfairness in tax filing for gay versus straight couples and how marriage equality should not only be tackled state-by-state but also at the federal level.

"I'm married to a woman, we have at two-year-old. I get very tangible benefits when I file my taxes. To me it is fundamentally unfair that folks whose sexual orientation is different than mine but are in absolutely the same kind of relationships can't get those same financial benefits. The federal tax code needs to be changed to reflect that," said Hoffman.

Those in attendance varied from the politically involved to novices.

"I definitely was inspired by [Hoffman]," said Jeremy Miñano, 27, a real estate developer. "He, I feel, will have a really profound impact on Illinois and I definitely am going to support and spread the word about him. His speech was very impressive, and very touching. I think that he will definitely do what is right for Illinois."

Previous to his announcement of candidacy, Hoffman worked as inspector general for the City of Chicago. He set up a 1-800 number for people to anonymously report corruption within the government.

"I always admired what he did in the inspector general's office. That part of his personality, and what he's looking to do, I'm a fan," said Lorin Adolph, 45, a chef.

Before his position as inspector general, Hoffman worked as an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago. He graduated from Yale University in history and the University of Chicago Law School in law.

"Having worked with David as long as I have, I know that he does his research and gets to know whatever issue he's dealing with fully. He not only gets to know it really well but he gets to know the others side and he forms an opinion based on all the information," said Choi, 35. "When he takes a position, it's sincere."

Aside from his stance on LGBT issues, Hoffman

also spoke about fighting corruption, increasing transparency and needing to keep a Democrat in the Illinois seat.

President Clinton at Chicago House event

Chicago House & Social Service Agency, the first organization in the Midwest to provide housing and support for people living with HIV and AIDS, will host its first-ever Speaker Series Luncheon Wed., Nov. 11, at the Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe, welcoming President Bill Clinton as the keynote speaker.

The luncheon will feature a speech from Clinton followed by a Q&A session inclusive of questions pre-submitted by members of the public, Chicago House supporters and event attendees.

The Annual Speaker Series Luncheon is a new endeavor for Chicago House and originated from a desire to raise awareness and education around the key issues of HIV/AIDS and homelessness, according to The Rev. Stan Sloan, Chicago House CEO.

Further information on the Chicago House Speaker Series Luncheon featuring President Bill Clinton can be found at www.chicagohouse.org. For tickets, call Rachell Gautz at 773-248-5200, ext. 303.

NOW wows...



The Chicago chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) held its 12th annual Women Who Dared gala Sept. 16 at Flourish Studios, 3020 N. Lincoln. The organization honored Lorie Chaiten, director of reproductive rights project of the ACLU of Illinois, and Jennifer Koehler, deputy general counsel to Gov. Pat Quinn, as its 2009 Women Who Dared. The event featured a cocktail reception and a silent auction in addition to the awards presentation. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); many more are at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

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Study looks into lesbian health

BY JESSICA PUPOVAC

Dr. Tonda Hughes, faculty member of the University of Illinois Chicago's College of Nursing, said most doctors don't really understand lesbian health. She has spent a lot of her time "educating" her primary care physicians and now, she's hoping that a groundbreaking study she is spearheading will reach a wider audience.

"We would all like our healthcare providers to be better informed so that they can provide effective care," said Hughes, whose study will be the first to follow lesbians over time. "I hope it can really help inform healthcare providers in terms of encouraging them to ask questions about sexual orientation and to better determine risk factors."

Hughes and researchers at the recently received \$3 million in federal funding to track down and interview nearly 450 Chicago-area lesbians they interviewed 2000, and again in 2004. They will see if their rates of alcohol abuse and other stress-related health risks have changed over time.

The team's experience, and limited other research, has suggested that lesbians experience higher rates of heavy drinking, smoking, obesity and depression than heterosexual women, in part attributed to coping with additional discrimination.

Lesbian health studies tend not be prioritized for health research dollars, due in no small part to a limited amount of funding for sexual minority research in general, and the greater urgency for HIV- and AIDS-related research, Hughes said.

The most often cited study on lesbian drinking and other health risks thus far found one-third of lesbians to be "excessive or problem drinkers"—but was conducted at a gay bar in the early '70s.

"It was practically the only place you could find them, so they were doing the best they could at that time," said Hughes. "There is very little research, but a lot of speculation, on high rates of alcoholism in the lesbian community, and it just doesn't fit what I know from personal experience and professional experience. ... Our research is designed to provide a much more realistic picture of the patterns and variability of lesbians' drinking, and to provide information for developing alcohol abuse prevention and early intervention strategies."

The participants in the UIC study represent the most ethnically, racially and economically diverse sample of lesbians ever to participate such a study.

The research team will check in with original participant and interview an additional group of 250 younger lesbians, aged 18 to 25, to see if their physical and mental health have changed over time. They will then compare both groups with the results of the National Study of Health and Life Experiences of Women, a 20-year study that drew from a general sample of U.S. women.

Hughes said that they have managed to keep in touch with nearly 90 percent of the original participants, in no small because of the efforts of the women involved. Since the study kicked off, some have moved as far as Spain and Australia, but always informed researchers of their whereabouts.

"I think they recognize the value of the information collected and how it can help improve healthcare for lesbians everywhere," said Dr. Hughes.

Preliminary results of the study could be published as early as 2013.

Steinem speaks



Over 2,000 people gathered at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker, on Sept. 17 to celebrate and support the Chicago Foundation for Women at its annual luncheon. The event, now in its 24th year, highlighted the many achievements the organization and its grantees have garnered as well as reiterating the need for funding for future endeavors.

The scheduled speaker, Dr. Maya Angelou, was unable to attend the event due to medical reasons, leaving a bittersweet feeling as attendees arrived to hear the news that feminist icon Gloria Steinem had agreed to take the stage instead. Steinem, who turned 75 earlier this year, addressed the eager crowd for more than 30 minutes discussing her birthday wish list, which includes an end to domestic violence; greater inclusion of positive news reporting in the numerous media outlets; a desire to see newsstands filled with erotica instead of pornography; the participation of more men in child care; and allocating the the military budget to child care and schools. Regarding the LGBT community, she said, "I want all grown-ups to be able to get married." Text by Charlsie Dewey and photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com) with a video of the event (and many more photos) online at www.windycitymediagroup.com

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PASSAGES

David C. Hall

BY ROSS FORMAN

David Custer Hall, a longtime Chicago resident, businessman and supporter of the arts and the LGBT community, died suddenly Sept. 10 at his home in Lakeview. He was 67.

Hall grew up in North Vernon, Ind., where he formed an early love of music, and for years he played the oboe. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Indiana University and his Master's Degree from Northwestern. Hall taught and directed the high school band in Three Oaks, Mich.

For several years, Hall taught humanities at Wright Junior College. In the mid-1970s, with a partner, he began a small real estate development business on the North Side. Hall's interest in, and commitment to, real estate development in Chicago grew to become his very successful professional career, first as a sales associate and ultimately as senior vice president and managing broker in the Lincoln Park Plaza office of Coldwell Banker, one of the top sales producing offices in the country. Hall served a term as President of the Chicago Board of Realtors, and in 2002 was named Chicago Realtor of the Year.

"I don't know where to begin to express what David meant to me personally, to this company and to all of [us]," said Coldwell Banker colleague Fran Broude. "He was the epitome of professionalism in his career, an inspiration to all of us and a friend unlike any other. We will all miss him terribly.

"I've been with David Hall's Coldwell Banker office for 13 years. Having sold residential real estate in Chicago for almost 20 years, I've had

the opportunity to work under quite a few managing brokers. None affected my life and career as much as David [has]. He was a mentor and friend. He was always available to his agents to discuss anything from trends in the market to the newest sushi restaurants. His knowledge and expertise was invaluable. He was a truly iconic figure in the real estate community. His passion for the industry was contagious."

Hall was passionate about the opera, and his progress from a balcony seat at the Chicago Lyric Opera in 1970 to five front-row seats for the past 15 years traced his rising success as a businessman.

In 1991, Hall fulfilled a longtime ambition of riding his bicycle across the country. He was a world traveler, visiting more than 35 countries, always in the company of friends who shared his enthusiasm for seeing the places of the world and experiencing their cultures. He often said that he was living the life he envisioned for himself as a boy growing up in a small town in Indiana.

"When I considered transferring to a Coldwell Banker office in Chicago, I contacted David and we met for coffee," Broude said. "We had a wonderful conversation about the real estate business and the differences in suburban [and] city real estate. He was so smart about the business and I wanted to be in his office to learn as much as I could from him. Many times, I'd knocked on his office door to seek his advice and he'd receive me with a big smile....always willing to take time out of his busy schedule, to answer a question or two."

The family requests that gifts in memory of David Hall be made to the Hollister-Hall Scholarship Fund, Jennings County Community Foundation, 265 East Main, North Vernon, Ind., 47265.

Living with Pride's future in the balance

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

A decision on the fate of LGBT-oriented sober living space Living with Pride is expected within the next month, after representatives presented their case at a contentious hearing before Chicago's Zoning Board of Appeals Sept. 18. The decision will be the culmination of a long process for the embattled house, which opened this spring and was shortly thereafter determined by zoning administrator Patricia Scudiero to be improperly zoned.

Living with Pride was brought to the attention of Scudiero following complaints by neighbors that were publicized in an April 26 "What's Your Problem?" column in the Chicago Tribune.

Scudiero's decision that Living with Pride needed to apply for a special-use permit was appealed at last week's hearing. At issue is whether Living with Pride is a "community family home," as its supporters claim—and therefore zoned correctly—or a "transitional home," or halfway house, which neighbors allege it to be.

Scudiero, in a May decision, found that the house was indeed "transitional," and would need to be re-zoned as such in order for it to stay in the neighborhood—a move that some community members, and 47th Ward Alderman Gene Schuller, have already said that they would oppose.

Since such opposition makes it unlikely that a permit to re-zone would be successful, the zoning board's decision may be the final word on whether Living with Pride will stay in its North Center neighborhood.

Residents living in a "community family home" are expected to do so indefinitely or permanently, said Dr. Claudia Mosier, the founder and director of Living with Pride, in testimony before the board. Indeed, she argued, the ability to depend on a stable living situation is critical to the recovery of many of LWP's clients. She argued that all residents of LWP should be considered "disabled" with conditions ranging from chemical dependency to mood and personality disorders.

Mosier's claims were supported by testimony from Dr. Kelly DuCheny, a clinical psychologist from Howard Brown Health Services. DuCheny told the board that there are few sober spaces tailored specifically to the needs of LGBT people. "Abrupt changes," she said, "do not cement recovery. Finding [the] kind of support [provided by Living with Pride] is going to be pivotal in maintaining recovery and sobriety and cementing life-long changes."

Tim Barton, who represented the Department of Zoning and Land Use Planning in the hearing, took issue with Mosier and DuCheny's concepts of disability. Barton said that while his department considers a community family home to be "a location where people with permanent disabilities are housed permanently," the sorts of disabilities evinced by Mosier's clientele are more often "treated in the context of a transitional residence."

Opponents of Living with Pride pointed to old publications that refer repeatedly to the house as "transitional" or a "halfway house"—terminology that Mosier said was used before she fully appreciated the legal ramifications of the terms. "I've had to apologize for this more than I've had to apologize for worse things I've done in my life," she said.

Mosier compared her previous use of the disputed terminology to the way that concepts of sanity and insanity vary across professions: though insanity is a legally recognized definition, she said, it has no corollary in the field of psychology.

"If she's so well-qualified," asked neighbor Dara Salk, "how did she not know ... that that was not legal?" Salk and other opponents of the house—including Ald. Schuller, who testified

against it—presented the board with a number of documents that included "21 places," they said, where Mosier referred to Living with Pride as a "halfway house."

Susan Malone, who also testified against Living with Pride, said that nobody in the neighborhood objected to the fact of the house itself, and said that Mosier should have applied for a special-use permit rather than pursue an appeal—despite neighbors' earlier indication that they would oppose such a permit.

"This is a properly determined transitional residence. No one in my community is opposed to the house being anywhere," Malone said, stressing that it was just a matter of "doing it in the proper manner, proper time, proper location."

Proceedings also focused on the question of whether Living with Pride provided counseling to its members and held 12-step meetings, which opponents said would "bring a lot of unwanted traffic to the neighborhood."

Contrary to Mosier's claims, Salk said, "There is counseling going on—whether it's AA or something." Mosier said that does not provide counseling in the house. She also said that while LWP once hosted 12-step meetings, it stopped doing so after neighbors objected.

Hall of Fame to 13 people, 1 group

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues has released the names of 13 individuals and one organization to be inducted in November 2009 into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, the only known government-sponsored hall of fame that honors members of the LGBT community, announced Chairman/Commissioner Dana V. Starks in a press release.

The chosen nominees will be inducted at the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame's 19th annual ceremony, which will take place 5:30-7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, in Sidney R. Yates Gallery at the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m., and the program is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame was established in 1991 under the auspices of the Advisory Council, with continuing support from the Chicago Commission on Human Relations and Mayor Daley. Its purpose is to recognize the achievements of LGBT Chicagoans, their contributions to the development of the city, and the help they have received from others.

Those inducted fall into one of three categories: individual, organization, or friend of the community. Nominees represent Chicago's entire sexual-minority community, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Chicagoans, past, present, living, and dead, as well as those who have supported or assisted the community.

The individuals and organization being honored in 2009 are:

—Paula Basta, 53, for her long-term work in improving the lives of senior citizens, especially LGBT senior citizens, and promoting women's and LGBT rights;

—Lou Conte, 67, for the legacy he has created through the Lou Conte Dance Studio and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, both of which continue to contribute to the arts and culture community in Chicago and beyond;

—Lori A. Cooper, 42, a Chicago police sergeant, for her focus on LGBT issues, which has led to significant policy changes within the Police Department, especially the creation of the LGBT liaison position, which continues to serve a vital function for the LGBT community;

—Marcia J. Lipetz, Ph.D., 62, for her long history of leadership, energy, passion, and vision for Chicago's LGBT community and the institutions affiliated with it, especially for her work with the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the WPWR-TV Channel 50 Foundation, and Center on Halsted;

—Amy Maggio, 60, for her leadership in LGBT and HIV/AIDS issues, including her experience



U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley.

in development, marketing, and public relations for organizations in both the non-profit and private sectors;

—Joey McDonald, 54, for his strong commitment to improving the quality of life for members of Chicago's LGBT communities, particularly his work with people living with HIV/AIDS, his leadership in the recovery community, his mentorship in the leather community, and his advocacy for LGBT equality;

—Frank M. Robinson, 83, journalist, novelist, and award-winning science fiction writer, for creating the gay and lesbian community tabloid newspapers that catalyzed the emergence of the gay press in Chicago, and also for his service as speech writer for gay activist and politician Harvey Milk;

—Jane M. Hussein Saks, 47, social and political activist, cultural advocate, and leader, for challenging and championing issues of gender, sexuality, race, and power within the worlds of arts and culture, politics and civil rights, academia and philanthropy;

—Zaida Sanabia, 24, filmmaker and activist, for founding "Amiguitas," the first queer Latina youth group in Chicago and for documenting the struggles of starting a gay-straight alliance in her high school in her film

"A Fish Almost Eaten by a Shark," which has been screened nationwide to educate and train

school administrators on creating safe schools for LGBT youth;

—Patrick Sinozich, 50, for enriching Chicago's LGBT communities through the gifts of song, dance, and entertainment by his involvement with and direction of the former Windy City Gay Chorus and the current Chicago Gay Men's Chorus;

—Jorge Valdivia, 34, for creating safe spaces and building visibility for the Latino LGBT community through media, arts and public service, and particularly for founding Homofrecuencia, the nation's first Spanish-language radio program focusing on LGBT issues; and

—AIDS Foundation of Chicago, for 24 years of helping to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS by promoting cooperation among service providers at work across Chicago's various communities, making more than \$18 million in grants to agencies coping with AIDS in those communities, aiding the housing needs of persons with HIV/AIDS, and advocating for sound government HIV/AIDS policy.

Friends of the community include:

—U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley, D-Chicago, for supporting sexual-minority rights as a City Council legislative aide and Cook County Board commissioner, and now as a member of Congress, where he has joined the LGBT caucus and backs the movement to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and the Pentagon's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, as well as supporting efforts to end employment discrimination and achieve other LGBT justice goals; and

—Marilyn Urso, R.N., for her service from 1990 to 2007 as research registered nurse for the Howard Brown Health Center's Multi-Site AIDS Cohort Study (MACS), the world's largest epidemiological study on sexual practices and how they relate to the transmission of HIV, where she furnished warm, welcoming support to the participants and other important services on- and off-site, becoming what some clients called their "second mother."

AIDS RUN WALK

CHICAGO 2009

Saturday, October 3

Don't miss the hot entertainment line up at the AIDS Run & Walk Chicago.

Main Stage Entertainment

- 8:35 a.m. Silent Obsession Dance Crew
- 8:45 a.m. Youth Guidance/21st Century Community Schools Programs at Yale Elementary School: Joffrey Ballet Middle School Dance Club
- 9:10 a.m. Adam Emil
- 10:30 a.m. Nikki Nikita
- 11:15 a.m. Sit Means Sit Chicago
- 11:45 a.m. Young Chicago Authors
- 12:00 p.m. Latin Street Dancing
- 12:20 p.m. The Windy City Cowboys
- 12:30 p.m. Get Up For The Get Downs

Course Route Entertainment

- Lane Tech High School Cheerleading Squad and Cheer Chicago
- Youth Guidance/21st Century Community Schools Programs at Yale Elementary School: Cheerleading Squad
- DJ Harry T of Underground Techniques
- ChicagoPride.com with Miss Fozzie
- DJ Casper, DJ Miguelito and DJ Epic "D" of Color Blind Celebrations
- ROTC Chicago
- Inaside Chicago Dance
- Genesis Connection of Chicago
- Chicago Spirit Brigade
- Lakeside Pride Freedom Band
- DJ Tiger

Register today at aidsrunwalk.org

Media leaders unite to create Chicago LGBT calendar

CHICAGO—In a significant move that unites two of the largest content providers for Chicago's LGBT community, Windy City Media Group and ChicagoPride.com today announced an agreement to create a unified community calendar designed to connect the LGBT population to the numerous diverse possibilities the community has to offer.

"We are thrilled to further enhance our partnership with ChicagoPride.com to deliver this useful and informative community resource," said Tracy Baim, publisher, Windy City Media Group., which produced Windy City Times, Nightspots, and Windy City Queercast. "We especially encourage groups to post benefits far ahead of time so that event planners can check for conflicting dates for their own events."

Beginning Oct. 5, the event listings of the Windy City Times, Nightspots Magazine and ChicagoPride.com will be combined to generate CalendarQ, the most-comprehensive event and community calendar, to be published exclusively in Windy City Times.

With a feature-rich design and interactivity that maximizes the capabilities of the online version, Calendar Q will also be available at www.windycitymediagroup.com and www.chicagopride.com.

"Windy City Media Group has been a proven leader in Chicago's LGBT community," said Bill Pritchard, senior vice president, ChicagoPride.com. "With this new community initiative and partnership, both companies are positioned to better serve the members of our community, ultimately putting them in control of their busy schedules."

Community organizers, event planners, arts groups and bar owners can submit events online or by email: calendar@windycitymediagroup.com or calendar@chicagopride.com.

Most importantly, groups are strongly encouraged to post their events directly online at www.ChicagoPride.com. Under the Events button go to "Post an Event"; once entered, this information will flow to the Web sites of both companies, plus the print editions of Windy City Times and Nightspots.

The agreement between Windy City Media Group and ChicagoPride.com is the latest in collaborative efforts in a longstanding strategic relationship.

LUTHERANS from cover

"The social statement now forms the basis for policy and advocacy on issues related to families and sexuality both for ministry and advocacy in the church and society," said Emily Eastwood, executive director for Lutherans Concerned/North America, speaking for Goodsoil, an Evangelical Lutheran LGBT advocacy group.

Indeed, passage of the social statement paved the way for Evangelical Lutherans to adopt another resolution, this one allowing people in "publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships" to serve as official church ministers. The ministry resolution passed 559-451. Unlike the social statement, it only required a simple-vote majority for passage.

By its action at the Minneapolis convention, the 4.7 million-member Lutheran Church, with a primarily Midwest base, becomes the largest mainline Protestant denomination to throw down an official welcome mat to gay and lesbian clergy and laity.

Bishop Wayne N. Miller of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod supported the gay-positive resolutions, voicing support for LGBT equality the convention floor.

To a large extent, Chicagoland Lutherans have been ahead of their denomination in welcoming gay men and lesbians into the fold. And yet for Nichols and his life partner Brian Von Rueden, both members of Wrigleyville's Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, their denomination's shift toward gay equality hits close to home—spiritually—in more ways than one.

Their pastor, the Rev. Craig Mueller is a gay man with a significant other. Associate pastor, the Rev. Michelle L. Miller is a partnered lesbian with children. And even before the ELCA made it officially kosher to bless same-sex unions, Nichols and Von Rueden celebrated an *Einsegnungsfeier*, a German term, roughly translated into the English as "commitment ceremony."

A few days after Obama's big win last November—and celebration in Grant Park—with family and friends present from U. S. and Germany, pastor Mueller officiated at the Nichols-Von Rueden, "consecration ceremony," the literal translation of *Einsegnungsfeier*.

The couple's choice of venue in a Lutheran church and a German name for ceremony was intentional, Von Rueden said, explaining, "Benjeman's parents being a little more conservative; they wouldn't have tolerated the word wedding."

And yet both men agreed: "There is something about making a public commitment in front of your community that makes it meaningful," Nichols said, explaining, "Our families and



From left: Dean Nichols, Gerry Nichols, Luke Smetters, Benjeman Nichols, Brian von Rueden, Craig Mueller, Bonnie von Rueden and Jim von Rueden at Benjeman and Brian's commitment ceremony, or *Einsegnungsfeier*. Photo courtesy of the couple

friends' presence, their coming together," as we commit to "share our lives, helps us to [live out that commitment.]"

Both men are cradle Lutherans, although Nichols was raised in the more conservative traditions of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The couple met while students at Valparaiso University, which has historic ties to the Lutheran faith. Both fluent in German, the couple lived for several years in Germany.

Although Nichols converted to Roman Catholicism while in college, the couple finds common ground at Holy Trinity, which Von Rueden said, "blends the intellectual and liturgical tradition of the church with Catholic theology and other faith principles of the Lutheran Church." He added, "There's a real outreach of trying to reach people where they are along their faith journey." Besides, Von Rueden said, "It's okay to ask questions. Craig encourages them."

For two decades Holy Trinity has been a reconciling faith community, reaching out to gay men and lesbians, making it clear that all are welcome and that inclusion embraces all LGBT

faithful. Located about half a mile from Chicago's most visible gay enclave, Boystown, Holy Trinity is now about 25 percent gay, said Mueller, with the congregation's membership at about 350 people. More recently, Holy Trinity has been welcoming non-gays. "Our claim to fame," he explained, "is we've become more diverse by welcoming straight people." Mueller has served as Holy Trinity pastor for 10 years.

Neither Mueller, Von Rueden nor Nichols attended church-wide assembly. But all three men watched proceedings live from the ELCA's Web site. "It was a very personal and emotional discussion" to view, said Von Rueden, who e-mailed Nichols back and forth from work throughout deliberations on the resolutions. "I started crying at my desk," he said, "when the final vote on the clergy policy passed," adding, "It was just a relief for us and for them" because "somewhere down the line no one could make a big stink and oust them. That would be a real tragedy for us personally and for them. Our congregation is on the cutting edge of where the church should be on social justice."

Although not a voting member, Associate Pastor Rev. Michelle L. Miller was in Minneapolis for the historic vote. Lifting the ban on out and partnered clergy "is most helpful to those of us who are gay and lesbian because we are able to be out now," she said. Of course, "There have always been gay men and lesbians serving in the church, but we had to be so quiet about it before." Miller went to say that being circumspect about her lesbian identity and her identity as a pastor resulted in the two never quite merging. "Now they can," she said. "I can say [to Lutherans] I am a pastor and a good pastor you've always appreciated that and my ministry. I also happened to be gay. Those two images are going to come closer together for people."

Both Mueller and Miller voiced joy and happiness over the gay-positive outcomes at the church-wide assembly. Nonetheless, the pair of ministers at Holy Trinity also acknowledged the pain, sorrow and fear among fellow Lutherans who voted in opposition.

Sure enough, Aug. 23 was "a huge day for us," Mueller said, pointing to a "standing ovation," But "We didn't just say, 'Yehea, yeah—we're gay.'" Rather Mueller's sermon offered this assessment: "Maybe the Holy Spirit isn't revealed so much in the rightness of the position we hold on controversial issues, but in the ways we honor, respect and forgive those who disagree with us—who have even hurt us greatly."

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WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

British prime minister apologizes to Alan Turing

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown apologized to Alan Turing on Sept. 11 after 31,564 people signed a petition on Brown's Web site asking him to do so.

Turing—the openly gay founder of modern computing who cracked key Nazi military codes during World War II—was prosecuted in 1952 for the crime of engaging in gay sex and was chemically castrated and stripped of his security clearance. He committed suicide in 1954.

"On behalf of the British government, and all those who live freely thanks to Alan's work I am very proud to say: we're sorry, you deserved so much better," Brown wrote.

"Turing was a quite brilliant mathematician, most famous for his work on breaking the German Enigma codes," Brown explained. "It is no exaggeration to say that, without his outstanding contribution, the history of World War Two could well have been very different. He truly was one of those individuals we can point to whose unique contribution helped to turn the tide of war. The debt of gratitude he is owed makes it all the more horrifying, therefore, that he was treated so inhumanely. In 1952, he was convicted of 'gross indecency'—in effect, tried for being gay. His sentence—and he was faced with the miserable choice of this or prison—was chemical castration by a series of injections of female hormones. He took his own life just two years later."

"Thousands of people have come together to demand justice for Alan Turing and recognition of the appalling way he was treated," the apology continued. "While Turing was dealt with under the law of the time and we can't put the clock back, his treatment was of course utterly unfair and I am pleased to have the chance to say how deeply sorry I and we all are for what happened to him. Alan and the many thousands of other gay men who were convicted as he was convicted under homophobic laws were treated terribly. Over the years millions more lived in fear of conviction. I am proud that those days are gone and that in the last 12 years this government has done so much to make life fairer and more equal for our LGBT community. This recognition of Alan's status as one of Britain's most famous victims of homophobia is another step towards equality and long overdue."

Leading gay activist Peter Tatchell called Brown's apology "most welcome and commendable."

"But," Tatchell said, "a similar apology is also due to the estimated 100,000 British men who were convicted of consenting, victimless same-sex relationships during the 20th century. Singling out Turing just because he is famous is wrong. Unlike Turing, many thousands of ordinary gay and bisexual men were never given the option of hormone treatment. They were sent to prison."

Another famous victim of the gross-indecency law was Oscar Wilde, who was prosecuted and jailed in 1895.

British consul murdered in Jamaica

The honorary British consul in Montego Bay, Jamaica, was strangled in his home Sept. 9 in a possibly homophobic attack.

John Terry's nude and beaten body was found with a handwritten note calling him a "batty man," which means "faggot."

Police believe Terry knew his killer.

Honorary consuls are volunteers who represent the British government and help people for whom the United Kingdom has consular responsibility. Terry, 65, filled the role for the western end of the island.

Jamaica is considered by human-rights defenders to be one of the world's most virulently homophobic countries. Gay sex is illegal.

Uruguay OKs gay adoption

Uruguay reportedly became the first country in Latin America to allow gay adoption Sept. 9 when the Chamber of Senators passed a bill that previously had passed the Chamber of Deputies.

President Tabaré Vázquez indicated he will sign the bill into law.

Questions have been raised, however, about a confusing provision in the bill that requires children's full names to include both their mother's and father's last names.

Uruguay also has a national civil-union law for same-sex couples and lets open gays serve in the military.

The civil-union law requires that couples have lived together for five years before they can take advantage of it, and grants spousal rights in areas that include inheritance, property ownership, pensions, parenting and health care.

The couple must "maintain an emotional relationship of a sexual nature (and) an exclusive, singular, stable and permanent character."

Other Latin American localities with civil-union laws include the city of Buenos Aires, the Argentine province of Río Negro, the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, Mexico City, and the Mexican state of Coahuila, which borders Texas.

Clinton says U.S. will fight anti-gay violence worldwide

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Sept. 11 that the United States will fight anti-gay violence anywhere in the world that it happens.

Speaking in New York at the Roosevelt Institute's Four Freedoms Medals Gala Dinner, where she received the institute's Four Freedoms Award, Clinton explained: "(We) must condemn violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In country after country after country, young men and women are persecuted, are singled out, even murdered in cold blood, because of who they love or just based on claims that they are gay."

"We are starting to track violence against the LGBT community, because where it happens anywhere in the world, the United States must speak out against it and work for its end. Through our annual human rights report, we are documenting human rights abuses against LGBT communities worldwide. And we are seeking out partners at the United Nations such as Brazil, France, Sweden and the Netherlands to help us address these human rights abuses."

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

Malawi official speaks out

In Malawi, Secretary for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS Mary Shawa has said that recognizing gay rights is key to being successful in the fight against AIDS. "There is a need to incorporate a human rights approach in the delivery of HIV and AIDS services to such risk groups like men who have sexual intercourse with men if we have to fight AIDS," Shawa said at a conference about the disease—marking the first time a government official has discussed gay issues in public.

—Andrew Davis

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"THIS IS OUR MOMENT. THIS IS THE TIME TO DEMAND EQUALITY. If you lead with confidence, you can win it in 2010. Do not be afraid of it. And do not put our rights on hold any more." — *Openly gay Steve Hildebrand, who was Barack Obama's deputy national campaign manager and now is pushing for a 2010 ballot campaign to repeal Proposition 8, speaking Aug. 22 at the San Diego Democratic Club's annual Freedom Awards, according to the Gay & Lesbian Times in its Aug. 27 issue. California gay leaders are split on whether to try to repeal Prop 8 in 2010 or 2012.*

"I WENT AND I GOT DIAGNOSED AND EVERYTHING AND I GOT THE SPECIAL SWINE FLU DRUGS. I'M BETTER. ... I had it. It's over. It's done. ... It is the predominant strain of flu now. First my girlfriend got it and then I got it. It was just like a really stanky flu, and I had to take a week off and Alison Stewart did my show." — *MSNBC host Rachel Maddow on TV's Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, Aug. 31.*

"MY FIRST DATE WITH MY GIRLFRIEND SUSAN WAS AT A SHOOTING RANGE. THAT WAS AWESOME. It was ladies' day on the range. Her sister is a lifetime NRA member and she was organizing ladies' day on the range at her gun club. And so we shot AiR-15s and we threw tomahawks and we did archery and pistols and skeet. Susan was really good with skeet. She was wearing a dress. I mean, first date, right? So we're trying to impress each other. She's all dressed up to the nines, with this giant shotgun." — *MSNBC host Rachel Maddow on TV's Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, Aug. 31.*

"I REALLY DO THINK THAT GAYS ARE THE BEST URBAN PIONEERS, and they're the best neighbors you can have. People don't seem to understand how good it is that if a gay couple moves into your neighborhood and starts restoring a house? Hey—your property values are going up." — *Singer Linda Ronstadt to PlanetOut.com, Aug. 26.*

"SOME OF THE STRONGEST COMMUNITY THAT WE KNOW IN THIS COUNTRY IS IN THE GAY COMMUNITY, because they've had to band together to survive emotionally. I'm not so sure this country understands or values that." — *Singer Linda Ronstadt to PlanetOut.com, Aug. 26.*

"I HAD MOVED BACK TO TUCSON WITH MY KIDS BECAUSE I JUST THOUGHT it was quieter, and my family was there. But Tucson has turned out to be a very conservative place, and I didn't want my kids coming home from school saying things like 'That's so gay.' So we moved back to San Francisco, and I sent my kids to a school that actively taught that homophobic remarks are just not OK, and my kids' attitudes have changed as a result of it." — *Singer Linda Ronstadt to PlanetOut.com, Aug. 26.*

"MY LESBIAN FRIENDS' CHILDREN ARE BECOMING TEENAGERS. It was a big deal for about 10 minutes and now everybody goes through the same crap that everyone goes through in life. It's lovely to see families show up in all different ways and that the pervasive issue is how wanted and loved the children

feel." — *Singer Melissa Manchester to San Diego's Gay & Lesbian Times, Aug. 27.*

"IN DC. WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER THE SET FOR MEET THE PRESS hides sneakers as well as the one at MSNBC." — *Openly lesbian MSNBC host Rachel Maddow in an Aug. 15 tweet.*

"EVEN WHEN I'M BUSY, I RUN TO THE COMPUTER DURING the day and try to remind people (through Twitter) of little things and ideas. It's a nice creative outlet." — *Lesbian comedian and actress Sandra Bernhard to San Diego's Gay & Lesbian Times, Aug. 27.*



I had never discussed it with my parents at that age.
—Pet Shop Boys' Neil Tennant on coming out at 40

"I DECIDED TO COME OUT PUBLICLY (15 YEARS AGO) BECAUSE I WAS TALKING TO A NEW (BRITISH) GAY MAGAZINE, ATTITUDE, which had just started publishing. It seemed a bit ridiculous to talk to them and not say I was gay. It wasn't a really big deal for me. But I had never discussed it with my parents at that age. I was 40 years old at this point. So it made my parents confront this issue. They were very nice about it all." — *Neil Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys to the D.C. magazine Metro Weekly, Sept. 3.*

"IT WAS SCARY (BECOMING A GAY SPOKESPERSON AFTER I CAME OUT) because I really wasn't up on my politics. I was kind of there, but not like some of these amazing people like David Mixner, Urvashi Vaid, Kate Clinton and some of the people I was meeting. So it was scary. I take it very seriously that I am sometimes more or less a representative of the community. It is a great responsibility and a great honor too." — *Melissa Etheridge to Los Angeles' Lesbian News, August issue.*

"WE (GAYS) ARE A SWEET GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO JUST REALLY want to love and dance. We want to work and decorate our homes and fix up our houses. For us to have to fight for our equal rights for that is really strange." — *Melissa Etheridge to Los Angeles' Lesbian News, August issue.*

"MY MOM WAS ALWAYS FOR GAY MARRIAGE, but I think me being so vocal about it has made her want to be more vocal about it. She texted me: 'Gay marriage passed in Maine!!'" — *Meghan McCain, John's daughter, to Out.com, July 20.*

"(GAY EQUALITY IS) MY GENERATION'S civil rights movement." — *Meghan McCain, John's daughter, to Out.com, July 20.*

"I HAVE, APPARENTLY, HIT THE FACEBOOK friend limit. They allow no more." — *Frequently gay-themed San Francisco Chronicle columnist Mark Morford on his Facebook page July 15. Morford has 4,999 "friends."*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley


**TRACY
BAIM**

Culture as activism

I have always been a fan of “the movies.” When I was 14 I snuck a TV into my room and watched *In the Glitter Palace* (1977) with Barbara Hershey playing a lesbian. *Personal Best* and *Desert Hearts* came out when I was a young adult, followed by other lesbian films: some good, many terribly bad. But even the bad ones provided at least some relief from the constant hetero beat of Hollywood.

As someone who has covered the LGBT community for 25 years, mostly from a news perspective, I have also seen how sometimes our issues can be further advanced by “culture” than by activism. We need it all, of course: People in the streets, people in the board rooms, and people getting a better understanding of us through TV and movies.

A few years ago I started working on a military love story movie, but that got sidetracked to a stage play, *Half Life*. In 2007, when I had just about given up hope that would become a film, I interviewed Claudia Allen for www.ChicagoGayHistory.org and suggested that her

stage plays would make great films. And from there, less than 12 months later, we were shooting *Hannah Free* in my home on the South Side. Directed by Wendy Jo Carlton, adapted by Allen for film, and involving more than 400 people at some level, this was a labor of love on the scale of *Gay Games* for me, just in a more condensed timeline.

I served as executive producer, which is a fancy title for basically doing anything from running to the store for water to writing checks and raising money. I learned so much in such a short window of time, and was so lucky to have an amazing support team for everything we needed for the film. Whether it was Martie Marro doing the Web site, sound design and music; Sharon Zurek as editor and post-supervisor; or star Sharon Gless staying in the coach house during filming, everyone pitched in at an amazing level. It took a huge village to make this film, and now I know why there are not a lot of lesbian films—it is a very difficult and expensive process, one that also involves miracles and luck. And every favor you could ever call in with family and friends.

What is it about movies that change our lives? The stories can help society see us differently, but for me it is more important for our own community to see a wide range of stories reflecting our lives. *Hannah Free* is a “period” movie, told across 60 years in the lives of two women, ending in a 1990s Michigan nursing home. We see young lovers, and we see older women loving one another. How many Hollywood films show older people being intimate, much less two women? Sharon Gless and Maureen Gallagher

steam up the screen with their screen chemistry, and it validates the lives of so many long-term couples of all kinds.

As the film has played the festival and theatrical circuit this summer, I have been lucky to attend some of the screenings. The emotions have been very high, with lesbians, gay men and straight couples all responding strongly to the message of love and who chooses a family. The topics are timely given the current healthcare end-of-life debate, and also with the same-sex marriage battles in Maine, California and beyond. Who gets to make decisions about our loved ones? Even the best legal documents have been challenged, and anything short of full equality will mean continued terrible circumstances for some couples.

So *Hannah Free* is just one offering in a long line of LGBT cinema trying to reflect a portion of our lives. I can't thank Chicagoans enough for the amazing support we received. We did all of our work here, including post-production. And we also received support from outside our city, from house parties and donors across the country. We have seen the tears, heard the laughter, and been proud to represent Chicago as part of a new lesbian film. Please show your support by seeing the film Sept. 25-Oct. 1 at Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State. (See www.hannahfree.com for other cities and countries.) There are lots of great films to choose from this fall, and your support of this one will send a message to future LGBT filmmakers that our community can support not just the next Hollywood drama, but also independent cinema from us, by us, and for everyone.



Trans tomes

Thank you for including Steven Chaitman's article about our Transgender Resource Collection in your Sept. 9 issue of *Windy City Times*. Oak Park Public Library greatly appreciates your reporting on our efforts and we hope that additional people will thus learn of this valuable resource.

We want to mention that items in our Transgender Resource Collection are available to most public library cardholders in Illinois. Library users may ask about interlibrary loan at their home library or may visit the Oak Park Public Library for reciprocal borrowing privileges (www.oppl.org/services/nrborrow.htm).

We encourage other public libraries to consider providing similar resources to their local populations. We put together the “\$200 Transgender Bookshelf” as a starting place for public libraries with smaller budgets. Several libraries have already used this resource to expand their collections for transgender people, as well as their employers, medical providers, allies, friends and family.

Again, thank you for your report on our work.

Sharon Grimm, Communications Coordinator
Bleue Benton, Collection Development Manager
Oak Park Public Library
(www.oppl.org)

Thoughts from Ted

Below is the text of the letter from Senator Edward M. Kennedy referenced by the President in his Sept. 9 address to a joint session of Congress.

May 12, 2009

Dear Mr. President,

I wanted to write a few final words to you to express my gratitude for your repeated personal kindnesses to me—and one last time, to salute your leadership in giving our country back its

future and its truth.

On a personal level, you and Michelle reached out to Vicki, to our family and me in so many different ways. You helped to make these difficult months a happy time in my life.

You also made it a time of hope for me and for our country.

When I thought of all the years, all the battles, and all the memories of my long public life, I felt confident in these closing days that while I will not be there when it happens, you will be the President who at long last signs into law the health care reform that is the great unfinished business of our society. For me, this cause stretched across decades; it has been disappointed, but never finally defeated. It was the cause of my life. And in the past year, the prospect of victory sustained me—and the work of achieving it summoned my energy and determination.

There will be struggles—there always have been—and they are already underway again. But as we moved forward in these months, I learned that you will not yield to calls to retreat—that you will stay with the cause until it is won. I saw your conviction that the time is now and witnessed your unwavering commitment and understanding that health care is a decisive issue for our future prosperity. But you have also reminded all of us that it concerns more than material things; that what we face is above all a moral issue; that at stake are not just the details of policy, but fundamental principles of social justice and the character of our country.

And so because of your vision and resolve, I came to believe that soon, very soon, affordable health coverage will be available to all, in an America where the state of a family's health will never again depend on the amount of a family's wealth. And while I will not see the victory, I was able to look forward and know that we will—yes, we will—fulfill the promise of health care in America as a right and not a privilege.

In closing, let me say again how proud I was to be part of your campaign—and proud as well to play a part in the early months of a new era of high purpose and achievement. I entered public



LETTERS

life with a young President who inspired a generation and the world. It gives me great hope that as I leave, another young President inspires another generation and once more on America's behalf inspires the entire world.

So, I wrote this to thank you one last time as a friend—and to stand with you one last time for change and the America we can become.

At the Denver Convention where you were nominated, I said the dream lives on.

And I finished this letter with unshakable faith that the dream will be fulfilled for this generation, and preserved and enlarged for generations to come.

With deep respect and abiding affection,
[Ted]

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“Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses.” —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



HEY, LADY...

Lady Gaga (above) is one of the artists profiled in Pop Making Sense this week. See page 14.

THEATER

'Boom' service.
Page 12.

Photo by Ryan Robinson



AUTOS

On the road(ster).
Page 16.

Photo courtesy of Nissan



FITNESS

Goal rush.
Page 26.Getting it
'straight'

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

This week, Windy City Times is running a list of "straight plays" that will be in Chicagoland this fall. And by "straight," we mean shows that aren't exclusively musical theater, or with characteristics that tip too highly on the lavender LGBTQ scale.

Bard variations

Shakespeare is always in fashion, no matter the season. Check out these shows that promise a new approach or a different take on the Bard's beloved folio of works.

—**12 Ophelias**, Trap Door Theatre (Sept. 24-Oct. 31): Latina playwright Caridad Svich describes her work as a "Play with broken songs." Find out what kind of trippy and weird world the character of Ophelia from Hamlet encounters as she emerges from the water after drowning.

—**Richard III**, Chicago Shakespeare Theater (now-Nov. 22): Shakespeare's classic history play about a manipulative and murderous king should be good, especially with CST artistic director Barbara Gaines at the helm.

—**Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead**, Writers' Theatre in Glencoe (Sept. 29-Dec. 6): Tom Stoppard's classic 1960s existentialist comedy is about two minor characters in Shakespeare's Hamlet who ponder their place in the scheme of the play, and in life in general.

—**St. Crispin's Day**, Strawdog Theatre (Sept. 24-Oct. 31): Matt Pepper's dark comedy concerns the rabble in Shakespeare's history play Henry V. Will characters like Pistol and Bardolph get mutinous against the monarch on the eve of the Battle of Agincourt?

Brand spanking new

Chicagoans should be proud at the number of plays and new adaptations that make their world



Fake. Photo by Michael Brosilow

premiere in this City of the Big Shoulders. There are plenty of debuting works—choose from this fall season.

—**All the Fame of Lofty Deeds**, The House Theatre of Chicago at Chopin Theatre (Nov. 12-Dec. 20): Mark Guarino's phantasmic journey into the mind of a fictional country music legend. It's based upon music of Jon Langford of The Mekons.

—**Bastards of Young**, Timpanic Theatre at The Side Project (Oct. 15-Nov. 8): A new short play collection stuffed with killers, vultures and other fun lowlifes.

—**The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity**, Victory Gardens Theater (Sept. 25-Nov. 1): Kristofer Diaz's dark hip hop-influenced comedy looks at geo-politics through the world of professional wrestling. See what happens when two guys take on the wrestling alter egos of a tag team of foreign terrorists.

—**Fake**, Steppenwolf Theatre (through Nov. 8): Ensemble member Eric Simonson bases this

drama on the efforts of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (of Sherlock Holmes fame)—debunk the dubious evolutionary claims behind the infamous "Pilt-down Man" remains.

—**Fear**, Neo-Futurists (Sept. 24-Oct. 31): Nolle Krimm has conceived and curated this dark examination of Edgar Allen Poe's terrifying literary world.

—**Fedra**, Queen of Haiti, Lookingglass Theatre (Sept. 30-Nov. 15): J. Nicole Brooks puts a Caribbean spin on the classic Greek tragedy of a queen who has a burning incestuous passion for her handsome stepson.

—**High Holidays**, Goodman Theatre (Oct. 31-Nov. 29): Alan Gross' new comedy about a kid growing up in early 1960s Chicago and his anxiety about his approaching Bar Mitzvah. On top of that, his older rebellious brother returns home and causes a ruckus in the family.

—**The Hundred Dresses**, Chicago Children's Theatre at the Royal George Theatre (Sept. 25-Nov. 1): Eleanor Estes' acclaimed children's book gets adapted for the stage by G. Riley Mills and Ralph Covert (of Ralph's World fame). Sean Graney directs.

—**The Last Unicorn**, Promethean Theatre Ensemble at City Lit Theater (Oct. 16-Nov. 14): Ed Rutherford adapts Peter S. Beagle's fantasy novel about a lone unicorn that searches for her lost brothers and sisters.

—**Lucinda's Bed**, Chicago Dramatists (Oct. 1-Nov. 8): Mia McCullough's dark comedy about a grown woman who is still confronted with the monster who once lived underneath her bed.

—**Mouse in a Jar**, Red Tape Theatre Company (Oct. 1-Oct. 31): Martyna Majok's dark new drama about two sisters and their mother who all live in terror of an abusive male force who arrives nightly in their basement apartment.

—**Ten Square**, Pegasus Players and MPAACT (Sept. 25-Nov. 22): This collaborative theater company play by Shepsu Aaku imagines a futuristic America long after the effects of slavery reparations pay outs.

—**Treasure Island**, Lifeline Theatre (now-Nov. 1): John Hildreth's adaptation of Robert Louis

Stevenson's classic pirate drama promises lots of adventure on the high seas.

—**Year Zero**, Victory Gardens Theater (now-Oct. 25): Michael Golmaco's new drama about a Cambodian-American teen who feels out of place in Long Beach, Calif., inaugurates Victory Gardens' brand new Studio Theater space within the Biograph Theater.

New 'round these parts

Chicago can't always boast about being the birthplace of new American drama. So check out these works that are now making their Windy City debut

—**End Days**, Next Theatre (Oct. 29-Nov. 29): Deborah Zoe Lauffer's dark comedy about a girl living in with a suburban family that is obsessed with fear and the end of the world.

—**Heroes**, Remy Bumpo Theatre (Oct. 14-Nov. 29): Tom Stoppard's adaptation of Gerald Sibley's comedy about three World War I veterans in 1959 who goad each other into new adventures. This features David Darlow, Mike Nussbaum and Roderick Peoples in the cast.

—**The House on Mango Street**, Steppenwolf Theatre (Oct. 13-Nov. 1): Steppenwolf for Young Adults presents Tanya Saracho's adaptation of Sandra Cisneros' acclaimed children's book about a girl growing up in a diverse Chicago neighborhood.

—**The Mercy Seat**, Profiles Theatre (Sept. 25-Nov. 15): Neil LaBute's disturbing drama about an adulterous couple who contemplate using the terrorist attacks of 9/11—their selfish advantage.

—**Stoop Stories**, Goodman Theatre (now-Oct. 11): Pulitzer Prize-finalist Dael Orlandersmith's one-woman show about the diverse array of people in a New York neighborhood.

Didn't see your fall show profiled in the past two weeks? Then send theater news and other tidbits-scottishplayscott@yahoo.com or Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Read this entire article online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



Baal. Photo by Kyle LaMere

THEATER REVIEW

Baal

Playwright: Bertolt Brecht
At: EP Theater, 1820 S. Halsted
Phone: 312-850-4299; \$12
Runs through: Oct. 10

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

"You can tell it's a 20-year-old writing" someone remarked in the lobby before the start of the show. Indeed you can, and when the 20-year-old is Bertolt Brecht in 1918, writing his rebuttal to a then-popular drama extolling versifiers as heroic, virtuous (and anti-Semitic) paragons, what you can expect is a braggadocio celebration of the vices attributed to harum-scarum artists throughout time. His parable of two aesthetes—one a poet named for a Biblical baddie, and the other a would-be music composer—who drink, brawl, screw girls (and, it is hinted, each other) while wallowing in brandy and existential melancholia would be insufferable to watch if EP Theater had not taken every measure to make it interesting, short of re-writing it completely.

Their first remedy is to excise at least 10 of the original text's 21 scenes, reducing the number of auxiliary characters and locale changes, so that David Beaupre's asymmetrical shadow-box set—its lines echoing the EP Theater's likewise Escheresque interior—fluidly transports us through squalid attics, pastoral riverfronts and several kinds of taverns. The second is to bring in a duo calling itself The Loneliest Monk as a stageside orchestra providing near-constant musical accompaniment on cello, guitar and percussion that not only heightens the emotional underpinning of each individual milieu, but also prevents the stretches of straight-from-the-journal bardic effusion from halting the action right in its poetry-slam tracks.

Co-directors Hunter Kennedy and AJ Ware are not about to let audience members listen to the concert while ignoring its spoken-word counterpart, however—not when angst-ridden rebellion expresses itself in precisely the kind of extravagant passion that youthful actors relish. And so, from Craig Cunningham and Shawn Pfautsch as the nihilistic butt-buddies to the quartet of ac-

tresses portraying the sniveling damsels they seduce and abandon, the ensemble embraces their play's cruel universe with a full-throttle commitment devoid of self-conscious posturing.

It's not enough to wholly redeem a genius playwright's faltering first scribbles, noteworthy only to illustrate his improvement later in his career. And vision fatigue generated by the EP space's chronically unreliable lighting-circuitry may lead spectators to lose a few moments of the first act. But you're unlikely to ever see Baal performed on a stage anywhere, and for certain, you'll never see it done with as much fury, intensity and imagination as in this South Side hobbit-hole of a playhouse.

THEATER REVIEW

The Fantasticks

Playwright: book and lyrics by Tom Jones, music by Harvey Schmidt
At: Porchlight Music Theatre at Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont
Phone: 773-327-5252; \$37
Runs through: Nov. 15

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

When 50 percent of the orchestra consists of a full-sized harp, it's a good guess that this is not Spring Awakening. Our story, in fact, is based on a satirical harlequinade written during the age of Victorian sentimentality. Its score mandates a heroine combining the airheaded effervescence of an adolescent with the luave of a Wagnerian diva, and a villain whose suave urbanity encompasses a momentary misinterpretation when confronted with two men claiming a "romantic problem," but also a stubborn affinity for the classical definition of the word, "rape" (meaning "forcible abduction"). And let's not forget 19th-century *panto* characterizations of "exotic" foreigners.

For all its quaint conventions, the plot is simple enough: a pair of young sweethearts are thwarted by the feud between their respective houses—ah, but this tribal enmity is a charade, perpetrated by their respective sires to unite the rebellious children in mutual accord. Once their affections have been ascertained, a happy reconciliation is devised, with the aid of some hired players. But soon the ruse is exposed, the disillusioned lovers grow bored and restless, and it is up to the elders to forge a resolution founded in a more mature covenant.

Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt's fanciful fable ran off-Broadway at the Sullivan Street Theatre for a legendary 42 years and has been produced in 700 countries. The challenge nowadays, however, is to retain its requisite delicacy without floating off into cloying sugariness. A Fantasticks erring on the side of neo-Brechtian irony, on the other hand, would deflate under its own leaden feet. But by keeping the ambience simple and uncluttered to an almost spartan

degree, this Porchlight Music Theatre production maintains the correct balance, thanks in no small part to a cast who attack their *commedia-trad* roles with warmth, gusto and a knowing wink or two.

Dan Ferretti and Ryan Lanning, though a charming duo of squabbling dads, are not yet old enough to project a believable patriarchal gravitas, while Jeff Parker's El Gallo is so internalized as to be downright arthritic. But Emma Rosenthal and Sean Effinger-Dean's virtuoso vocals as the giddy lovebirds, along with Tanya McBride's impish antics in the role of the koken-like Mute, more than compensate for the occasional collegiate moment. And look for UIC professor William F. Raffeld and storefront-circuit favorite Rus Rainear to steal the show at every onstage opportunity.

THEATER REVIEW

Boom

Playwright: Peter Sinn Nachtrieb
At: Next Theatre Company, 927 Noyes, Evanston
Tickets: 847-475-1875;
www.nexttheatre.org; \$25-\$40
Runs through: Oct. 11

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Jason Southerland became artistic director of Next Theatre Company last spring but waited until now to make his directing debut with this 2009-2010 season opener. The question Boom raises isn't whether or not he can stage a show, but whether he can select a script. Boom is a bad play.

It's an 80-minute sitcom that's also a shaggy dog story with a not-sufficiently-potent punchline (about fish and humanity in an apocalyptic future). In a confined setting (an underground laboratory), a twenty-something boy and girl progress through a series of combative episodes over a period of nine months, or so we are told by a narrator who frequently interrupts them to jump the action to the next episode.

Now, TV sitcom nearly always is episodic (think a typical Seinfeld segment), but it works because viewers see familiar characters behaving consistently from week to week and event to event. Audiences don't have that advantage in stage comedy, so the playwright's Number One Job is to establish his characters as real, believable and grounded people. Only *then* can they be placed in exaggerated situations. But author Peter Sinn Nachtrieb creates extreme circumstances from the get-go. He would have us believe that shy biologist Jules and sexually aggressive Jo are a Craig's List hook-up; that the world will be obliterated by a comet; that Jules wants to restart humankind with Jo; that Jules, however, is gay *and* a virgin; that Jo has frequent death-like blackouts; that they survive underground for nine months by beating each other up; and that—finally—Jo really is a virgin, too.

What part of this is supposed to be the truth? We never know. All we know is that Jules and Jo have zero chemistry, zero understanding of each other and almost never actually listen to each other, so intent are they on their individual agendas. Why does any of it matter? It doesn't, especially when the narrator delivers a shaggy-dog punchline which entirely negates Jules' and Jo's non-relationship.

CRITICS' PICKS

Cabaret, Drury Lane Oakbrook, through Oct. 11. Think you know Cabaret from its 1972 film version? It was a different creature on Broadway, and director Jim Corti masterfully returns this celebrated Kander and Ebb musical back to its Broadway roots (no interpolated film songs) for a smashing production. SCM

Mistakes Were Made, A Red Orchid Theatre, through Oct. 31. That guy (Michael Shannon) who was up for an Oscar earlier this year has returned to his off-Loop roots in a pitch-perfect tale of frenzied intensity and show biz insanity. Catch Shannon now, before he heads back to movie land. CS

The Wild Party, Silent Theatre Company at Prop Thtr, through Oct. 2. Isaiah Robinson and Silent Theatre transform Joseph Moncure March's steamy ballad of a summer revel gone wrong into a seamless blend of music, dance, pantomime and spoken-word sensuality. MSB

Yeast Nation, American Theater Company, through Oct. 18. A musical, set 3.5 billion years ago, about a colony of yeast cells struggling for survival as earth cools, written by the unorthodox authors of Urinetown the Musical. Do they rise to the occasion? JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge,
Morgan and Sullivan

The play has some amusing moments, for John Stokvis (Jules) and Kelly O'Sullivan (Jo) are attractive and deft enough (narrator Shannon Hoag has far less to do), and Nachtrieb summons the occasional smartly quirky line, such as "Fish may not be intelligent, but they are rational." Southerland, as director, has staged Boom competently and his design team's work is solid (especially Nathan Leigh's sound and Andre LaSalle's steel-bolted laboratory). But the sketch-like play offers little story or character development. Indeed, nothing evolves but the fish in this, the second play I've reviewed in a week (Mistakes Were Made is the other, reviewed last week) featuring an aquarium and finny folk. Is it a trend? Fishy or not, this Boom is a bust.

Zak leaves Bailiwick

David Zak, the driving force behind Bailiwick Repertory Theatre, is stepping down as artistic director. It's a position he held for the majority of the company's 27 years.

Taking over for Zak with the new title of Bailiwick's executive director is Yale graduate and Jeff-nominated actor Kevin Mayes. Zak is will remain as artistic director emeritus.

During Zak's tenure, the Bailiwick became known for producing LGBTQ-friendly works and rolling out plenty of regional and world premieres. Some memorable hits include Parade, bare, Naked Boys Singing and the American premiere of Jerry Springer: The Opera.

The Bailiwick recently vacated its longtime warehouse home at 1229 W. Belmont at the start of 2009. (Theater Wit is renovating the former Bailiwick Arts Center.)

As promised by Zak, the Bailiwick did re-emerge this past summer as an itinerant company. Bailiwick produced the musical The Cousins Grimm and the play Two Spoons in repertory in the Hoover-Leppen Theatre at the Center on Halsted (which was eventually replaced by the musical Bombs Away, which Bailiwick originally produced at Mary's Attic).

Currently, no works have been announced for Bailiwick's 2009-10 season, while the company's new Web site, www.bailiwickchicago.com, is currently under construction.

—Compiled by Scott C. Morgan

SPOTLIGHT



Northlight Theatre's regional premiere of **The Marvelous Wonderettes** comes with extra cachet. That's because Northlight has hired Roger Bean, the author and director of this still-running hit off-Broadway jukebox revue, to direct its production in Skokie. See what happens when four singing high school ladies provide the entertainment for their 1958 prom, and then a decade later at their 10-year reunion. The Marvelous Wonderettes plays 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays through Oct. 25 (some dates vary) at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie, Skokie. Tickets are \$25-\$50 in previews, and \$25-\$55 during the regular run; call 847-673-6300 or see www.northlight.org. Photo by Michael Brosilow



Online This Week:

—Cotton
Patch Gospel

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Lily Tomlin: An icon talks

BY JERRY NUNN

With Lily Tomlin—who has an over 40-year career—many words come to mind: actress, comedian, writer and producer, but also a legend. She has won many honors, including a Tony, an Emmy and a Grammy, as well as an Academy Award nomination.

Windy City Times: Hello, Lily. You are a dream interview for me! Edith Ann was my favorite on Sesame Street. So I guess I have been a fan since diapers.

Lily Tomlin: Well, thanks. I am glad of that.

WCT: You just had a birthday by the way, Happy birthday!

LT: Thanks a million.

WCT: I want to talk about your career. You were one of the first female comedians to do Black male drag with Pervis Hawkins. What inspired that character?

LT: That character came about during the "Lily for President" special. The feat was that not only was Lily such a grass roots candidate but a great Black soul artist. I was so widely beloved, that all these people came to do a show for her. [Both laugh]

WCT: I recently interviewed Paula Poundstone and she named you an influence. What comedians inspired you growing up?

LT: Paula is a great friend of mine. She's a darling girl. A lot of stuff influenced me early on as a child from radio and television. We didn't even have a TV until I was ten. But I still watched shows on neighbor's televisions such as Bea Lily on The Ed Sullivan Show, Imogene Coca, the sitcoms with Lucy and Joan Davis. Any female that was doing funny stuff on television I am sure was an influence.

As far as stand-up, Jean Carroll, who used to be on Ed Sullivan too, did husband jokes and I would just take her stuff. I would be eight or nine years old telling husband jokes on my back porch! I would put on a show and throw pearls around my neck like Bea Lily.

WCT: So the different characters came out of that?

LT: I lived in an old apartment house so there were a lot of people living there. My parents were southern and I grew up in a Black neighborhood. I would go to Kentucky every summer and grew up in inner city Detroit. I saw a lot of stuff and different kinds of people.

WCT: What did you think of 9 to 5 the Musical?

LT: First of all, it was very eerie watching it because it seemed like I was up there. The clothes were very similar. Allison looks enough like me from the stage, you know tall and lanky. Meg Hilty looks just like Dolly. They wore the very same clothes; that light blue leather coat with the white collar that she has when we go shopping. Oh and the smock that I wore in the office and the red trench coat.

When we first saw it in L.A., Dolly, Jane and me, we cried, wept and were spooked by the surrealness of it. But overall we really enjoyed it. Allison is also a good friend because I did West Wing with her. I was disappointed that it closed.

WCT: Well, maybe there will be a tour of 9 to 5 the Musical to Chicago. I heard they want Dolly Parton to play on tour with Hello, Dolly!

LT: Wow, you might be right. That would be something!

WCT: I loved you in the movie Flirting With Disaster. Was there a lot of improvisation?

LT: Yeah, a fair amount. David is pretty free-wheeling in some ways, in many ways. We improved a lot of that. There's a script but we did a lot of ad-libbing. I love that movie too. I just screamed when I saw it.

WCT: You did the movie Nashville, where I am from, Short Cuts and A Prairie Home Com-



Lily Tomlin.

panion with Robert Altman, which was his last film. Any thoughts on him?

LT: For me that was a long and deep relationship, just being part of that Altman family. I was really sad and unhappy when Bob died. He was in the middle of his next picture. In Prairie, he was getting chemo very frequently during the shooting. He was like a warhorse, and unflappable. Even undergoing that he was still the boss, totally in charge, never overbearing. I used to say he was like a benign patriarch. You felt completely confident that Pops was going to take care of you and yet he was totally flawed himself, open and human. That's why actors loved him I think.

WCT: How's Jane Wagner [Tomlin's partner and collaborator] doing?

LT: She is doing great. She just had a root canal so she is not incredibly happy. But she will be happy soon.

WCT: Tell our readers about your current tour. Are you playing the different characters such as Ernestine, or is it all stand-up?

LT: Well, I do a little of both. I do a little of the characters and I also talk to the audience and do first person. I will talk about Aurora and the surrounding environs. Every year I play forty or fifty dates. I fit it in between everything else.

WCT: So it's a way of life for you.

LT: Yeah, as soon as I got famous I always had an act, from starting on my back porch. My first real gig was at Mr. Kelly's in Chicago. It's not there anymore but that was the first time that I played a club where my name was on the marquee. I still have a photo of the line around the block. I was popular because of Laugh-In and played Mr. Kelly's every year.

WCT: You were hilarious on The Kathy Griffin Show!

LT: She's funny and really quick.

WCT: I heard that you are in talks to do a spin off from Desperate Housewives with Kathryn Joosten.

LT: Kathy and I are working on that. I am going to do several episodes of Damages this year. This is the third season and the only show that I run home to see. It's so scary and spooky and ruthless. You never know who is a bad person or a good person. It's off the chart. I was a big fan of it so I was really glad to get a part in it this year.

I am also going to play Vegas this year at the MGM.

WCT: Sounds like your name is going to be up in lights for a long time to come!

Lily Tomlin will be appearing at The Paramount Theater, 23 E. Galena, Aurora, on Friday, Oct. 2. Visit www.paramountarts.com.

SHARON GLESS IN HANNAH FREE

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Meet Sharon Gless
Sept. 26

"Hannah Free is achingly beautiful, both in the rich, textured material and fine performances." — *Notes From Hollywood*

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Hannah Free in Chicago Sept. 25-Oct. 1

Gene Siskel Film Center of the
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 164 N. State

Sharon Gless (Queer as Folk, Burn Notice, Cagney & Lacey) stars in the drama Hannah Free, a film about a lifelong love affair between an independent spirit and the woman she calls home. The film is the story of six decades in the life of a lesbian partnership.

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5:00 p.m.
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Special 7 p.m. screening followed by Q&A with Sharon Gless, cast and crew, followed by a gala party, tickets only thru 773-387-2394 or info@hannahfree.com

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BY DAVID BYRNE WITH TONY PEREGRIN

P!nk turns white hot when she gets fired up. Don't remind her that her Funhouse Tour shares the same theme as Britney Spears' Circus Tour. Including trapeze stunts, P!nk's Funhouse Tour comes to Chicagoland on Tuesday, Sept. 26, at The Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim, Rosemont. It would be a spectacle to have one-time collaborator Lisa Marie Presley under the big top with P!nk, but the buzzworthy Ting Tings will be opening for the "So What" singer.

Outside his recent incident upstaging of Taylor Swift, **Kanye West** has made me smack my forehead previously. First, outspoken animal activist P!nk went on a tirade against West in the publication The Sun. Per the piece, both attended Stella McCartney's fashion show in Paris and West kept insisting how the fashion line needed more fur. Clearly, West failed to realize that the designer and her father are vegetarians. Then, West posted that he didn't understand the association of rainbows with the LGBT community. Sounds like somebody should spend more time on Wikipedia and less time twittering.

Maybe having his foot in his mouth causes the hip hop star to be able to carry only two notes, *ergo* the need for AutoTuned vocals. West recently appeared on Beyonce's "Diva" and on "Gifted" with NASA alongside Santigold and Lykke Li.

A tour with **Lady Gaga** is in the works. Instead of having one open for the other, the pair will share stage time together with a scheduled date on Saturday, Jan. 16, at The United Center, 1901 W. Madison. Per her interview with Out, the pop-culture phenomenon broke it down for West: "I'm gay. My music is gay. My show is gay. And I love that it's gay. And I love my gay fans and they're all coming to our show. And it's going to remain gay."

Just weeks prior to his famous "Bush doesn't care about Black people" revelation at A Concert for Hurricane Relief in 2005, West made a call out to all who would listen that anti-gay lyrics in music must cease while promoting his opus, Late Registration.

Although West has brought light to topics, I say fly in Barbra Streisand to tell him to "shut the fuck up" whenever he runs his mouth. Surely, West would throw a fit if somebody rained on his parade.

We all know **Moby** can deliver a solid dance hit and even can cross over with a soulful mid-tempo number. Many of his albums conclude with beautifully composed orchestral-electronic masterpieces. On his latest release, *Wait for Me*, the New York DJ and producer extraordinaire favors the chill side of things. Moby helped define ambient music with his 1993 outing, appropriately titled *Ambient*.

While radio airplay and remixes may be unlikely, *Wait for Me* has outstanding, celestial songs like

"Pale Horses" and "Walk with Me," which features the underappreciated soul artist Leela James. "JLTF" and the title track also have me levitating to a higher plane. Need more Moby? Check out the great Patti LaBelle singing on a new version of "One of These Mornings" on the Miami Vice soundtrack. Moby will be returning to the Windy City with a concert at The Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield, on Wed., Sept. 30.

They are seasoned musicians. They are brassy. They are bidding farewell. **Saffire: The Uppity Blues Women** will be taking to the stage for the last time in Chicago at The Old Town of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln, on Sunday, Sept. 27. Earlier this year, the live favorites released *Havin' the Last Word*. Here, blues and folk are happily married as heard on the clever numbers "Bald Headed Blues," "Bald Eagle" and "I'm Growing Older." The documentary *Hot Flash!* gives insight to the trio's 25-year history through interviews and live concert footage. The Stairwell Sisters will be sharing the bill with Saffire.

Laura Meyer's latest, *Miles from Nowhere*, serves as a travelogue. This, Meyer's third album, reflects her findings while touring the country and observations of nature's beauty. "Between the Earth & the Sky" is a lush, tender ode, while "Flying V" serves up some delicious gritty guitars. The New York City-based folk singer has appeared on the Food Network's \$12 Challenge. Meyer has two dates lined up in Chicago. First, she will be at Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln, on Saturday, Sept. 26. Then she will be joining Samantha Cathcart and Sherri Anne at Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. Devon, on Monday, Sept. 28. Her Web site, www.laurameyer.net, has recipes, free downloads and even prizes.

Not ready to give up summer? **Rhythms del Mundo: Classics** provides sunshine with care-free covers set to a breezy Latin sound. It seems only natural that surfer turned singer-songwriter Jack Johnson remakes John Lennon's mantra "Imagine." Cat Power's voice is perfectly suited for this rendition of "Satisfaction." "Under the Boardwalk" redone by The Rolling Stones is the most fitting on the set. Aquila Rose and Dana Valdes's take on "Big Yellow Taxi" is nothing short of charming. Proceeds from Rhythm del Mundo benefit Artists Project Earth, which uses music to better areas affected by climate change and natural disasters. Rhythm del Mundo is out now—mojitos not included.



Saffire: The Uppity Blues Women

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Hannah Free; film note

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

I'm used to grousing about the lack of gay themed movies in theatres but how about not just the lack but the disappearance of lesbian ones altogether? Where did all the lesbian movies go? Straight to DVD seems to be the answer. And it's not just the lesbian pictures, either. Queer films of every stripe have become a rare commodity in movie theatres. This isn't just a case of audiences not supporting *Our Own Kind* (though the dismal box office numbers on the critically acclaimed *Milk* might suggest otherwise), it also highlights a not very pleasant truth: just because a movie has queer themes and characters doesn't make it a good movie. Far, far from it. Like their overwhelming straight counterparts a lot (and I mean a lot) of the queer movies are mostly junk, too—or at least, not very good.

All of which makes the arrival of the genuinely arresting *Hannah Free*, the locally shot lesbian centric movie starring Sharon Gless, opening this Friday at the Siskel Film Center, something to take note of. The movie, with a screenplay by out writer Claudia Allen (based on her acclaimed stage play) is a character drama that spans the lives of its title character (played at intervals by Gless and Kelli Strickland) and the love of her life, Rachel (played by Maureen Gallagher and Ann Hagemann). From childhood on Hannah has been the free spirit, Rachel the conventional one. The one constant between them is a fierce love and though Hannah is bitten by the travel bug she always returns to Rachel who has married, given birth to a daughter and son, and been widowed.

Circumstances find Hannah and Rachel both confined to a nursing home—Rachel in a prolonged coma and Hannah feisty and mad as hell because Rachel's grown daughter Marge (Taylor Miller) won't let her see mom "because you might upset her." Hannah just wants to say a proper goodbye but the indifferent, unfeeling staff and the immovable Marge stand in her way—a particularly bitter blow because the object of her affections is just down the hall. Like many other one-last-wish-before-I-die movies (*A Trip to Bountiful*, *Garbo Talks*, *et al.*), the quest for dignity in the face of death provides an emotionally fraught, compelling journey.

In Hannah's case, as she reflects back on her on-again/off-again life with Rachel she finds she is haunted—sometimes literally—by the young, vibrant but prim Rachel who fought her love and desire for Hannah. "You always thought we were the only ones who did what we did," Hannah reminds the ghost of the younger Rachel with a laugh. Hannah writes in a diary and finds another repository for memories of her life with Rachel—good (often focusing on the couple's frequent lovemaking), bad (usually centered on the closet vs. coming out and Hannah's wanderlust) and cutesy-poo (unnecessary, cloying

scenes with the childhood Hannah and Rachel kissin' in the barn and a'skippin' through the dappled fields). This is Greta (Jacqui Jackson) a young woman ostensibly doing research on the Great Depression who befriends Hannah. (The different time periods covered in the film are hazy with the nursing home sequences set in the '90s).

Allen's writing is beautifully simple—her characters talk like real people who often have moments of lyrical insight ("I'm refining myself down to the essentials," Hannah comments at one point) and Allen relieves even the most emotionally gripping moments with a knack for black humor. Allen gifts Gless—who gives a tremendous, full bodied performance in her first starring film role—and the rest of the predominantly female cast with a host of forceful and quirky characters. Gless, who has become an indelible part of our television history thanks to "Cagney & Lacey," "Queer as Folk" and many other TV parts brings her vast experience with emotionally difficult characters to bear on the role and the movie crackles whenever she's on screen.

Gless doesn't take over the movie—this is definitely an ensemble piece—but she brings to the role a certain set of expectations and a familiarity on the part of the audience that the other actresses can't hope to achieve (nor do they really need to). We're primed to like Gless and her feistiness, no matter the character; to root for her and director Wendy Jo Carlton has the good sense to acknowledge this and keeps the camera on her star, utilizing long takes that allow room for the lengthy, emotionally laden scenes to unfold.

Though clearly made on a small budget the material and performances are strong enough to outweigh most of the quibbles I might have had on that score. "It's a depressingly masculine world," Judy Parfitt tells Kathy Bates at one point in the film *Dolores Claiborne* but a labor of love movie like *Hannah Free* with its feminist point of view—shot in Chicago by a coterie of lesbian artists which include Allen, Carlton, editor Sharon Zurek, score composer Martie Marro—who all produced along with Tracy Baim (Full Disclosure: Publisher of Windy City Times)—beautifully defies that edict for audiences of every persuasion.

Hannah Free plays Sept. 25-Oct. 1 at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State. Sharon Gless will attend a benefit screening, along with cast and crew, on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. followed by a gala reception with food and drinks at the Renaissance Hotel. See www.hannahfree.com.

Film note:

—**Queer Cinema 102**, the film series co-sponsored by the Queer Film Society and the Center on Halsted focusing on offbeat camp "classics"—the horrible, the perverse, the hilarious, and the fabulously bad—chosen and hosted by gay film critics—ends on Monday, September 28 with the rarely seen *The Lonely Lady*. This 1983 travesty stars Pia Zadora as a "literate" screenwriter forced to exchange her Lilliputian body and perform other tawdry sins for a chance at success in depraved Tinsel Town. The film won six Golden Raspberry Awards including Worst Picture and Actress. The screening, hosted by Gay Chicago Magazine film critic Charlie Shoquist, will take place in the Hoover-Leppen Theatre at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, at 7 p.m. Admission is a suggested donation of \$5 at the door and an audience Q&A will follow the screening. *HannahFree.com* is helping to sponsor the series. Further information is at www.queerfilmsociety.org.

Check out my archived reviews at www.windycitytimes.com or www.knightatthemovies.com. Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site.



Cherry Jones. Photo by Craig Schwartz

Neil Patrick Harris hosts Emmys

The 61st Annual Primetime Emmys took place Sept. 19—and the awards show definitely had its LGBT(-friendly) elements.

The host of the event was openly gay actor Neil Patrick Harris of TV's *How I Met Your Mother*. Harris kept the show running smoothly and, more improbably, prevented it from running past its three-hour limit. He was nominated for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series but lost to Jon Cryer of *Two and a Half Men*.

Out Tony winner Cherry Jones (*Doubt*; *The Heiress*) won her first Emmy (Best Supporting Actress in a Drama) for her portrayal of the president in the drama *24*. Kristin Chenoweth, a favorite of the gay community, took home an award for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy regarding her work in the now-canceled series *Pushing Daisies*.

In addition, the HBO *Grey Gardens*—the miniseries starring Drew Barrymore and Jessica Lange that was helmed by openly gay Michael Suscy—snagged awards. Oscar winner Lange won her first Emmy, for Best Actress in a miniseries or movie, and Ken Howard took his first award as well, for Best Supporting Actor. Also, *Grey Gardens* (which received six Emmys in total, according to Variety.com) won for best miniseries or movie.

Dearbhla Walsh, winner of best director of a TV miniseries or movie for helming *Little Dorrit*, thanked her lover, Anna Nolan. After winning the award, Walsh joked to Nolan, "Looks like there will be three of us in bed tonight."

Many of the attendees wore white ribbons, which symbolize marriage equality, to the awards ceremony.

Reeling 2009 Nov. 5-15

Reeling 2009, the second-oldest LGBT film festival in the world, will run Nov. 5-15 in Chicago, according to a press release. Reeling will take place at Landmark's Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark; Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash; Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport; and the festival's home base at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark. Additional venues will be confirmed at a later date.

This year's opening-night film will be *The Big Gay Musical*, which features a cast of Broadway talent; the closing-night movie will be Evgeny Afineevsky's *Oy Vey! My Son is Gay!!*, which features Lainie Kazan, Bruce Vilanch, Carmen Electra, *Queer Eye* for the Straight Guy's Jai Rodriguez and Vincent Pastore from *The Sopranos*, among others.

The festival's complete line-up will be announced the week of Sept. 28. Tickets will be available for purchase beginning in October; see www.reelingfilmfestival.org.

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VEHICLE REVIEW

2010 Nissan 370Z Roadster

BY NICK KURCZEWSKI, GAYWHEELS.COM

I'd be a rich man—or at least a more popular one—if my personal gym routine were as strict as the one Nissan imposed on the 370Z Roadster. The last generation 350Z Roadster was already far from being the kind of car we'd ever consider an automotive couch potato. No comment need be made regarding my own television viewing (or dining) habits.

Back in 2002, Nissan started from a clean sheet of paper when it launched the 350Z Coupe and, two years later, followed it up with the 350Z Roadster. Both had a sexy shape, a high-revving V-6 engine under the hood, and a price-tag within reach of everyday driving enthusiasts. The 2010 370Z Roadster isn't dramatically different from the outgoing model, mainly because there wasn't that much which needed fixing.

The tried and tested rear wheel-drive, two-passenger sports car blueprint is still there. But Nissan has managed to add some much-needed luxury into the cabin—more on this later—while upping the power output of the engine and trimming overall curb-weight by about 200 pounds. Like I said, this car has gone through one serious workout!

The basis for the improved 370Z is a "tighter,

lighter package," according to the press materials Nissan provided before a test drive through stunning California countryside surrounding San Jose. Nissan managed to increase the strength of the new chassis anywhere from 10 to 60 percent, depending on the body structure being tested.

In the real world outside the lab, this means the Nissan 370Z Roadster is simply one fantastic little sports car to drive. On ribbons of road that twist their way through pine-covered mountains and along the rugged Pacific coastline, the 370Z Roadster proved to be one of those rare cars that feels comfortable, easy to use and loads of fun within the first couple miles.

The steering offers an excellent feel as to what each of the 19-inch alloy wheels is doing. And the powerful disc brakes with standard ABS ensures all this fun comes to a quick stop when confronted by, say, a sinuous mountain road that inexplicably turns into a bumpy gravel lane with heart-stopping cliffs on either side. Note to the editor: don't ever trust me with a map.

Okay, the exhaust note could be more aggressive. But to be honest, the gentle V-6 growl will satisfy most people. The 3.7-liter V-6 has grown in size from the previous Z-car and, in the process, it now offers 332 horsepower (versus 306hp in the outgoing model) at 7,000 rpm and 270 lb-ft of torque at 5,200 rpm. A six-speed manual transmission or seven-speed automatic is available.

I spent time behind the wheel of the slick shifting manual and, if you're a driving enthu-

siast, this is the ideal choice. Smooth clutch action and a precise shift-gate would make even congested city driving a breeze. It did take time to get used to the "SynchroRev Match" system, which blips the throttle to smooth out shifts. Nissan says it gives a driver "professional-like heel-toe downshifts." Problem is, for those who enjoy heel-toe shifting on their own, the system only gets in the way. Thankfully, you can turn it off.

Nissan went to great lengths to explain that the new hydraulically-operated convertible top is sleeker-looking when up, smoother in operation, more compact when stowed, and has a cloth inner liner to hide the folding mechanism. Except the gorgeous sunny weather meant we kept the top permanently down during our drive. Should the weather gods finally arrive to spoil the fun, a push of a button and roughly 20 seconds is all you'll need to stay dry.

Not everything is perfect with the 370Z Roadster. The interior is vastly better looking with much higher quality plastics than the old model. But why did Nissan keep an awkwardly large flap on the center of the dash to hide a surprisingly small storage space? It's worth ordering the optional satellite navigation simply to fill in the dead space with something more useful and attractive.

Other niggles include a steering wheel that feels too thin and slippery for a car competing with the Porsche Boxster and BMW Z4. And while I'm complaining, the seats are plenty comfortable (and available with heating and cooling systems), but could use more side support for high-speed driving excitement. Adjustable lumbar support just wasn't enough.

Nissan has not only trimmed the weight of the 370Z Roadster, it has also streamlined the lineup to a Base and Touring model. An entry-level 370Z Roadster begins at a MSRP of \$36,970—which Nissan mentioned is only \$100 more than the 2009 350Z Roadster. A Touring model like our test car adds a pumping Bose audio system, Bluetooth® hands-free phone system, and 4-way power seats. Extras like sat/nav and the sport brakes fitted to our test vehicle are optional, but only on the pricier Touring model. Fully loaded with the Sports Package and every available gizmo, pricing tops out around \$43,320.

That makes the 370Z Roadster a very tempting proposition and should help maintain its popularity in the sports car world. Now if only I can convince those clever Nissan engineers to give me some tips for the treadmill, lat pull-down and pec-deck.

See www.gaywheels.com for more info.

Vote for Internet Car and Truck of the Year

For the first time, consumers will have the opportunity to vote on their choice for Internet Car of the Year and Internet Truck of the Year. It all happens at www.internetcarandtruckoftheyear.com, where the Internet pros and the average Joes pick the car and truck of the year.

A panel of 12 Internet automotive writers has voted on seven semifinalists for Internet Car of the Year and seven semifinalists for Internet Truck of the Year.

This is the only place on the Internet (where 91% of new car shoppers begin their shopping process) for consumers to vote on a Car and Truck of the Year at a Web site not dominated by manufacturer advertising. The Web site will not accept any OEM advertising for vehicles eligible for a Car or Truck of the Year award.

Consumers will have until Oct. 16 at noon to register their selections for Internet Car and Truck of the Year. Then, starting Oct. 19 at noon they will select among three vehicles in each category that have been selected as finalists. Voting ends Nov. 13. The awards will be presented during a major auto show in December.

The semifinalists for Car of the Year are:

- Chevy Camaro SS
- Ford Fusion Hybrid
- Ford Taurus SHO
- Kia Forte Sedan
- Mazda Mazda3
- Nissan CUBE
- Shelby GT 500

The semifinalists for Truck of the Year are:

- Audi Q5
- Audi Q7 TDI
- Chevy Equinox
- Ford Raptor
- Ford Transit Connect
- Mercedes GLK
- Volvo XC60

The Internet Car of the Year was created by Keith Griffin, the Guide to Used Cars for About.com, and the Hartford (CT) Auto Examiner for Examiner.com, as well as a print automotive journalist and vice president of the New England Motor Press Association. Marketing for the awards is being handled by Al Vinikour of Vinikour Communications in Trenton, Mich.

See www.gaywheels.com for more info.



2010 Nissan 370Z Roadster. Photo courtesy of Nissan North America

BUSINESS

Jason Rosenberg: Real (estate) love

BY ANDREW DAVIS

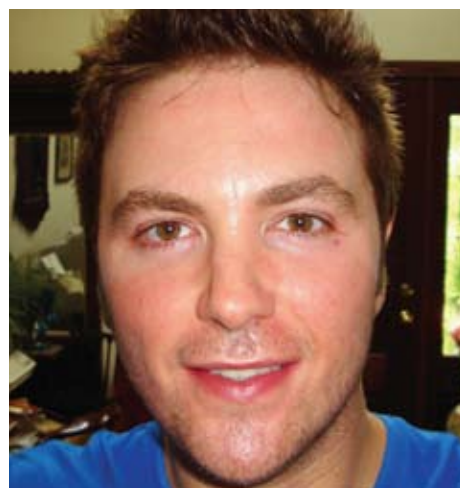
Jason Rosenberg is a mogul in the making, with real-estate branches in Chicago, New York City, Philadelphia and Jersey City, N.J. However, the openly gay Rosenberg, 32, revealed more than an astute business mind in a recent interview that put the "real" in real estate.

Windy City Times: Tell me a little about your background.

Jason Rosenberg: My mother was born and raised outside of Great Neck [N.Y.]; my father was raised in [New York City]. They moved to Chicago when I was little. My sister, Rebecca Rosenberg, is actually my Chicago-based partner; she has nothing to do with New York. Then, we have a partnership with a firm in Philadelphia and there's one in New Jersey.

WCT: So your business is in four different cities?

JR: Well, kinda. The base is in New York, and I have a partnership with a firm so we refer them leads. When they close, they give us a percentage. And it's all Internet-based, which is great.



Jason Rosenberg.

WCT: And you spend your time here in Chicago?

JR: Most of my time, as of recently. I want to spend more time here. Now I'm hiring people over the phone. Being a virtual company, I can be in Seattle; my agents do the physical work (showing the apartments and things like that); here, my sister and I both show real estate.

I enjoy it here [in Chicago]; it's easier. It's just a nicer city. I love the open water and beaches. Once you take the glamour out of New York—

which lasts for two days—there's really nothing else. I love that city, but it's an unnatural place to live; people need some greenery.

WCT: Yet your business is based there...

JR: It was easier and, believe it or not, cheaper to open up there.

WCT: Gotcha. And how many people do you employ?

JR: They're commission-based agents. We have about 16. We just restructured everything, and we're hiring about one every other day now. Agents are easy to hire; there's no out-of-pocket money in the beginning.

I get about 1,000 leads a day, most from New York. I also own lots of Web sites—about 1,000 domain names. Agents are not working for a fancy name, but we give them leads. You can go shopping at Saks Fifth Avenue and walk out with nothing, or you can go to TJ Maxx and get a lot of stuff. We're not a full-service brokerage; in the end, it doesn't matter what name you're under [for the most part].

WCT: So it sounds like your business is doing quite well in this economy.

JR: [Knocks on table] We have not hit a downturn, because of the Internet. The Internet keeps us going. So many other firms put money into promoting themselves. People don't care what I look like or how many houses I've sold—customers stick with us if we show them good

service. It's like working with Starbucks. We're there to serve the people.

WCT: What do you do outside of work?

JR: I love to exercise; I work out every day for about two hours.

I've always been really insecure with my looks, and I've had some cosmetic surgery—liposuction [and] a nose job. I'm a nice person, but I keep thinking I'm not attractive. However, I have a lot of confidence when it comes to business—and you can type all this up. I don't think I'll ever be a completely secure person.

WCT: Is there anything you wanted to add?

JR: I did five cartwheels on the way in here—just kidding. Seriously, we have too many leads and not enough agents, so I'm actually interviewing someone today. [Also,] I'd like to expand my partnerships into other cities [such as] Toronto and Vancouver.

And I'd like to build my New York business to the point where I can sell it. If I won the lottery, I would not be one of those people who'd keep on working. I'd be content with working out and doing nothing [else].

See www.jasonrosbergsgroup.com.

Find out what Jason's advice is to aspiring real-estate agents as well as the one aspect of his job that he loves and loathes at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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On the set: 'Hannah' stars talk about the film

BY JORJET HARPER

Hannah Free, the new Chicago-produced film, is a lesbian love story spanning two women's lives. "Like so many good stories, Hannah Free is about people who forge a relationship without the benefit or burden of a roadmap," said Elaine Carlson, who plays the day nurse. "At a point in history where there isn't hope of anything resembling a traditional marriage, Rachel and Hannah form a bond that weathers the storms that come with age, conflicting interpretations of responsibility and difficult family members."

Jacqui Jackson, who stars as Greta, described the main characters as "a pair of soulmates who love each other their whole lives. Hannah won't stay in one place, much as Rachel would like her to, and Rachel won't give herself over to publicizing her feelings, much as Hannah would like her to. We follow them as they grow from children to adults, and grow together as a couple, finding their medium and compromise. Until late in life, the two only need each other, but when Rachel falls into a coma, family jealousy keeps them apart."

As Carlson explained, "Hannah has spent a lifetime railing against restrictions, routines and schedules. How awful that age forces her into this small rectangle of a hospital bed! She has to endure the loss of her privacy, her independence, even control of her own bodily functions. The forced pleasantries of the nursing home staff infuriate her almost as much as the physical indignities. And as sympathetic as her caregivers are, when push comes to shove, schedules and regulations always seem to be the priority. The staff and volunteers at The Home—including my character, the Nurse—represent some of the last irritating obstacles that Hannah faces in her life-long struggle to have things her own way. But while she may lose a battle or two, Hannah does win the war."

Kelli Strickland plays Hannah as a young woman. (Sharon Gless plays older Hannah.) She agrees that the film is "a love story certainly, but that special kind of love story that spans decades and manages to survive the greatest of obstacles, including great distances, societal intolerance, and in many ways two very different world views—the kinds of obstacles that would have kept two people who were anything but soul mates apart."

Ongoing connections

Hannah Free is based on a stage play by award-winning playwright Claudia Allen. Allen has been prominent in the Chicago theater community for many years and so was able to tap a lot of Chicago talent for the film. "I loved seeing

how many people have gathered around Claudia, how she is a collector of people," said Taylor Miller, who plays Rachel's daughter Marge, the character who prevents Hannah from seeing her life partner in their old age. "I am a relatively new addition. Maybe five years have passed since I first met Claudia. I had done one of her plays, *Unspoken Prayers*—another lovely piece fraught with the human condition—at Victory Gardens Theater."

Some of the camaraderie on the set occurred because so many cast members had worked on Allen's plays before. Maureen Gallagher, who plays the older Rachel in the film, had played Marge in 1996 at Victory Gardens—where Allen is a longtime playwright-in-residence—and had also taken Allen's playwriting classes. Elaine Carlson, playing the nurse in the film, was Rachel in *Bailiwick's* stage production in 1992. "I'd met Claudia Allen earlier, when I went in as a replacement in the Chicago production of her *Gays of Our Lives*. That little romp proved to be just the beginning of an ongoing working relationship and a continuing friendship," recalled Carlson. Pat Kane, who plays the minister in the film, was also in the Victory Gardens production, playing multiple roles.

The film's younger Hannah is played by Kelli Strickland, who had never acted in one of Allen's plays but had directed Allen's *Dutch Love* as part of the annual *Pride Series* at the *Bailiwick*: "[Producer] Tracy Baim called me the day before auditions and asked me to come in the next day and read. Initially, I thought she was asking me to come in and be a reader for the actors who were auditioning. I hadn't acted in a few years and was just happy to do what I thought was a favor for Claudia and Tracy. Little did I know that the favor was being bestowed upon me."

Strickland recalled her feeling at the first read-through with the cast: "looking around the table at all of the women who had been connected to Claudia's work over the years in so many ways. Laurie [Attea, the second assistant director, who had directed the original stage production of *Hannah Free*], Maureen, Pat, Elaine, Meg [Thal-ken], Bev [Spangler], Sharon [Gless], Taylor and myself have either acted in or directed her plays over the last 20 years. It made me feel like a part of a legacy, and it made me supremely proud of Chicago theater."

Common ground

Another shared experience for many of the cast members was a feeling that working on this film has changed them in some significant, positive way. Taylor Miller, who is probably best known



Patricia Kane and Sharon Gless in *Hannah Free*. Photos by Hal Baim

for her long tenure on ABC's *All My Children*, reflects that she had never played a character who is not likeable before, yet "there is stuff in me that is just like Marge." Being able to understand the character sympathetically was useful to her to "not try to control those around me as a reason for how I act. It was not just this role that has sparked this, but a series of things that have been happening—kind of great that it is all changing me!"

Anne Hagemann, a straight actress who plays Rachel as a young woman, felt that she grew closer to her sister, who is a lesbian, during the filming.

"I was able to draw on my experience with my sister," Hagemann said. "I'd leave the set and call my sister every night and share my excitement about the film with her. She lives in a very conservative, smaller community that doesn't always embrace her lifestyle."

Being surrounded by a cast and crew that was largely lesbian and gay gave Hagemann a sense of the LGBT community she hadn't had before. It was, she said, "very enlightening to me. You can stand on the outside and say, 'oh, everybody's the same' but when you're actually in the inner circle and live and breathe and work daily with everyone, I felt like this light was around me all the time. And the beauty of this story is that we get to see the humanity of everybody. My character, Rachel, for much of her life, carried on this facade, and it wasn't till later in life that she embraced who she was. So it was cool for me

to be among so many people who could be who they are."

Hagemann had not seen the play before auditioning but was familiar with Allen's work: "I knew the nature of the script. I went into this looking for a job, and came out if it knowing I'd had a life-altering experience."

Strickland was very aware, during the filming, of her character's place in time: "Hannah is a very specific character, but for me, as a lesbian, she also represents a generation of women to whom I am personally indebted for my freedom and the ease that I can walk through the world as an out lesbian. I felt an obligation to my community and to an audience to share my respect for her."

Social relevance

Pat Kane, who is also a lesbian, plays the self-righteous minister whom Hannah encounters. Kane emphasized the importance of the political connotations of the story: "These days, it's about having all our full rights. Access to your loved ones in hospice or medical care is a very prevalent issue for me and my partner, seeing the kind of hoops you have to go through." That aspect of the story has clarified the issue and thrown it into strong relief for Kane: "How love can be maintained despite obstacles that are put on us by our family, our society, and ourselves."

Kane also noted that there is a dearth of stories about lesbians in movies, especially about



Jacqui Jackson as Greta (left) and Kelli Strickland and Ann Hagemann (right). Photos by Hal Baim

older lesbians: "I'm absolutely thrilled that Tracy, Sharon, and Claudia were able to put this together. This is an important and ongoing story."

Jacqui Jackson—whose character, Greta, helps Hannah in her quest to be reunited with Rachel—saw Greta as "an advocate, and I really latched on to that idea. I am, like Greta, a queer woman who believes in human rights, and that helped fuel a lot of the scenes. Hannah's story is a perfect case of human rights denial: why should the life partner of a dying woman be denied access to see her in her final moments? I feel as strongly about the issue as Greta does in the script. The hardest part was the scene between Greta and Marge. It takes a lot of guts to stand up to a family member and tell them they're wrong. I hope that many people see it and are inspired to take steps toward putting some more understanding in the hearts of their friends and family."

Star shines

The story of Hannah Free revolves around the title character, and Chicago cast members had many words of praise for the film's lead, television star Sharon Gless. Considering the reputation that many Hollywood stars have for being difficult, it was a pleasure for cast and crew to find Glass so genuine, warm, and easy to work with.

"Sharon was a lovely, generous scene partner—one of the best," said Carlson. "I assumed we would approach our scenes as routine exposition. Goodness knows, Sharon had meatier scenes later in the story! Instead, I got to enjoy her full attention and creativity during those little opening scenes. I'm very grateful for that."

"It was great to work with Sharon, she was very open, very easy," agreed Gallagher, who, as the older Rachel, had some poignant scenes with Gless. "She had an understanding of the nuances of the scenes that I really appreciated."

For Kane, the entire shoot "was an absolute delight. Everyone was a delight, and working with Sharon was a blast. She's so easygoing, everything went so smoothly."

Strickland, as the younger version of Gless's character, had no scenes with Gless, "but my first meeting with her was one of the most memorable of the entire process," she said. "At our first rehearsal, the adult Hannahs and adult Rachels met. Sharon had laryngitis and had absolutely no voice. She came into the room that would eventually be transformed into Hannah and Rachel's living room, took my face in her hands, looked into my eyes and whispered 'I see me in you.' The generosity and intensity with which she met me gave me goose bumps. But while all of that was going on, there was this small voice in the back of my head thinking 'Cagney is smooching my face!!!'"

Keeping it real

Strickland also had much praise for the film's director, Wendy Jo Carlton: "To be honest, I was incredibly nervous at first. Wendy Jo was great about keeping things specific. Before we began filming, Wendy Jo called me just to say hello and ask me if I had any questions. I think I unleashed on her this torrent of anxiety. Just expressing all of that nervousness seemed to be enough to calm those fears and Wendy Jo, in her very unflappable, calm way, was able to remind me that we are just storytellers, telling this one specific story. Once I got back to that, it was a joy!"

Strickland had some lingering concerns about her character's sex scenes: "Does it need to be said that all of the sex scenes were nerve-wracking?? The scenes with Rachel and Hannah earlier in their lives are the manifestation of that magnetic pull, the intense physical attraction, the emotional intimacy that Hannah shares with no one but Rachel. But once again, Wendy Jo created an environment that was so supportive and calm. She and the crew were remarkably kind and respectful."

Gallagher had similar praise for the positive tone on the set in general: "As an actor, I thought it was a delightful experience, a great shoot, because being in that house [the South Side Chicago home where the interior scenes were filmed] was so cool. Just to go there every day was so unique, and to have us all in there together, the cast and crew, was a very supportive, happy atmosphere all around."

Miller said she feels fortunate "to be part of a project as important as this one—one that shows so clearly the love these women had for each other, putting a human face on the gay-rights issue."

"The main message is the power of love," reflected Hagemann. "Love is not judgmental; it's not always kind, but you cannot deny it when

it's there, and Hannah Free reveals the true humanity in all of us."

"Wendy Jo, Tracy and the entire production crew were warm and professional," added Carlson. "I'll hold fond memories of the Hannah Free shoot for a long, long time."

Hannah Free has a one-week limited engagement in Chicago Sept. 25-Oct. 1 at the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 164 N. State. Tickets to each screening are \$10/general admission. Other ticket prices are \$7/student and \$5/Film Center members. All tickets may be purchased at the Film Center Box Office, 164 N. State St. Both general admission and Film Center member tickets are available through Ticketmaster, 800-982-2787, www.ticket-

master.com, and all Ticketmaster outlets. The Film Center and its Box Office are open 5-9 p.m., Monday-Friday; 2-9 p.m., Saturday; and 2-6 p.m., Sunday. For more information about the Film Center, call 312-846-2800 (24-hour movie hotline) or 312-846-2600 (general information, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday), or visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org. A special 7 p.m. Sat., Sept. 26 show will feature Sharon Gless and the cast and crew, followed by a gala; tickets are \$100 and can only be purchased by emailing info@hannahfree.com or call 773-387-2394.

Jorjet Harper was an extra in Hannah Free, and some of her paintings can be seen in the film.

Perfect pitch: 'Hannah' composer Martie Marro

BY JORJET HARPER

As music and sound director for the independent film Hannah Free, Martie Marro had a great deal of responsibility for the emotional depth of the film's story. In addition to providing the emotional glue holding the film together, she had to deal with the difficulties of a clean soundtrack in a shooting venue often marred by the extraneous sounds of the urban environment.

Luckily, Marro is a technological wizard and something of a Renaissance woman. She

ture, music, news and history.

Marro is also a member of band Stewed Tomatoes, the "all-female indie pop punk sex funk rock phenomenon" that has appeared in many Chicago venues and in other cities throughout the Midwest. And she has a decade of FM radio production experience, doing commercials, interviews, and musical backbeds.

As a woman who has successfully combined business and artistic pursuits, Marro has received many awards for her work, including an IBM excellence award, a Gay and Lesbian Music Award nomination for Best Video, and an OUT Music nomination for Musician of the Year. Marro can be heard on many soundtracks, including Francis Ford Coppola's First Wave Television Series. She topped the charts at No. 1 on the world charting system for MP3.com. And she has been dubbed "Download Babe of the Day" by Tech TV's Internet Tonight.

Marro has created sound and music for Dance Floor Battle Scars, The Gendercator, Buttery

"We wanted to get music involved as soon as possible," said Sharon Zurek, Hannah Free's editor and one of the executive producers of the film. "The sooner the composer can think about scenes or how different instruments might speak to different characters, the better." Once the editing phase began in January, Marro spent an enormous, concentrated amount of time working on the film with Zurek and director Wendy Jo Carlton. "We were joined at the hips for several months," quips Zurek. This dedication paid off, as the film was able to debut in June at a gala event in San Francisco.

After immersing herself in every aspect of the sound of Hannah Free, Marro finds that odd bits still stick in her mind. "In the ensuing months since production on Hannah Free, I have often caught myself repeating lines of the movie in regular conversation," said Marro. "On this most recent Mother's Day, for instance, my mom was complaining of minor aches and pains



Executive Producer Tracy Baim and Music Composer Martie Marro on the first day of the Hannah Free shoot. Photo by Hal Baim

is founder and owner of Materville Studios, a state-of-the-art multi-media recording lab that was designed to handle projects for film, video, digital animation, paints, fashion, photography, printed media, radio, and music, and combinations of these media.

She also runs Love Your Website, a Web-hosting service providing web design, maintenance, and many other Web services for its customers. Through Love Your Website, Marro is able to incorporate all of Materville's projects into highly technical multimedia Web sites. These have included rich databases of Chicago litera-

Top, Maybe, Coup d'etat, Canadian short Tunnel Vision and Gayco Expose, a comedy. Beginning her long career in post-production, Martie worked on sound repair of many more films, enjoying the challenge of removing the sound of locusts, trains, rumbling trucks and accidental crew noises.

In short, Marro was a perfect choice to supervise sound and compose the score for Hannah Free, the premiere film from Ripe Fruit Films, founded just last year "to produce Chicago-based films about lesbian lives."

Both the film shoot and post production on Hannah Free were on a super tight schedule.

all over her body, and out my mouth popped: "You are just refining yourself down to the essentials, right?" This is one of Hannah's more philosophical reflections in the film.

Marro also enjoyed working with star Sharon Gless: "My favorite line of the whole movie is when Hannah [played by Gless] said, 'Get a grip on yourself.' She has the cutest smile on her face, with the sparkle of a five-year-old darling." Hannah Free has already garnered an Audience Award for Best Feature Film at this year's Philadelphia Q-Fest, and Marro's score of the film has certainly greatly contributed to its success.

Sharon Zurek, 'Hannah Free' editor extraordinaire

BY JORJET HARPER

Hannah Free, the story of a lifelong lesbian relationship, was filmed in Chicago late last year. Based on Claudia Allen's frequently produced play of the same name, it stars Sharon Gless and was finished just in time for a gala San Francisco premiere in June, thanks to the efforts of editor Sharon Zurek.

Zurek, owner of Black Cat Productions in Chicago, has worked on many independent features, short films and social issues documentaries.

Her LGBT projects prior to Hannah Free include directing Kevin's Room and working on Catherine Crouch's lesbian-themed Stray Dogs, starring actress Guinevere Turner of Go Fish. Zurek has also worked on mainstream projects, including producing, directing and editing commercials. She edited the detective drama Dirty Work, which was shot in Chicago; the 2005 film The Trouble with Dee Dee, directed by Mike Meiners; and recently she was post-production supervisor on Michael Keaton's The Merry Gentleman (2008).

Zurek was in the midst of editing two documentary films when she was contacted about Hannah Free: "It sounded exciting, but I wasn't sure I could do it because I had other projects, so the timing almost didn't work." Fortunately, Zurek's other clients "were kind enough to let me put them on hold a little bit to work on Hannah Free. That's one of the nice things about independent filmmakers, everybody tries to work things out."

Zurek, a lesbian, was impressed by the project. "When you see the script," said Zurek, "the



Hannah Free editor Sharon Zurek with Jacquie Jackson, who plays Greta. Photo by Hal Baim

words just feel very familiar and natural. I really do think Claudia Allen's story and dialogue are terrific." And, she adds, "What lesbian wouldn't want to be editing Sharon Gless? It was a pure pleasure to be working with her performance. I would have to say that the performances in Hannah Free were very enjoyable to work with. Often it wasn't looking for the Moment of a scene but choosing between two or more equally good scenes that drove the story in the direction it had to go."

Generally in any movie, Zurek explained, the story is told at least three times: "when you write it, when you shoot it, and when you edit it. Because what you have on paper is not always what you get when you shoot it, and what you end up with in the edit room is pretty much your story, your final result. Filmmakers are sometimes afraid of that process, though some with more experience end up embracing it, once they understand the power you have in the edit room to make things work. I've done production and it's exhausting. In the edit room, you see

that Moment. I love that. When you edit, you are working with what you have to work with, finding the best moments and pieces to make your movie."

Independent films don't usually have the luxury of doing an editor's cut, a director's cut and a producer's cut, however, and this was certainly true of Hannah Free. "We pretty much started with a first assembly, and then [Hannah Free Director] Wendy Jo [Carlton] came in," Zurek said. "As an editor, you try to get into the head of the director as quickly as possible, so I always consider it a success when I can anticipate what the director wants to have happen next, before they even speak. I think of myself as a facilitator. It's not my movie. I want to help them tell their story and hopefully bring some great ideas in."

There was a short window of time to edit the film, after a short three-week shoot in November, 2008; during the shoot Zurek's assistant, Justine Gendron, worked assembling scenes. At the same time, Sarah Plano worked as data wrangler, a necessary assistant on the set when shooting digitally rather than on film. "We worked on the trailer in December and started mid-January to produce an assembly edit," said Zurek. A rough cut was sent to Frameline, the San Francisco LGBT film festival, in March in order to qualify for this year's festival. "That's a

pretty risky thing to do, but we had a great story and great performances," said Zurek. The festival staff must have agreed, because not only did they approve the film based on the rough cut, but also programmed the film for Closing Night, a coveted spot in the lineup. The final cut was ready in time for the June 28 premiere, on the evening of Pride Sunday in San Francisco. Sharon Gless made a personal appearance, and the film was introduced by Gless's friend Rosie O'Donnell, whom Gless had met when O'Donnell appeared in several episodes of Queer As Folk.

Editing Hannah Free had a close personal meaning for Zurek as well: "Being a lesbian, having been in a relationship with a woman for 20 years, and having lost her to cancer, it was pretty close. It gives us the validity that our lives matter, that we actually exist, and that there are many of us who go through this. So my biggest regret, of course, was that my partner wasn't here to see this movie. She would have been so thrilled to see it and be around during the creation of it. I know she would have enjoyed it as much as we did."

The grueling schedule was, nevertheless, a challenge for Zurek, music and sound director Martie Marro and director Wendy Jo Carlton. "We laughed, we cried, we didn't sleep much," said Zurek. "I think our biorhythms could keep each other out of despair. The friendships go deep, because it's very emotionally intense spending 60 to 80 hours a week with somebody over a period of months. When we're old and grey and bump into each other in the future, we'll just have to look at each other and there will be an immediate shorthand."

Zurek also credited producer Tracy Baim for her role in realizing Hannah Free: "This was her first time producing a movie, and she chose to allow us to do what we were experienced doing, and tried to stay out of the way, and as she learned what she needed to be doing, she was there, a quick study, asking questions. She's a great reporter, so she gets the facts and then she runs with them." Despite the pressure of such a short time frame to finish Hannah Free, Zurek was pleased to have been the film's editor: "Every person involved was vital in some way to the making of this film, and that doesn't always happen. It was a blessing, so you go with it."

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Chicago stage actor Maureen Gallagher plays Rachel in Hannah Free. Photo by Hal Baim



Taylor Miller (from All My Children and Chicago stage plays) as Marge in Hannah Free. Photo by Hal Baim



2nd Assistant Director Laurie Attea on the set of *Hannah Free*. Photo by Hal Baim

From stage to film: Laurie Attea on the set of *Hannah Free*

BY JORJET HARPER

In some way, Laurie Attea set everything in motion. She discovered Claudia Allen's play *Hannah Free* in a slush pile at the Bailiwick Repertory theater and decided to direct it. This original stage production of *Hannah Free* was produced in 1992. When the play was about to be filmed, in 2008, Attea was asked to help with the casting. "I then got swept up in the idea of the production," she said, and she became not only casting director for the film but also second assistant director, a job she had never done before.

She was a fast learner. During filming, Attea was a ubiquitous presence, clipboard in hand. "As it turns out, the job of the 2nd AD is very similar to that of a stage manager on stage," she said. "You're the first one on set and the last to leave. There's lots of paperwork. But one of my primary roles was acting as liaison between the actors and the set, which I very much enjoyed. I also organized the extras, dealt with call times for cast and crew and tried to keep things running on schedule."

Looking back on the original play, staged at Bailiwick, Attea said, "I'm not sure that the message has changed any from when we first produced the play. We didn't have a lot of media role models back then, the movies and television shows didn't have gay and lesbian characters as a matter of course. I think it is much easier now for people to hear and respond to some of the issues because they are more in the forefront of our thinking and more possible now. I think it was also harder to be in a gay or lesbian relationship 25 years ago than it is now. We now have many examples of lesbian couples in long-term relationships. I can offer mine as being one: my partner Lauren and I have been together 19 years."

Not only was it more difficult to be accepted as a same-sex couple years ago, but "the negative connotations made it difficult for some gays or lesbians to accept themselves," Attea said. "Of course, the small-town aspect is still alive—it is still not easy being gay or lesbian in a small town." With the advent of gay marriage and domestic-partner rights (in some states), she added, "we've come a long way in some aspects and in some areas. Being able to care for the person you love should be a right for any person regardless of sexual orientation. I think *Hannah Free* reminds us of that as we continue with that struggle now."

Attea explained some of the practical differ-

ences between the staging of the play and the shooting of the film. "One of the differences between the script and screenplay are the amount of roles. In the stage play, the actresses playing Hannah and Rachel played them at all ages," while in the film, different actresses of different ages were needed to show the two main characters at different stages in their lives. Also, "the stage play didn't have as many sex scenes (or any at all, I think). It was a more innocent play; we saw the characters' deep love for each other, but not so much the sexual passion."

Among the group of actors who worked on the film, Attea pointed out that many had been in previous stage productions of *Hannah Free*: "I don't think any of them, except Pat Kane, played the same roles, but it is a testament to Claudia Allen and this play that so many of them wanted to be a part of the film. A woman who had played the role of Hannah in a Madison production even drove to Chicago from Madison, just to be an extra in the film!"

Since the interior scenes were shot in an historic 19th-century South Side mansion, creaking floors and other noises needed to be silenced during the shooting so as not to spoil the scenes, and this too was part of Attea's job. "We had PAs [production assistants] stationed throughout the house, at the back door, upstairs and sometimes even outside to try and keep everyone quiet when we were shooting," Attea said. PAs communicated with each other by headsets so they would know when they needed to keep everyone quiet. PAs shouted "Lock it up!" whenever the cameras began rolling. The squeaking floors were a problem because, Attea explained, "any movement could be picked up by the audio techs, so we needed to keep people quiet near the set, outside the set and above the set. We were all in very close quarters on these sets, so any unwanted sound could ruin a take. At times, a lot of people had to fit into small spaces to shoot the scenes."

There was also the problem of noises from the urban environment. "Many times there would be outside noise that we had to go out and try and stop," Attea said. "Trucks or kids playing, lawns being mowed, etc. Not everyone wanted to stop what they were doing because we were shooting a movie, but I think most people tried to accommodate us." When the crew was short-handed, entry doors would be locked so no one would burst in, making noise, in the middle of a take. Even with the closed doors, heat was difficult to maintain in the huge, rambling house. "I remember it was always very cold in the house and people were usually in their coats, hats, scarves, etc," Attea added. "I always had multiple layers on to keep myself warm."

Attea said it was "a great learning experience, and a pleasure for me. I appreciate and respect actors a great deal, and I had a wonderful group of actors and extras that I worked with on this film."

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WHAT TO DO?

Wed., Sept. 23

Ani DeFranco with Gregory Alan Isakov
The Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield
www.jamusa.com

Celebrate Bisexuality Day, Bi-Queer Movie Night. Additional bisexual programming will be discussed. All interested in new programs encouraged to suggest. \$5 will support Center on Halsted's bi/queer programming. 6:30 p.m. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. culture@centeronhalsted.org or call 773/661-0763

Gay Reading Group in the SAGE area. Book for discussion is George Chauncey's *Gay New York*. 7:30 p.m. Room on the second floor of Center On Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

The Wizard of Oz 70th Anniversary Hi-Def Event, a special one-night only, nationwide in-theater presentation. Tix at www.FathomEvents.com and box offices. Locations at www.ncm.com/Fathom/Premiere/WizardofOz.aspx

Thursday, Sept. 24

Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Networking Event, 4th Annual Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady. Open bar, buffet from Phil Stefani's, chocolate by Illinois Nut Candy. Register at www.glchamber.org

Terry Angel Mason, author of Love Won't Let Me Be Silent, stories/poems about same-gender-loving relationships in the Black community, will discuss the book and answer questions. An Affinity Youth Leadership Institute initiative. Books available for sale. Affinity Community Service 5650 S.Woodlawn 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. 773-324-0377 www.affinity95.org

The Other Dance Festival, Mordine & Co., through Sept. 25. 7:30 p.m. \$15, \$12 students/seniors. Hamlin Park, 3035 N. Hoyne Ave www.brownpaper-tickets.com

Friday, Sept. 25

39th Annual Pilsen East Artists Open House, South Halsted and 18th Streets, multi-location event, self-guided walking tour, information Center at 1821 S. Halsted. 6-10 p.m. Through Sept. 27, 12-7 p.m. www.chicagoartsdistrict.org

Benefit for AIDS Walk/Run for Heartland Human Care Services, King Sparrow, Absinthe and the Dirty Floors, the Pushpops and Supertoy. \$5 at door. Silent auction with items from local artists, 100% of proceeds to The Heartland Alliance. 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Heartland Cafe, 7000 N. Glenwood. www.heartlandcafe.com, www.Heartlandalliance.org, www.AIDSrunwalk.com

CPS CEO Ron Huberman will guest monthly TV show PFLAG Live! , 6:30 p.m. Channel 21 (CAN-TV) Call in live

with questions at 312-738-1060 OR e-mail wigler@aol.com

Church within a Church Movement program, Living in the Now: The Journey to Justice., through Saturday, Sept. 26. Friday night 6 p.m. reception and tributes to Rev. Gregory Dell who will receive the 2nd Gilbert H. Caldwell Justice Ministry Award. Ramada Chicago Hotel 4900 S. Lake Shore Dr. Register: www.cwac.us

Joffrey Ballet Chicago Couture & Cocktails, with Giuliana Rancic of E! News and Bill Rancic of *Apprentice Season One*. Palmer House. 312-386-8921 www.Joffrey.org

Hannah Free, Chicago-made lesbian feature film one-week limited engagement through Oct. 1. \$10/\$7/\$5. Box office or 800-982-2787, www.ticketmaster.com. Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 164 N. State. Also see Sept. 26 for info on gala, Sharon Gless, cast and crew attending.

Mikhail Baryshnikov in the Chicago premiere of "Three Solos and a Duet" with Ana Laguna, through September 27. Harris Theater for Music and Dance. www.HarrisTheaterChicago.org

Rails 11th Year Anniversary (new date), customer appreciation, free all night. 11 p.m. - 4 a.m. 1675 N. Elston Ave. rails@drush.org 708-543-9114 or WWW.RAILSCHI.NET

Reading from E. Lynn Harris' final novel, *Mama Dearest*, by Yolanda Joe as part of a national tribute to Harris. 7 p.m. Borders, 2210 W. 95th www.elynnharris.com or 773-445-5471

Symposium: Gender, Identity and the Crossing of Cultures in Contemporary Chinese Art and Media, Artist presentations & discussions, 6 - 8 p.m., continuing Sept 26: panel discussions, 9 - 12:30 p.m., Film Screening of *My Dear and Wasted Feelings*, 2 - 4 p.m. Columbia College Chicago, Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash, 8th Floor

Saturday, Sept. 26

4th Annual Lakeview East Festival of the Arts, 10 a.m. through Sept. 27, 5 p.m. Broadway and Belmont

Church within a Church Movement program, Living in the Now: The Journey to Justice. 6 p.m. Award Banquet, Rev. Gregory Dell will be honored. Hyde Park Room. Keynote by Rev. Dr. Susan Thistlethwaite, Ramada Chicago Hotel 4900 S. Lake Shore Dr. Register: www.cwac.us

Final Randolph Street Market Festival of the season 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Sept. 27. includes Chicago Antique Market, Indie Designer Market, Fancy Food Market, Vinyl Swap Meet, and Global Goods Bazaar. 1350 W Randolph St between Ada & Ogden.

Hannah Free benefit screening and gala with Sharon Gless, director Wendy Jo Carlton, writer Claudia Allen, producers and crew. 7 p.m. screening and Q&A at the Gene Siskel Film Center. Gala follows, one block north at Renaissance Chicago Hotel, One West Wacker. \$100 ticket price for the evening. info@hannahfree.com or 773-387-2394

Laura Meyer, Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. and Mon. Sept. 28 at Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. Devon. www.uncommonground.com

OUTsource, a career transition program for the LGBT community, second and third Saturdays, 9 a.m. - noon. Career Jump Start, 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. , Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted www.centeronhalsted.org

Sunday, Sept. 27

Center on Halsted's Annual Silent & Live Auction brunch fundraising event \$50 www.centeronhalsted.org

Last day to see The Cartoons of John T. McCutcheon, *Chronicles of a Changing World*, editorial cartoonist for the Chicago Record and Chicago Tribune 889 and 1946. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St/77 E. Randolph www.chicagoculturalcenter.org or 312-744-6630

PFLAG Oak Park meeting. Speaker Orson Morrison, Psy. D. www.orsonmorrison.com has served on the Board of Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere www.colage.org 3 p.m. Also showing the DVD "Straight-Laced: How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up." First United Church, 848 Lake Street, Oak Park

Vital Bridges, Chefs and the City Culinary Series, brunches and activities to raise awareness, food and over \$5,000 for men, women and children living in poverty with HIV and AIDS. Hors d'oeuvres, sumptuous buffet, tasty drinks and a special party favor from Elaine Fosse's Favor of the Moment. \$75. Antepima, 5316 N Clark, www.vitalbridges.org/antepima

Monday, Sept. 28

"How do we fight for equality?" panel discussion with Darrell Gordon, Queer activist, local organizer for the 1987 National March and National Steering Committee delegate to the 1993 March, Elise Barclay, activist and "Queer Notes" columnist 6:30 p.m. News and Letters Library, 228 S. Wabash Ave., Room 230. www.newsandletters.org arise@newsandletters.org 312-431-8242

The Queer Film Society's Queer Cinema 102 shows *The Lonely Lady* hosted by Gay Chicago Magazine film critic Charlie Shoquist. \$5. Hoover-Leppen Theater, Center on Halsted
Toilet Paper Bingo fundraiser for the

HIV/AIDS Food Pantry of Chicago, Vital Bridges-Groceryland. bring packages of Toilet Paper which will be donated to the pantry. Raffle, light buffet. Frida Lay mistress of ceremonies. 11 p.m. Charlie's, 3726 N. Broadway

Wednesday, Sept. 30

Audrey Niffenegger reading from her highly anticipated new novel, *Her Fearful Symmetry*, at a special, ticket event. A Women & Children First Bookstore event at the Swedish American Museum. Time TBA. 773-769-9299 www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Green Party Campaign Launch Fundraiser gubernatorial candidate, Rich Whitney, and Green candidate for congress in Illinois's 5th congressional district, Matt Reichel. 7 p.m. doors/8 p.m. remarks. Globe Pub, 1934 W. Irving Park

U of I Gender & Sexuality Center annual LGBTQ Heritage Month celebration, Queer Economics: The Cost of Homophobia. The Benefits of Being Yourself. Free and open to the public. Info at www.gsc.uic.edu or 312-413-8619. Opening: M.V. Lee Badgett, Ph.D., author of "When Gay People Get Married: What Happens When Societies Legalize Same-Sex Marriage", U of Mass. Amherst professor, and Research Director at the Williams Institute. 3 -4 :30 p.m., room 2850 University Hall, 601 S. Morgan. 312-413-8619 lthomson@uic.edu

Thursday, Oct. 1

Chicago Convention & Tourism Bureau welcome the Board of Directors of the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Center on Halsted, 3656 North Halsted. 312-567-8564

Matt Alber concert with special guests The Aluminum Group, 9 p.m. Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark, www.brownpaper-tickets.com/event/80390

Friday, Oct. 2

Lily Tomlin, 8 p.m., Paramount Theatre, Aurora www.ticketmaster.com

Saturday, Oct. 3

AIDS Run and Walk 7:30 a.m. Star Fundraiser Breakfast Begins, 8 a.m. registration. Grant Park, Columbus and Balbo. www.aidsrunwalk.org

Women & Children First's 30th Anniversary Gala with special guests Alison Bechdel and Dorothy Allison for a special evening celebrating Women & Children First's 30th year. Refreshments, auction, dancing into the night. Ticket information will be available soon.

Friday, Sept. 25



DANCE FEVER

Mikhail Baryshnikov (right) will perform at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph.

Photo by Bengt Wanselius

Saturday, Oct. 3



WALKING IT OUT

The AIDS Run and Walk will take place in Grant Park at Columbus and Balbo.

Photo from the 2008 AIDS Run and Walk by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

See our online calendar: www.windycitymediagroup.com/calendar



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PETS

Entertainment news

Manhattan Records will release the "Tina Live" CD/DVD set Oct. 20, according to a press release. The set will commemorate Tina Turner's world tour. The DVD was filmed at GelreDome, Arnhem in the Netherlands, where Turner played to a crowd of 70,000 people in March 2009.

In a last-minute deal Sept. 11, photographer Annie Leibovitz, 59, agreed to a loan-extension deal with the Art Capital Group, the New York Times reported. A \$24-million one-year loan from the group was due Sept. 8; if Leibovitz had defaulted, she would've had to give up her homes and all of her artistic property.

A same-sex pair—Willem de Vries and Jacob Jason—has advanced to the next round

on the reality show *So You Think You Can Dance?*, according to Advocate.com. On the Sept. 16 episode, judge Nigel Lythgoe thanked the couple for "showing me that same-sex ballroom dancing can be very strong, and very good." Last season, Lythgoe Tweeted that he did not like "Brokeback ballroom" after couple Mitchel Kibel and Misha Belfer auditioned; they were summarily dismissed.

Speaking of *So You Think You Can Dance?*, there is a new judge on the show—and it isn't Paula Abdul, Advocate.com reported. The new spot will be filled by frequent guest judge Adam Shankman, a choreographer and film director. I am extremely happy that Adam has agreed to be a resident judge," producer Nigel Lythgoe said in a statement. "We love bantering and bickering, and yet he still finds a way of capturing the sensitivity of every story told onstage."

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BILLY MASTERS

"President Obama, if you're doing everyone—do us."—Barbara Walters makes an on-air plea for Barack to return as a guest on The View. As long as I'm not gonna have to watch him do her on that sofa.

"Celebrating Bea Arthur" took place last week at Broadway's Majestic Theatre. The event was hosted by Angela Lansbury, Bea's "Mame" co-star. Angie opened the tribute by singing "The Man in the Moon," Arthur's big number from the show. The tribute ran the gamut from touching stories to outrageous tales. Needless to say, we gravitated more towards the outrageous. For instance, her onscreen daughter from "Maude," Adrienne Barbeau, ran into Bea at a play in a tiny theatre in Santa Monica. During intermission, Arthur bellowed, "Adrienne, this is the worst piece of shit I've ever seen! I'd leave, but everyone in it is a friend of mine." Thank you for being a friend. One of her "Golden Girl" co-stars added a bon mot to the legendary clash between Arthur and Betty White. Rue McClanahan brought her husband to Bea's one-woman show on Broadway. After the show, Rue introduced them. Arthur exclaimed, "Rue, I love. Betty's a cunt!" God love her!

Elsewhere on Broadway, Hugh Jackman stopped the show—literally. Gay porn legend Will Clark and his boyfriend director, Roland Tec, went to last Sunday's matinee performance of "A Steady Rain" starring Jackman and Daniel Craig. Shortly after the play began, a tardy audience member was loudly arguing with an usher. As is policy on Broadway, latecomers are not seated until the intermission. And since this play is one act long, the late lady was out of luck—and she wasn't happy about it. She went on and on, despite the entire audience shushing her. Eventually, Jackman looked out into the theatre and said, "Excuse me, but you know I can hear you up here. Are you finished? If you have a story you think is more interesting, by all means, we can wait." The result was twofold—the audience applauded and, because the show temporarily stopped, the usher sat the lady. And you know how much fun it is to sit in a theatre where everyone hates you ... a win-win.

Last week, The View did some fancy footwork rescheduling guest co-hosts. Kate Gosselin was scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, and LaToya Jackson was booked for Wednesday and Friday. The View heavily promoted the fact that LaToya would be co-hosting when Kathy Griffin was a guest on Friday. Then, less than 24 hours before taping, LaToya was rescheduled to Thursday and Kate sat in on Friday. Why? We've heard there were two reasons. First, LaToya has already been part of Kathy's act and wasn't so eager to give the redhead more ammunition. Second, since Griffin did that scathing video parody of Gosselin that went viral, the powers-that-be at The View thought it might be fun to throw them together and see what happened. Kinda like "Thunderdome"—two women go in, one comes out. Since this is being written before her appearance, we don't know exactly what went down. But I'm sure we'll post it on BillyMasters.com.

Since her brother's death, LaToya has been promoting herself like crazy. But let's give some credit where credit's due. Unlike Jermaine, who is simply trying to jumpstart a non-existent career, LaToya is channeling her self-promotion into fundraising for AIDS Project Los Angeles. She told Barbara Walters that all proceeds from her single "Home" would be donated to a charity Michael felt strongly about—APLA. I'm not aware of a Michael/APLA connection, but it's a nice gesture. And it doesn't stop there. LaToya has partnered with the *tres* trendy "Millions of Milkshakes" in the heart of West Hollywood. Proceeds from the "LaToya Jackson Milkshake" will also be donated to APLA. She'll even be serv-

ing up shakes on WeHo's biggest night of the year—Halloween! "I'm very excited for this promotion and hope we can raise a million dollars for APLA." That's a lot of milkshakes!

I know many of you are still mourning last year's decision by Mario Lopez to no longer do shirtless photo shoots. Maybe not staged photos, but that didn't stop our friends the paparazzi from snapping him emerging from the water after last week's Nautica Malibu Triathlon. Mario looked pretty damn hot with his wetsuit rolled dangerously down to his pubes. Pics will inevitably turn up on BillyMasters.com.

But why stop there? In the upcoming season of Nip/Tuck, Mario returns as a competing doctor with an almost flawless physique. In one scene, Mario is clad in high heels, fishnet stockings, garter belt, leather corset, and fingerless long-sleeved gloves! Ironically enough, on those rare nights when I dream about Mario Lopez, that's *exactly* what he's wearing. You can see the whole package on BillyMasters.com.

Judging by the "Ask Billy" questions this week, my fans are a bunch of "Gleeks"—in other words, they love Glee. In particular, they're hot for two guys on the show. Everyone wants to know if either Matthew Morrison or Mark Salling are gay, and want shirtless pics pronto.

As many of you know, Matty Morrison has been a friend of mine since he originated the role of "Link" in "Hairspray" on Broadway. He's not gay, but he's very gay-friendly. Not only does he regularly do "Broadway Bares," the annual BC/EFA nude fundraiser (and he looks *really* good stripped down—as we'll show you on BillyMasters.com), he also actively courts the gay community. When asked by a Web site what he'd do to rank higher in popularity with gay fans, he said, "I'm an actor/singer/dancer, nominated for a Tony award, love, love, love the gay commu-



Hugh Jackman knows how to handle his biddness.

nity, and I will offer sexual favors for anyone who votes for me." I'll vote twice!

As to Mark Salling, I don't know a thing about him first hand. One of my proofreaders swears Salling sounded gay in an interview, but surely I need something more concrete than that! While I do some digging, I will share some mega hot shirtless pics of him. And, wait ... is that a nipple ring I see? And a cock ring? Well, one of the two...

When we're breaking news like gay boys possibly being in the glee club, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Since we ran very long this week, let me just make a promise—next week, my exclusive Emmys wrap-up. Until then, check out www.BillyMasters.com for the most sizzling gossip around. If you've got a question, drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I write another item about LaToya! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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3169 N. Halsted St.</p> | <p>35 Manhandler
1948 N. Halsted St.</p> <p>36 minibar/winebar
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minibarchicago.com</p> <p>37 North End
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NorthEndChicago.com</p> <p>38 Pie Hole
737 W. Roscoe St.
PieHolePizzaJoint.com</p> <p>39 Roscoe's
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Roscoes.com</p> <p>40 Scarlet
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|--|---|--|--|

Yes, 'Icon'



In honor of the Stonewall Riots' 40th Anniversary, Out Magazine and Stolichnaya Vodka presented a night of new and old gay literary discussion at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, on Sept. 18.

Titled "Icons & Ingénues," the event was headlined by a question-and-answer session featuring noted gay authors Andrew Holleran and Nick Burd. The discussion was also moderated by Out Magazine's editor-in-chief, Aaron Hicklin.

"The idea for this event emerged out of a conversation we had in the beginning of the year at Out Magazine about the 40th anniversary of Stonewall, which was how do we define ourselves 40 years after our so-called Rosa Parks moment," stated Hicklin. "We wanted to see how different generations defined what it means to be gay in 2009, which is why we have a writer over 40 [Holleran] and a writer under 40 [Burd] for this discussion."

During the event both writers outlined how they believe that the overall mindset of gay Americans has vastly changed over the last few years, due primarily to a strong push by the LGBT community in the political sphere. The panelists explained that the current generation seems to be much more comfortable with expressing their sexuality than the older generations have been, which, they theorized, could be a result of the evolution of gay rights since Stonewall.

Patrons to the event also enjoyed an open bar, music by Circuit Mom and a live performance by Moskova Affair that began immediately following the discussion. Photos and text by Chasse Rehwinkel

Fire & Ink III in Texas Oct. 8-11

Fire & Ink III: Cotillion—which will bring together hundreds of individuals interested in Black LGBTQ writing—will take place Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 8-11, at the Hilton Austin in Austin, Texas.

The many workshops will include "Tongues Afire/A Model," "Hip-hop & Haiku" and "Radical Voice and Movement." Presenters will include renowned writers/spoken-word artists Staceyann Chin and Chicagoan C.C. Carter.

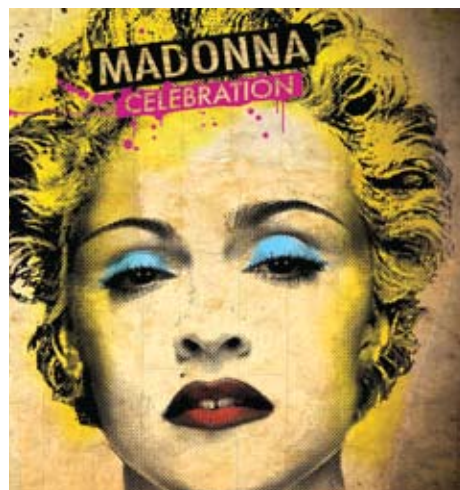
The registration cost is \$175, and the deadline to register is Thursday, Oct. 1. (There is no on-site registration.) See 2009.fireandink.org.

MUSIC

Madonna greatest-hits CD out Sept. 29

Warner Bros. Records has officially confirmed the Sept. 29 release of Celebration—the ultimate compilation of Madonna songs.

The songs on Celebration—coming out as



a single CD as well as a double-CD set—have been remastered and selected by Madonna and her fans, according to a press release. The songs cover the expanse of the Material Girl's career of hits, from "Everybody" to "Vogue" to "4 Minutes."

The first single, also titled "Celebration," is co-produced by Madonna and Paul Oakenfold.

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Maryann Carrero. Photo by Ross Forman

Maryann's marathons

BY ROSS FORMAN

This one's for Jerry. Same for the four other marathons Maryann Carrero has run since taking up the sport in 2006.

Carrero, 56, of Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, is set for the Bank of America Chicago Marathon Sunday, Oct. 11, and again, it's all for Jerry, her brother who was gay and died of AIDS May 18, 1994.

"I've been surprised that I can do it, but the National AIDS Marathon Training Program shows and trains you how to run a marathon and successfully complete it," she said.

Carrero ran her first 26.2-mile marathon in Washington D.C., in 2006. She reached the 17th mile in the 2007 Chicago Marathon before the event was cancelled due to the surprising Octo-

ber heat that Sunday morning. She ran the Las Vegas Marathon in December 2007, recording her personal best time. She then finished the 2008 Chicago Marathon.

"I'll continue running marathons until I cannot anymore, until it's physically too much for me or until there's a cure for AIDS," said Carrero, who details her brother's story in her fundraising letter, seeking contributions to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago on his behalf and she wears red ribbons on her hat and shirt on race day in tribute to him.

"Late in the marathon, when I'm often struggling, I remind myself why I'm doing it. It's those times when I really remember him and what he had to go through. I saw all that he had to go through, and others who also were or are battling AIDS. I know that what I'm doing running a marathon is nothing compared to what he was doing, what he went through."

Carrero, who is single, attended Eisenhower High School in south suburban Blue Island, and then went to the University of Illinois-Chicago. She received her graduate degree at the University of Illinois.

Carrero years ago worked for Helene Curtis and started the AIDS Walk, as it was then known. She also then endured and battled prejudices against AIDS patients, mostly from the perception that it only affected gay men. And some of her family wasn't even fully supportive of Jerry as he battled.

"When he was sick, it bothered me how people reacted to him being sick," said Carrero, who participated in the AIDS Ride in 1996 from Minneapolis to Chicago, also a tribute to Jerry. "I wanted to get more involved raising funds and raising awareness; that's what led me to the National AIDS Marathon Training Program.

"My brother always was the life of the party and, still to this day, he always is part of the entertainment. I'm so happy and honored to run the marathon for him."

Red Stars to hold fall, winter clinics

The local women's pro team Chicago Red Stars is holding multiple soccer clinics throughout Chicagoland this fall and winter.

Several sessions include the opportunity to learn alongside Red Stars defender and 1999 World Cup champion Kate Markgraf as well as Red Stars forward and former University of Illinois All-American Ella Masar. Space is limited for the Red Stars' winter clinics, so register early.

Contact Red Stars Camp Director Kate Westfall at 708-496-9511, or register online at ChicagoRedStars.com. Fall clinics run Oct. 3 and 24; winter sessions run Dec. 21-Feb. 27.

Dykes Pedaling Bikes get-togethers

Dykes Pedaling Bikes is getting together once a month on Saturdays for lakefront rides. The last one is slated for Oct. 3.

The group meets at 9 a.m. at the totem pole at Addison and Lake Shore Drive in Lakeview, and then rides to Grant Park, stopping briefly at "Queens Landing" (across Lake Shore Drive from Buckingham Fountain) at about 9:40 a.m. to meet additional riders. They then ride north and have brunch at Tweet, 5020 N. Sheridan, at 10:30 a.m. Helmets are required.

Dykes Pedaling Bikes is sponsored by the Windy City Cycling Club, the Lesbian Community Care Project and dykediva.com. For more info, e-mail rbezalel@gmail.com or visit www.windy-citycyclingclub.com.

AIDS Walk/Run Oct. 3

The AIDS Walk/Run will take place Oct. 3 in Grant Park. To participate alongside thousands of supporters, visit www.aidsrunwalk.org and click "Register Now." E-mail runwalk@aidschicago.org if there are any questions.

AIDS Run & Walk Chicago 2008 raised more than \$500,000.



Shah Washington.

FITNESS

Staying motivated this fall

BY ANDREW DAVIS

With swimsuit season coming to an end (although some may argue it didn't exist in Chicago at all this year), some people find little reason to acquire or maintain fit physiques. Windy City Times talked with local licensed personal trainer and natural bodybuilder Shah Washington, and got some tips about how people can stay motivated:

—**Set a goal:** "It gives me a reason to continue working out, but make the goal attainable," Washington said. "Don't be a couch potato and think you're going to be a bodybuilder in six months; that's not going to work. Make your goals small [initially], and then increase them." Washington said he purchased a stationary bike that he put in front of the TV; he said he rides it if there's a good movie or football game, adding that he's "doing what I like to do, but I'm still exercising."

—**Eat right:** People know this, but it bears repeating, especially with Thanksgiving on the way. "If you don't overindulge in some of the [fattening] foods, you should be OK," Washington said. "What's also important is how you cook things—there are so many healthy ways of cooking chicken, and it tastes good. But don't deprive yourself; if you totally deprive yourself, you'll go crazy once you do taste something sweet or fried."

—**Have role models:** Washington told WCT, "I look up to some of the older people I see at bodybuilding shows. I'm really inspired by some of these people in their 50s and 60s." However, Washington added that one doesn't

have to go as far as the legendary Jack LaLanne, who hasn't eaten dessert since 1929, according to ObesityCures.org: "You don't have to look like the personal trainer with 28-inch biceps, either. Just challenge yourself; don't look at Joe Bob and Mary Sue."

—**Mix it up:** "When I get bored riding a stationary bike, I love to put on my iPod and just powerwalk," Washington said. "It's a very easy thing to do, and it's not harsh on your joints. I also like to use the StairClimber and spin; I have even taken a step class."

—**Keep a journal:** "Keeping a journal is very important, especially with something like bodybuilding," Washington said. "We tend to memorize what we've done; keeping a journal tracks the progression you've done. Sometimes I get lazy and don't write down things, but you really have to. You can write your food intake, your progression and even how you feel."

—**Have a network:** Friends and workout partners can do wonders to keep someone motivated. "Recently, I ran into an old friend of mine [at the gym], and working out [together] can make a lot of difference," according to Washington. "Your mind will tend to let you lift less because of fear—I don't want this bar to drop on me. But it's a scientific fact that you can lift 30 percent more if you have a training partner with you."

—**Think of your social life:** On the superficial side, a fit body can lead to more dates. "Your confidence level can [be boosted] by working out," Washington said. "People who are not comfortable with their bodies can put themselves in a [corner]; people who feel good about themselves often speak to people they normally wouldn't. And, not to sound egotistical, but people are drawn to fit, muscular people."

—**Look in the mirror:** Sometimes it just takes a full-length mirror to do the trick. "As a bodybuilder, I sometimes feel so vain looking in the mirror constantly," Washington said. "You have to learn to flex and control your muscles." But seeing your reflection can have benefits even if someone doesn't look like LL Cool J or Madonna, according to Washington: "You can see what imperfections you have but looking in the mirror can even help you with your posture, which can help everywhere, including the business world."

—**Don't get carried away:** Washington related a story about a guy who was so obsessed with working out that he lost his family. "He even slept in the gym," Washington said. "There's no need to work out three or four hours a day. Like with everything else, you have to have balance. I have to make sure I spend time with my family, and I work; I can't make it without balance."

For fitness tips, Shah Washington can be reached at shahlyy@sbcglobal.net.

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A widely published author and speaker, Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas.

He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations.

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