

Pressure on Gutierrez

page 6



Howard Brown & Older LGBTs

page 9



Bruce Vilanch

page 20



nightspots pick it up take it home

Madigan Testifies to Support ENDA

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Thursday, Nov. 5—Restrooms and religion arose as the only objections today during the U.S. Senate's first hearing on the inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). And the testimony from the Obama administration struck an unusually ironic note just two days after Maine voters rejected an equal-marriage law there.

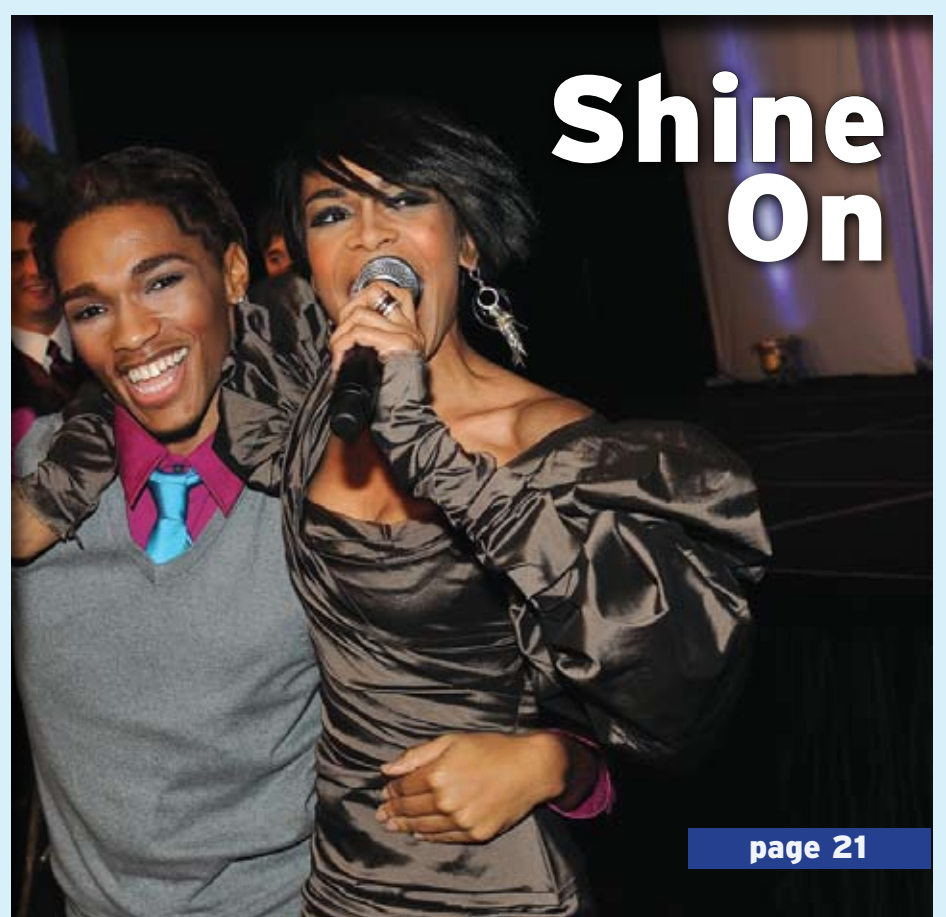
The 2009 version of ENDA is different from a 2002 version that also received a Senate hearing in that it includes a prohibition based on both sexual orientation and gender identity.

Among those testifying on behalf of ENDA was Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, and Springfield, Mass., police officer Mike Carney, who suffered years being in the closet until he filed a discrimination complaint and was able to serve openly.

Madigan was one of only seven witnesses at last week's U.S. Senate committee hearing on ENDA. She told the committee that Illinois is one of 21 states with laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, and one of 12 that also prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. She said she has seen "positive reaction in the public and private sectors" to the law and has "not seen a flood of complaints."

The only one to speak against the bill was Craig Parshall, senior vice president and general counsel for the National Religious Broadcasters Association. He raised the concern about religious exemptions, as he did in September when the House held a hearing on the bill.

Turn to page 4



Shine On

page 21

Singer Michelle Williams and award recipient Tony Taylor get their groove on at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC)/Chicago gala, "Time to Shine," held Nov. 7 at the Hyatt Regency, 151 E. Wacker. Among the speakers present were national HRC President Joe Solmonese and out actor Robert Gant (TV's *Queer As Folk*). See page 21 and www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com for many more photos of the event. Above photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

OPALGA endures changes

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

The Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA) closed the doors of its center at 947 Garfield on Oct. 1 to cut overhead costs. The 20-year-old not-for-profit LGBT support group removed two of its four employees and the remaining half expect to be let go when a grant expires near the end of the year.

Mike Cochran, co-chair of OPALGA's board of directors, said the group is re-evaluating itself in attempt to be more financially sound.

"We're trying to manage the organization in a

fiscally prudent manner in light of this horrible economy," Cochran said. "Every not-for-profit I know is having a cash crunch and our organization is no different."

Cochran said the goal is to increase membership and appeal to the changing demographic within Oak Park's LGBT community.

"We want to be aware of the increasing number of gay and lesbian individuals moving into this area," he said. "In the LGBT community itself, you're seeing a lot of changes. Now you're seeing a lot of families. We want to have family-type events and programs."

Meanwhile, OPALGA's office is being run strictly through its Web site and the home of the director of youth programming, Susan Abbott.

The organization is also renting out space in downtown Oak Park in order to continue holding four of its drop-in programs. Cochran said paying by the usage has cost them considerably less money.

"When you looked at the hours [the Garfield building was] in use, there weren't as many hours as some of us would've liked," he said.

Turn to page 10



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WINDY CITY TIMES **index**

NEWS

- Historic ENDA hearing 4
- Maine marriage law repealed 5
- Progress across the U.S. 5
- Gutierrez; Fiorito 6
- Passages: Robert Maddox 6
- Witnesses to history 6
- Howard Brown & older LGBTs 9
- Summit; local Obama rally 10
- Quotelines; world news 11
- Kendell, Yurko; letter 12

ENTERTAINMENT

- Nunn on Dunn: Hopera 13
- Theater reviews 16
- Knight; Reeling opening 18
- Bruce Vilanch 20
- 'Oy Vey' director Afineevsky 20
- HRC gala pics 21
- Billy Masters 23
- SOFA 2009; Jimmy Choo 25

OUTLINES

- Calendar Q 22
- Real estate; classifieds 24
- Sports: Bobby Hoepfner 26
- Fitness: Alexander William 26

Cover photos and credits (from top): Official head shot of U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez; photo of Amber Hollibaugh courtesy of the subject; still of Bruce Vilanch from the movie *Oy Vey! My Son Is Gay*



Fitness model Alexander William (above) talks about the exercises that help him reach peak form on page 26.

Photo courtesy of Alexander William



Young Frankenstein the Musical (above) is in town, but is it worth your money? See page 16.

Photo by Paul Kolnik

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ONLINE INDEX

HALL OF A LIFE

Jacksonville, Ill., Scott Tinsley-Hall (right) talks about life downstate while in a same-sex marriage.



Photo courtesy of Scott Tinsley-Hall

HAIR APPARENT



Anjolie (left) is among the musicians in this week's Pop Making Sense.

ALTAR-ED STATE

John D'Emilio (right) discusses coming out and religion. Also, look for Byron Flitsch's debut column on relationships.

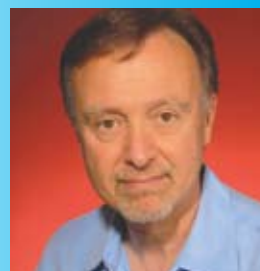


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ENDA from cover

Section 6 of the bill, S.1584, provides that the legislation "shall not apply to a corporation, association, educational institution or institution of learning, or society that is exempt from the religious discrimination provisions of title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits employers from making any negative hiring decision against an individual based on his or her "race, color, religion, sex or national origin." And it provides an exemption for "a religious corporation, association, or society with respect to the employment of individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with the carrying on by such corporation, association, or society of its religious activities or to an educational institution with respect to the employment of individuals to perform work connected with the educational activities of such institution."

Parshall said his organization "strongly opposes ENDA" because it would "impose a substantial, unconstitutional burden on religious organizations."

Parshall said the "purported exemption for religious organizations" in Section 6 is "fatally insufficient." Because it exempts only those or-

ganizations identified in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, he said, ENDA will leave it to the courts to examine the "beliefs and doctrines of religious employers regarding homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexual, transgenderism and similar issues."

Camille Olson, a Chicago attorney with experience in representing corporations in employment discrimination cases, also reiterated concerns she raised at the House hearing in September. She did not take a position for or against ENDA, but urged the Committee to make sure the legislation provides clear guidance regarding whether employers are required to modify existing restroom facilities.

The law states that it does not apply to "denial of access to shared shower or dressing facilities in which being seen unclothed is unavoidable." It does, however, require the employer to provide "reasonable access to adequate facilities" for the transgender employee.

Olson said it is "absolutely critical to have clarity" on when such facilities must be modified.

Senator Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, said "no legislation can cover every conceivable" scenario that might arise out of a claim of discrimination.



U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin.

Harkin called ENDA "one of the most important issues of our day" and said the legislation must give "broad guidance to the courts" and strike a "balance" between the competing needs to address discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and the need to protect the free exercise of religion.

Only three of the committee's 23 members showed up for the hearing, which ran from 10 a.m. until just past noon. Others included the bill's sponsor, Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., and Al Fran-

ken, D-Minn.

'We can't remain silent'

The irony of the hearing was testimony provided by the Department of Justice's assistant attorney general, Tom Perez, who heads the Civil Rights Division. Perez urged the committee to support the inclusive ENDA bill, a position that was taken by President Barack Obama during last year's presidential campaign.

"We cannot in good conscience stand by and watch unjustifiable discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals occur in the workplace without redress," said Perez. "We have come too far in our struggle for 'equal justice under the law' to remain silent or stoic when our LGBT brothers and sisters are still being mistreated and ostracized for reasons that have absolutely nothing to do with their skills or abilities and everything to do with myths, stereotypes, fear of the unknown, and prejudice."

Although Obama has made clear he does not personally support gay marriage, he did promise to use the bully pulpit of the White House "to urge states to treat same-sex couples with full equality." Obama said nothing to Maine voters to urge that same-sex couples with full equality—either before Tuesday's vote or to comment on that vote afterwards.

Perez said his department "regularly" receives complaints about sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination.

"It is painfully disappointing to have to tell these working men and women that, in the United States of America in 2009, they may well be without redress because our federal employment anti-discrimination laws either exclude them or fail clearly to protect them."

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese praised the committee for holding the hearing.

"For the first time in history, the Senate is moving forward with legislation to protect Americans from arbitrary discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation and gender identity," said Solmonese, in a statement. "Like our neighbors and co-workers, LGBT people simply want a fair chance to succeed and support our families."

NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Brian Schroeder, a gay man who recently graduated from Harvard Law School (HLS), allegedly set fire to a New York City memorial chapel for 9/11 victims on Oct. 31, according to an Advocate.com item. Authorities say that Schroeder may have been acting on a drunken dare. The Harvard Law Record reported that Schroeder was co-president of the gay law-school group HLS Lambda and that he was on a task force that assessed methods of limiting the impact of military recruiting on the campus' gay community.

Just weeks after the National Equality March in Washington, D.C., co-directors Kip Williams and Robin McGehee have left the group Equality Across America (EAA), according to Bilerico.com. Williams and McGehee cited finances and differences regarding what direction to take as reasons for their departures. Williams e-mailed, "First, I need more security in my life, because I worked on the march for less than minimum wage and without health insurance. ... Second, I share with EAA the goal of full federal equality, but I have different ideas about the road to get there."

In Utah, Salt Lake City now has its first out gay councilmember. According to the Salt Lake Tribune, Utah AIDS Foundation Director Stan Penfold defeated Phil Carroll to represent District 3.

Read more national news online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com and find out about Atlanta Pride's first trans march.

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Maine voters repeal marriage-equality law

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Portland, Maine—The vote tally in Maine Nov. 4, while not complete and not official, suggests an effort to repeal the state's newly passed marriage-equality law has succeeded.

With 93 percent of the precincts reporting in as of 9:25 a.m. Nov. 4, the "Yes" votes to repeal the law totaled 53 percent of the vote, while the "No" votes against repeal numbered 47 percent. The Bangor Daily News provided the tallies. The state's director of elections, Melissa Packard, said her office would not report results publicly until they are certified—in about 20 days.

The apparent vote marks a significant defeat for marriage-equality supporters, who were hoping to regain ground lost last year when voters in California narrowly approved Proposition 8 to amend the state constitution to ban gay marriage and undermine a court ruling that had enabled some 18,000 same-sex couples to marry in 2008. (The vote in that 2008 initiative was 52 percent for, 48 percent against.) It also appears to provide momentum to the anti-gay marriage movement, which is now attempting to stage an initiative against same-sex marriage in Washington, D.C., and which has a bill pending before the New Hampshire legislature to repeal a bill enacted there earlier this year.



Jesse Connolly.
Photo by Rex Wockner

In a ballroom at a Holiday Inn in downtown Portland, "No on 1" campaign manager Jesse Connolly announced to a hushed crowd of a few hundred supporters still on hand at 12:30 a.m. Nov. 4 that the campaign was not conceding defeat and would wait for all the ballots to be counted.

The "Stand for Marriage Maine" group that led the effort to repeal the marriage equality law proclaimed victory.

Dueling campaigns

The campaigns for and against Maine's equal-

marriage law had been underway since May when the legislature passed, and the governor signed, the new law enabling same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses the same as straight couples. Because repeal activists immediately began petitioning for a "Citizens' Veto" measure, the law was put on hold and ballot Question 1 asked voters if they would like to repeal that law.

Many political observers praised the "No on 1" coalition for running a well-organized campaign, headed by Maine natives with considerable experience in Maine politics. At the top of that campaign was Jesse Connolly, a 31-year-old straight married father, on leave from his job as chief of staff for the Maine speaker of the House. Connolly had also run the successful 2005 campaign to vote "No" on a ballot measure seeking to repeal the state's recently passed law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. The "No" vote that year won 55 percent to 45 percent.

The key focus of "No on 1" from the start was identifying voters who would vote "No" and making a concerted effort to get those voters to actually cast their ballots—either by absentee, early voting, or at the voting booth on election day. Activists from as far away as Hawaii came to Maine in the last days of the campaign to help with that basic door-to-door, phone-by-phone effort.

But the Yes on campaign had considerable visibility for their messages throughout the state. First, they launched a heavy barrage of television and radio ads warning that approval of same-sex marriage would lead to children being taught about gay marriage in the schools. Then, they staked out the simple message of "Yes on 1" in a highly visible supply of blue and yellow yard signs posted along many of the state's busiest roads. In contrast, "No on 1" often had only a lone pale green sign in noticeably smaller numbers.

At one busy intersection in Portland Nov. 3, five "Yes on 1" activists stood on a median and hoisted "Yes on 1" placards, yelling "Vote Yes on 1—No Homosexuals!" to drivers passing by. The lawn surrounding the intersection was bathed in bright blue and yellow "Yes on 1" signs, while the "No on 1" sported only two large hand-painted signs.

On one occasion, a car zipped by and a woman yelled out the window, "I voted no!" But many cars honked and their drivers waved, seeming to signal agreement with the "Yes on 1" position.

Voter turnout was much heavier than expected. The secretary of state had predicted about 25 to 35 percent of registered voters would turn out, but the Daily News estimates at least 57 percent of registered voters participated.

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

U.S. House OKs healthcare-reform bill

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

While conservatives riveted their attention to passing an amendment to ban the use of federal healthcare funds on abortion, the U.S. House passed a healthcarereform bill Saturday night that includes a number of provisions of benefit specifically to the LGBT community.

The House bill—H.B. 3962—includes a provision to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to address "health disparities" of a number of specific population groups, including those based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It makes people with HIV infection and low income eligible for Medicare coverage earlier in their illness. It also prohibits discrimination in healthcare based on "personal characteristics extraneous to the provision of high-quality healthcare or related services."

Jerilyn Goodman, a spokesperson for Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., who led the effort to include the provisions, said the phrase "personal characteristics" is intended to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity." But there was virtually no attention given to the LGBT-related provisions in debate over the bill.

The Human Rights Campaign praised the legislation for being "a tremendous advance for the health needs of LGBT people." It said the bill

also "ends unfair taxation" of gay employees who have their partners or spouses covered on their health insurance at work. The tax provision originated as a free-standing bill introduced by Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., introduced a similar measure in the Senate but that has not been rolled into the Senate's version of healthcare reform.

Instead, the House's attention focused squarely on abortion. An amendment, offered by Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., prohibits the proposed government-funded insurance option in the bill from providing coverage for an abortion. The House approved the amendment on a 240 to 194 Nov. 7; all three openly gay representatives voted against it.

The House then passed the overall reform bill on a 220 to 215 vote; all three openly gay representatives voted for it. The bill needed 218 votes to pass.

H.B. 3962, also known as the Affordable Health Care for America Act, is aimed at ensuring that all citizens have access to some level of healthcare. It attempts to offer various health insurance options—including a government-run option—to enable people to choose what level they need and/or can afford.

But the House plan must now await a Senate vote on its version of healthcare reform—a version that does not include any of the pro-gay provisions. Once the Senate passes its bill, a House-Senate conference committee will have to hammer out one compromise version of the legislation.

Despite pressure from the White House, the fate of a healthcare-reform bill in the Senate is far from certain. In recent days, Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., has threatened to provide his vote to stage a Republican filibuster against consideration of a bill if the Senate version contains a government-run health insurance option. Without Lieberman's vote, the Democratic majority would not have the 60 votes necessary to break any filibuster.

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U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez.

LGBT activists meet about immigration inclusion

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

At a meeting last month, LGBT and immigration activists urged U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez to include protections for same-sex partners in immigration reform legislation he plans to introduce in the House of Representatives. Although no promises were made at the meeting, according to Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA) President Julio Rodriguez, community members plan to "continue to dialogue" with the congressman regarding the issue.

Gutierrez represents Illinois' 4th District, which includes portions of Chicago's North and South sides.

President Barack Obama signaled his intention to tackle major immigration reform as part of his first-term agenda; as with health care reform, members of the House have been tasked with authoring competing versions. According to Immigration Equality's Steve Ralls, who spoke with Windy City Times last month, LGBT groups hope

to see provisions making it possible for U.S. citizens to sponsor same-sex partners for residency—which would put LGBT couples on equal footing as married opposite-sex couples.

Gutierrez is in the process of authoring a major immigration-reform bill, which Ralls said will be a "progressive starting point."

While Ralls has been involved in national activism to pressure legislators to include provisions for LGBT people, local groups have also gotten involved. The meeting with Gutierrez last month included representatives from Center on Halsted, PFLAG, Dignity Chicago, Latino Policy Forum and Boricua Pride as well as ALMA.

"It went pretty well," said Rodriguez—although the group received no commitment from Gutierrez.

Rodriguez said that Gutierrez's apparent reticence was a part of the political process. "It's always a tricky thing if he steps up too soon," said Rodriguez. "It could kill the bill. If you step out too soon, you galvanize another base."

Windy City Times was unable to reach Gutierrez for comment.

On Oct. 13, the congressman released a document outlining the "core principles" of the forthcoming legislation. It made no specific mention of LGBT issues, though it highlighted the principle of family unification as central to the legislation. "Family is the bedrock of our society," the statement read, "and immigration reform must support strong, united families and treat all immigrant families fairly and equally."

Eric Berndt, who was also at the meeting with Gutierrez, said that he is "cautiously optimistic" about the outcome of the legislation. Berndt, a lawyer for Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center, said that the congressman is "committed to the immigration rights of LGBT families." Likewise, he said, "[t]he LGBT community is prepared to be an ally on immigration issues."

Meanwhile, Rep. Mike Quigley, who represents parts of Chicago's North Side, spoke on the House floor last month to indicate his strong

Witnesses to history



There was a local flavor to President Barack Obama's historic Oct. 28 signing of the federal hate-crimes bill at a White House reception marking the occasion. Several Chicagoans attended the event. In the left photo are (from left) Vernita Gray, National Council of Negro Women Chair/President Emerita Dorothy Haight and Mary Morten. In the right photo are (from left) Morten, Nan Schaffer, Rep. Mike Quigley, Karen Dixon and Gray. Jamie Citron, an openly gay staffer of the Department of Health and Human Services who is a former Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree, also attended. Photos courtesy of Morten

support for LGBT inclusion in comprehensive immigration reform. "In this debate, we've talked about keeping families together," Quigley said, "but we cannot turn a blind eye to the children who have been taken from a family because they have two moms or two dads and one doesn't live in this country."

Controversial cop removed from post

BY CHASSE REHWINKEL

After weeks of mounting pressure to do so, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez has said that she will stop using controversial Chicago police officer Richard Fiorito as a witness in traffic court, with her office stating, "There are serious questions about Fiorito's credibility."

Fiorito is currently under a grand jury investigation, led by Alvarez, for making multiple suspect DUI arrests of Boystown motorists.

Two weeks ago Alvarez removed Fiorito from active duty in Boystown, as the Chicago beat cop faced 21 lawsuits filed against his conduct and two videos showing Fiorito making questionable arrests.

However, attorney Jon Erickson, a lawyer representing many of the Chicagoans that have filed suit against Fiorito, noted that Alvarez was still using the officer as a witness in traffic court to help prosecute individuals Fiorito had arrested for DUIs.

Erickson stated that using Fiorito to prosecute people he arrested for crimes that he was currently under investigation for was "simply ridiculous" and that many lawyers he had talked with about the decision were "appalled."

Following his removal from active duty, the number of lawsuits filed against Fiorito doubled to 42 and the cases of the two Fiorito arrestees seen in the video evidence submitted against the veteran officer were dropped or reversed.

Erickson believes these new developments were large contributors in Alvarez's decision to stop using Fiorito as a traffic court witness and he expects many of the pending cases with Fiorito as the arresting officer to be dropped soon stating, "My clients with pending DUI cases are looking forward to Anita Alvarez quickly dismissing their charges."

It still is unclear, however, if Alvarez will use Fiorito's written records in traffic court.

Hall of Fame to induct 14

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.

"Chicago is a city of many faces, and the LGBT community is an important part of that diversity. The community is thriving and moving forward, helping to build a strong social and economic foundation for Chicago," said Mayor Richard M. Daley.

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.

PASSAGES

Robert D. Maddox

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Robert D. Maddox, former co-founder and owner of Male Hide Leathers in Chicago, and beloved partner of the late Frank Goley, passed away.

Maddox was the loving son of Livonia and the late Lon Maddox; dear brother of Ronald (Frieda) and Ted (Betty); fond uncle of David and Matthew Maddox and Nancy Lee Maloney. He was a member of the Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Gary Chichester told Windy City Times, "I always respected Bob for being a great businessman. At the time, there weren't many gay businesses. [Bob and business partner Frank Goley] made some inroads. He was a great guy and I'm going to miss him. I've known him over 40 years. ... We're going to miss Bob a lot."

Chuck Renslow—who originally approached Maddox and partner Frank Goley about opening Male Hide, according to the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame's Web site—said, "He was a great man—a wonderful man. Bob was a man of great integrity. We were very good friends."

The funeral and interment took place in Pineville, Ky. According to Renslow, a memorial for Maddox will take place at the Leather Archives & Museum, 6418 N. Greenview, on Saturday, Nov. 28; call 773-761-9200 for more details.

—Also contributing: Sam Worley

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Important Safety Information

VIRAMUNE is indicated for use in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection.

VIRAMUNE does not cure HIV or AIDS, and has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. VIRAMUNE can cause severe liver disease and skin reactions that can cause death. These reactions occur most often during the first 18 weeks of treatment, but can occur later. Ask your healthcare provider about how to recognize symptoms of skin and liver problems. Stop taking VIRAMUNE if you have any of these reactions. Do not restart VIRAMUNE if you experience any of these reactions. Call your healthcare provider immediately if you have any of these reactions.

Any patient can experience liver problems with VIRAMUNE, but women and patients who have higher CD4 counts when they begin VIRAMUNE treatment have a greater risk. **If you are a woman with CD4+ >250 cells/mm³, or a man with CD4+ >400 cells/mm³, you should not begin taking VIRAMUNE unless you and your doctor have decided that the benefit of doing so outweighs the risk. Women, including pregnant women, with CD4+ cell counts >250 cells/mm³ are at the greatest risk.**

Do not take VIRAMUNE if you have severe liver problems.

The dose of VIRAMUNE for adults is one 200-mg tablet daily for the first 14 days, followed by one 200-mg tablet twice daily. VIRAMUNE is always taken with other anti-HIV medications. The 14-day lead-in period is important because it can help reduce your chances of getting a potentially serious skin rash. If you have a skin rash during the first 14 days, immediately contact your doctor and do not increase your VIRAMUNE dose to twice a day. The total duration of the once daily lead-in dosing period should not exceed 28 days, at which point an alternative regimen may need to be started.

Other side effects that patients have experienced include nausea, fatigue, fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and myalgia. Changes in body fat may occur in patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Immune reconstitution syndrome has been reported in patients treated with combination ARV therapy.

Please see Medication Guide for VIRAMUNE on the following pages.



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MEDICATION GUIDE

VIRAMUNE® (VIH-rah-mune)

Tablets

VIRAMUNE® Oral Suspension

Generic name: nevirapine tablets and oral suspension

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking VIRAMUNE and each time you get a refill because there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRAMUNE when you start taking your medicine and at regular checkups. You should stay under a doctor's care while using VIRAMUNE. You should consult with your doctor before making any changes to your medications, except in any of the special circumstances described below regarding rash or liver problems.

What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?

Patients taking VIRAMUNE may develop severe liver disease or skin reactions that can cause death. The risk of these reactions is greatest during the first 18 weeks of treatment, but these reactions also can occur later.

Liver Reactions

Any patient can experience liver problems while taking VIRAMUNE. However, women and patients who have higher CD4 counts when they begin VIRAMUNE treatment have a greater chance of developing liver damage. Women with CD4 counts higher than 250 cells/mm³ are at the greatest risk of these events. If you are a woman with CD4 >250 cells/mm³ or a man with CD4 >400 cells/mm³ you should not begin taking VIRAMUNE unless you and your doctor have decided that the benefit of doing so outweighs the risk. Liver problems are often accompanied by a rash.

Patients starting VIRAMUNE with abnormal liver tests and patients with hepatitis B or C have a greater chance of developing further increases in liver tests after starting VIRAMUNE and throughout therapy.

In rare cases liver problems have led to liver failure and can lead to a liver transplant or death. Therefore, if you develop any of the following symptoms of liver problems stop taking VIRAMUNE and call your doctor right away:

- general ill feeling or "flu-like" symptoms
- dark urine (tea colored)
- tiredness
- pale stools (bowel movements)
- nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)

- pain, ache, or sensitivity to touch on your right side below your ribs
 - lack of appetite
 - yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes
- Your doctor should check you and do blood tests often to check your liver function during the first 18 weeks of therapy. Checks for liver problems should continue regularly during treatment with VIRAMUNE.

Skin Reactions

Skin rash is the most common side effect of VIRAMUNE. Most rashes occur in the first 6 weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash can be serious and result in death. Therefore, if you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms stop using VIRAMUNE and call your doctor right away:

- general ill feeling or "flu-like" symptoms
- blisters
- fever
- mouth sores
- muscle or joint aches
- swelling of your face
- conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like "pink eye")
- tiredness
- any of the symptoms of liver problems discussed above

If your doctor tells you to stop treatment with VIRAMUNE because you have experienced the serious liver or skin reactions described above, never take VIRAMUNE again.

These are not all the side effects of VIRAMUNE. See the section "What are the possible side effects of VIRAMUNE?" for more information. Tell your doctor if you have any side effects from VIRAMUNE.

What is VIRAMUNE?

VIRAMUNE is a medicine used to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

VIRAMUNE is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI). It works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood ("viral load"). You must take VIRAMUNE with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, VIRAMUNE can reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells ("T cells"). CD4 cells are a type of immune helper cell in the blood. VIRAMUNE may not have these effects in every patient.

VIRAMUNE does not cure HIV or AIDS, and it is not known if it will help you live longer with HIV. People taking VIRAMUNE may still get infections common in people with HIV (opportunistic infections). Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

Who should not take VIRAMUNE?

- Do not take VIRAMUNE if you are allergic to VIRAMUNE or any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is nevirapine. Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you about the inactive ingredients.
- Do not restart VIRAMUNE after you recover from serious liver or skin reactions that happened when you took VIRAMUNE.
- Do not take VIRAMUNE if you have severe liver problems.
- Do not take VIRAMUNE if you take certain medicines. (See "Can I take other medicines with VIRAMUNE?" for a list of medicines.)
- Do not take VIRAMUNE if you are not infected with HIV.

What should I tell my doctor before taking VIRAMUNE?

Before starting VIRAMUNE, tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have problems with your liver or have had hepatitis
- are undergoing dialysis
- have skin conditions, such as a rash
- are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or are breast feeding

How should I take VIRAMUNE?

- Take the exact amount of VIRAMUNE your doctor prescribes. The usual dose for adults is one tablet daily for the first 14 days followed by one tablet twice daily. Starting with one dose a day lowers the chance of rash, which could be serious. Therefore, it is important to strictly follow the once daily dose for the first 14 days. If you have a skin rash during the first 14 days immediately contact your doctor and do not increase your dose to VIRAMUNE twice a day. The total duration of the once daily lead-in dosing period should not exceed 28 days at which point an alternative regimen may need to be started. See the first section "What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?"
- The dose of VIRAMUNE for children is based on their size. Children's dosing also starts with once a day for 14 days and then twice a day after that.
- You may take VIRAMUNE with water, milk, or soda, with or without food.
- If you or your child uses VIRAMUNE suspension (liquid), shake it gently before use. Use an oral dosing syringe or dosing cup to measure the right dose. After drinking the medicine, fill the dosing cup with water and drink it to make sure you get all the medicine. If the dose is less than 5 mL (one teaspoon), use the syringe.
- Do not miss a dose of VIRAMUNE, because

Howard Brown addresses needs of older LGBTs

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

Given the demographics of the baby-boom generation—as well as wider social acceptance leading to burgeoning numbers of out LGBT people—the institutions that the LGBT community relies on to meet its needs are having to adapt to an inevitability: the aging process. Howard Brown Health Center has partnered with a number of Chicago agencies to create Aging as We Are, a program intended to comprehensively address the needs—medical, emotional, social—of maturing LGBT people.

Amber Hollibaugh, who was hired last year to spearhead the initiative, envisions Aging As We Are as a model for queer institutions across the country as they struggle with an aging clientele. "In America there's a real resistance to aging—period," Hollibaugh said. "This is not a country that knows how to manage aging."

Particularly with regard to the LGBT community—still in many ways in its political infancy—



Amber Hollibaugh.

Hollibaugh said, "We haven't created services and institutions for our life spans. We couldn't imagine ourselves [aging]."

Nonetheless, the time is ripe: "We've become strong enough to create our own services, not in

desperation but as alternative."

Howard Brown's program, Hollibaugh said, aims to "make it possible for people to really be themselves in their own aging bodies."

As part of the program, Howard Brown last year hired a specialist, Dr. Magda Houlberg, whose focus is geriatric medicine. And, Hollibaugh added, clients have access to case managers who can answer their questions about issues ranging from rent to Social Security—as well as help them address their medical needs.

Howard Brown also employs five peer outreach workers who are 50 or older; they try to bring older patients into the fold. The outreach workers—who by virtue of their own demographic makeup are meant to reflect the diverse needs of a diverse community—go to senior citizens' homes, faith-based institutions, health fairs, hospitals and pride events to pass out the Aging As We Are newsletter and engage potential clients on issues they're struggling with.

The idea for a collaborative aging program for Howard Brown came out of a town-hall meeting held in 2007. Hollibaugh, who previously worked for the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce and Services and Advocacy for LGBT Elders, attended the meeting and became involved in the planning process. It was agreed that Howard Brown

would lead the concept; partnering with local agencies such as Rush University Medical Center and Heartland Alliance, Hollibaugh said, "made it easy to do something more ambitious."

In particular, it enabled Howard Brown to offer an array of medical services—including primary care, HIV/STD testing, counseling and legal assistance—in a way that clients might experience as less alienating than mainstream medical services. "Our job," Hollibaugh said, "is to try to figure out how to create an easy access at the intersection of aging, sexual orientation, maybe HIV status, and gender identity."

Take the idea of a non-traditional family, she said: "That's complicated to explain to a mainstream provider. You have to take care of yourself with more vigilance." Or the example of a trans person whose longtime doctor retires: "It's not like you can call a doctor and interview them about being trans-friendly."

For a queer clientele, she said, "Are the issues going to be different? Well, actually they could be."

More information about Howard Brown's Aging As We Are program can be found at www.howard-brown.org/hb_services.asp?id=456.

this could make the virus harder to treat. If you forget to take VIRAMUNE, take the missed dose right away. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Instead, follow your regular dosing schedule by taking the next dose at its regular time.

- If you stop taking VIRAMUNE for more than 7 days, ask your doctor how much to take before you start taking it again. You may need to start with once-a-day dosing.
- If you suspect that you have taken too much VIRAMUNE, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

Can I take other medicines with VIRAMUNE?

- VIRAMUNE may change the effect of other medicines, and other medicines can change the effect of VIRAMUNE. Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take, including non-prescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements.
- Do not take Nizoral® (ketoconazole) or Rifadin®/Rifamate®/Rifater® (rifampin) with VIRAMUNE.
- Tell your doctor if you take Biaxin® (clarithromycin), Diflucan® (fluconazole), methadone, or Mycobutin® (rifabutin). VIRAMUNE may not be right for you, or you may need careful monitoring.
- It is recommended that you not take products containing St. John's wort, which can reduce the amount of VIRAMUNE in your body.
- If you take birth control pills, you should not rely on them to prevent pregnancy. They may not work if you take VIRAMUNE. Talk with your doctor about other types of birth control that you can use.

What should I avoid while taking VIRAMUNE?

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection, as VIRAMUNE does not stop you from passing HIV infection to others. Do not share needles, other injection equipment or personal items

that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises mothers with HIV not to breast feed so they will not pass HIV to the infant through their milk. Ask your doctor about the best way to feed your infant.

What are the possible side effects of VIRAMUNE?

VIRAMUNE can cause serious liver damage and skin reactions that can cause death. Any patient can experience such side effects, but some patients are more at risk than others. See "What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.

Other common side effects of VIRAMUNE include nausea, fatigue, fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and myalgia. This list of side effects is not complete. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

Changes in body fat have also been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. The changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

How do I store VIRAMUNE?

Store VIRAMUNE at room temperature, between 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

Throw away VIRAMUNE that is no longer needed or out-of-date.

Keep VIRAMUNE and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about VIRAMUNE

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use VIRAMUNE for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give VIRAMUNE to other people, even if they have the same condition you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about VIRAMUNE. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about VIRAMUNE that is written for health professionals, or you can call 1-800-542-6257 for additional information.

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090340228/3

U.S. Patent Nos. 5,366,972 and 6,172,059

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

This Medication Guide has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

VR-CBS-8/09

VR67210

Minorities come together at LGBT summit

BY BLAIR MISHLEAU

High above the city, Chicago twinkled below as soft lighting and light music gave ambience to the room. On Nov. 3, more than 50 leaders within the LGBT minority community mingled with each other, discussing everything from how to bring the community together to how significant cultural barriers can be.

The opening reception for the summit, which occurred the following day, was a concentration of some of the Black and Latino communities' best-known LGBT activists. The International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. (IFBP) presented the summit, while Chicago Windy City Black LGBT/SGL Pride, *Orgullo en Accion* and the LGBT Leadership Initiative co-sponsored the event.

"In a nutshell we're trying to mobilize black and browns to come together. If we mobilize, we can get a lot done. We can have a larger voice in the LGBT movement," said Carolina Alcoser Ramos, one of the organizers of the summit.

One of the groups to present at the reception was I2I (Invisible to Invincible). The group advocates Asian/Pacific Islander LGBT pride.



Carolina Alcoser Ramos. Photo by Blair Mishleau

"We don't have a strong enough voice within the LGBT community. The different oppressions LGBT people of color face haven't been covered," said I2I co-facilitator Elisa Arnea.

"We knew it would be important to bring [the two organizations] together. A lot of the time they're not in the same room at the same time discussing the same thing. We put our resources together," said IFBP Chair Michael Hinson. "This room is full of leaders: African-American, Asian, Latino, men, women, trans, young and old. These people have a voice."

A big discussion point of the reception was breaking down walls and creating one unified voice.

"We can't do it as a divided community. We're not divided in the bedroom, but when it comes to politics and power we often makes conclusions or follow an agenda without ensuring the priorities of everyone as part of our plan," said Steve Wakefield, associate director of community education and relations for the HIV Vaccine Trials Network.

LGBTs part of local Obama rally

BY BLAIR MISHLEAU

Powerful, passionate voices took stage to discuss everything from immigration reform to LGBT equality Nov. 3 at "Change Worth Fighting For," an event which observed the first-year anniversary of President Barack Obama's election and urged for reform on many issues.

The theater at the Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan, overflowed with over 400 people, with many more listening in the lobby. After listening to community speakers, the group went to Grant Park to sign a joint letter to president Obama.

"Our battle is before us, and our road is long. But we've won great battles before. ... What great progress we have made. So let nobody break your spirit," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a

speaker at the rally.

The event, which was hosted by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, pulled activists from many different communities to discuss a common theme, "A fairer and more inclusive America for all," as the letter to Obama stated.

"What we all have in common is that we are all human first, and every one of us is struggling for full inclusion in the dream of America," said Art Johnston of Equality Illinois. "Let us all please continue our fight. Let us help the man in Washington. Let us help Barack Obama help all of us see the real dream across America come true."

Many speakers displayed confidence in Obama, but felt that activists must continue to push for reform to get it.

"I firmly believe Barack is the vehicle, but we the people have got to come together to pave the rode," said Tom Balanoff, president of the Chicago chapter of Service Employees International Union.

After the rally, the entire group lined up to travel to Grant Park. As media outlets videotaped them, they exited and ventured to the very spot where Obama accepted his election.

Many were wearing prominent yellow vests that demanded immigration reform on the back. This sea of yellow, with some people carrying picket signs, made its way to Grant Park to sign a letter that emphasized the urgency of issues at hand.

"Dear President Obama, on the one year anniversary of your historic election as President ... we gather ... to reaffirm our support for the 'Change worth fighting for.' At this critical point, we urgently ask that you continue to show courage in support of the range of issues that will make this a fairer and more inclusive America for all," read the opening to Obama's letter.

More than 50 organizations supported the letter to Obama, including the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Equality Illinois and the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs.

OPALGA from cover

"Considering the amount of floor space, we did not have a need for that kind of expense on an ongoing basis."

The programs still meeting are: Spectrum, the weekly 18-and-older discussion group; ALAS (*Amigos Latinos Apoyando Siempre*), the Latino men's support group, which currently meets three times per month; ANKH, the young women's program; and Women Like Me, a once-a-month support group for women who have come out later in life after a heterosexual relationship.

Abbott, who will remain with OPALGA until at least the end of the year, said the organization is working on whatever it takes to keep those programs running whether it can eventually retain them or another agency must pick them up.

"My main focus right now is to make sure these programs don't cease," Abbott said. "Hopefully, in the next month that will be resolved."

As for her own employment ceasing, Abbott, who has worked 10 years for OPALGA, is more concerned with making sure the organization moves forward in her absence.

"Any kind of change is difficult, but the flipside of that is the organization isn't going away," she said. "I really do think it'll make for a better organization in the long run."

Abbott said other than securing the future of its programs and keeping participants in the know as changes take place, OPALGA is in the process of figuring out who it must reach out to and how to best meet the needs of the Oak Park LGBT community.

Cochran said popular programs and traditions such as the monthly potluck dinners will continue despite the changes.

See www.OPALGA.org.

WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

Baldwin targets Ugandan 'Anti-Homosexuality Bill'

Openly lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and three other members of Congress have sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urging her to use the full force of her office to condemn the "Anti-Homosexual Bill 2009" introduced in Uganda's Parliament last month.

"This egregious bill represents one of the most extreme anti-equality measures ever proposed in any country and would create a legal pretext for depriving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Ugandans of their liberty, and even their lives," Baldwin wrote, joined by House Committee on Foreign Affairs Chair Howard Berman, D-Calif., Vice Chair Gary Ackerman, D-N.Y., and Ranking Minority Member Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla.

"Particularly given the United States' substantial contribution to Uganda through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), we believe swift action is necessary to ensure Ugandan leaders understand this bill is wholly unacceptable and antithetical to democratic values," they said.

With gay sex already banned under penalty of life in prison, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill aims to erase any appearance or hint of gayness from the nation.

Calling for penalties that range from three years in prison to execution, the bill criminalizes touching anyone in a gay way; funding or sponsoring gay organizations; broadcasting, publishing or marketing gay material; homosexual advocacy; "aggravated homosexuality"; and the failure by any person to report to police his or her awareness of the existence of a gay person within Uganda's borders within 24 hours of learning that the homosexual exists.

The legislation also targets gay Ugandans who get married abroad. They would be imprisoned for life if they dared return home.

The bill's first sentence states: "The object of this Bill is to establish a comprehensive consolidated legislation to protect the traditional family by prohibiting (i) any form of sexual relations between persons of the same sex; and (ii) the promotion or recognition of such sexual relations in public institutions and other places through or with the support of any Government entity in Uganda or any non governmental organization inside or outside the country."

For the full text of the draconian measure, see tinyurl.com/hatebill. For information on how to help fight the bill, see tinyurl.com/iglhrc-ug. For Human Rights Watch's analysis of the bill, see tinyurl.com/hrw-ug.

ILGA-Europe holds record-breaking confab

The 13th annual conference of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (aka ILGA-Europe), held Oct. 27 to Nov. 1 in Malta, was the group's largest ever.

More than 300 people from 48 countries took part in the gathering, which focused on "Overcoming Cultural and Religious Barriers to LGBT Equality."

Keynote speakers included Ulrike Lunacek, an Austrian member of the European Parliament; Maltese MP Francis Agius, head of Malta's delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Belinda Pyke, director of a European Commission agency concerned with equality and discrimination; Louis Galea, speaker of Malta's House of Representatives; Maltese MP Evarist Bartolo; former Italian MP Vladimir

Luxuria, who is transgender; and Frits Huffnagel, deputy mayor of The Hague, Netherlands.

The conference attracted extensive positive coverage in local media.

Before the gathering kicked off, representatives of ILGA-Europe's board and staff met with Maltese President George Abela, the first head of state to host the group in conjunction with its annual confab.

Abela said information and education are important in tackling discrimination and fostering acceptance of differences—and that Malta has seen progress in GLBT acceptance.

He also stated that love is the most important thing there is and that it can't be "graded" based on sexual orientation.

Trans vicar returns to work

A vicar in Finland's Evangelical Lutheran Church has returned to her job at Tainionkoski Church in the city of Imatra after having gender-reassignment surgery.

Marja-Sisko Aalto had been away for a year before returning on Nov. 1.

Local reports said some parishioners have been supportive but that 500 people have left the congregation in the past two years, including 64 in the last two weeks of October.

Petition to legalize gay sex introduced in Cameroon

A petition and memorandum in support of decriminalizing gay sex will be introduced in Cameroon's National Assembly this month, said the GLBT organization Alternatives-Cameroun.

Activists have collected hundreds of signatures urging repeal of Penal Code Article 347, which punishes "any person who has sexual intercourse with a person of the same sex" with up to five years in prison.

Alternatives-Cameroun said the ban violates the nation's constitutional guarantee of the right to privacy and is "anachronistic and inconsistent with the current sociopolitical national and international environment."

Thousands march in Taiwan's parade

Around 25,000 people and 100 organizations took part in the seventh gay pride parade in Taipei, Taiwan, Oct. 31. They demanded civil equality and access to marriage.

The march traveled from the square outside Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou's office to downtown and back.

A cabinet bill to legalize same-sex marriage has been floundering since 2003.

1 million-plus march in Rio

Rain showers didn't stop more than 1 million people from marching in Rio de Janeiro's 14th annual gay pride parade Nov. 1.

The procession down Avenida Atlântica in Copacabana included state Gov. Sérgio Cabral, who rode on a float and said Rio always will be in the forefront of civil rights struggles.

Mayor Eduardo Paes promised to increase city funding for next year's 15th parade to as much as \$465,000.

Last year's march is believed to have infused \$26 million into the city's economy.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"WHEN DENNIS AND I STARTED CALLING 10 YEARS AGO for federal action to prevent and properly prosecute hate crimes against gay, lesbian and transgendered Americans, we never imagined it would take this long. The legislation went through so many versions and so many votes that we had to constantly keep our hopes in check to keep from getting discouraged. But with President Obama's support and the continually growing bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate lining up behind the bill this year, it became clear that 2009 was the year it would finally happen. We are incredibly grateful to Congress and the president for taking this step forward on behalf of hate-crime victims and their families, especially given the continuing attacks on people simply for living their lives openly and honestly. But each of us can and must do much more to ensure true equality for all Americans." — Judy Shepard, Matthew's mother, in response to President Barack Obama's signing a GLBT hate-crimes law Oct. 28.



I am gay, but I like kissing women sometimes.

—Adam Lambert



"THE WOMEN IN AMERICAN CABLE NEWS LOOK LIKE A BEAUTY PAGEANT. I'm not very pretty. I sorta look like a dude, and I have short hair, and I wear boring gray jackets, and I have a big nose. No one's gonna confuse me with a Fox News anchor. No one's gonna call me the anything-Honey." — Lesbian MSNBC host Rachel Maddow as quoted in New York's Daily News, Oct. 21.

"I DON'T REMEMBER ANY POINT AT WHICH I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION that gay and lesbian people should be permitted to have the same relationships as the rest of us. But it's probably the way I was raised and the people I've been in contact with throughout my life. I grew up in the Bay Area (Mountain View), went to law school in Berkeley, practiced law in Southern California for 15 years. I've developed respect for people's decisions in private sexual affairs. ... These are our friends and our

neighbors and our colleagues. We need to treat them as equals." — Famed conservative lawyer Theodore Olson, who is fighting Prop 8 in federal court, to the San Francisco Chronicle, Oct. 18.

"I THINK IT'S WEIRD THAT I'M HAVING THIS EFFECT ON WOMEN. It's flattering. I've never had underwear thrown at me before. Clearly there's something significant about it, because there aren't a lot of openly gay men in the entertainment industry." — American Idol celebrity Adam Lambert to Details magazine, November issue.

"I AM GAY, BUT I LIKE KISSING WOMEN SOMETIMES. Women are pretty. It doesn't mean I'm necessarily sleeping with them." — American Idol celebrity Adam Lambert to Details magazine, November issue.

"I SHAVE ABOUT ONCE A WEEK NOW. IT KIND OF STARTED TO COME IN just like peach fuzz. I always wanted to shave. It is a very natural process. For my birthday I got a lot of shaving stuff. Still not anywhere near what I will look like, but really for the first time I am feeling much more comfortable with how I look physically." — Cher's transgender child Chaz (formerly Chastity) Bono to Entertainment Tonight, Oct. 29.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley



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Thursday, Nov. 19
7:30 p.m.
Barbara Laken
The Cooperating Witness

Sunday, Nov. 22
4:30 p.m.
Rabbi Larry Edwards
Rabbi Benay Lappe
Torah Queeries: Weekly
Commentaries on the
Hebrew Bible
Co-sponsored by
Congregation Or Chadash



5233 N. Clark
(773) 769-9299

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**KATE
KENDELL**

The day after a hard night

Nov. 4—*Déjà vu* is welcome when it flashes us back to a welcome or happy memory. Today, *déjà vu* is not so pleasant. The loss of marriage rights in Maine is a traumatic reminder of our Prop 8 fight in California. On election night one year ago, I spent a sleepless night tormented by every thought of what might have made a difference. My colleagues in Maine spent just such a night. Same-sex couples in Maine have been dealt a dehumanizing setback.

And we are all diminished by this loss. But after 12 months to ruminate and recover from what happened in California, I have some in-

sight for them.

One: Yesterday's loss, while a real setback and a crushing disappointment, is only a temporary setback. We all know the end to this civil-rights story—we will win full equality. But it will be a path marked with pain and brutalizing defeats.

Two: It is a travesty of every principle that made this nation great that the rights of a minority group can be put up to a popular vote. There are many ignominious moments in the history of this country, moments of shame that were corrected by courts or by legislative action. If those great strides—in women's rights, in the rights of religious minorities or of African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans or American Indians—had been put up to popular vote we all know how those votes would have turned out. The shame would have endured. And the taint on our Democracy would have continued.

Third: And there is no polite way to say this—one cannot claim to be fair-minded and still support measures which deny full equality. You either support full justice and civil rights and equality or you don't. Period. End of side-stepping and excuses.

For my friends and family who support civil

unions or domestic partnerships but do not support the full equality of my 16-year relationship and the security of my two children which rests on that full equality—and yes, that means marriage, right now, in this country—you have to get off that fence. We are past the moment when you can claim support of me and other LGBT folks you know and love and yet still stand with those who deny us marriage. To not support marriage equality, right here and right now, means you believe that same-sex couples are less valid, less equal, and less deserving. Such a position is untenable with any claim that one is "fair-minded."

We are in a difficult moment. This is a hard day. But we can't lose hope or stop believing in the rightness of our cause. We have the privilege of living in the midst of our own civil rights movement. The cost of that privilege is the same cost it has been in every movement—our humanity and dignity is attacked and undermined and we stand tall, never give up, and never lose faith. Today is a test, and we must be the measure of it.

Kate Kendell is executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.



**RICHARD
YURKO**

A fight continues

I live in Ogunquit, Maine. I married my husband five years ago when we both lived in Massachusetts. Our marriage, recognized in Massachusetts, is not recognized in my current state of residence. One part of the statute that was vetoed by the plebiscite yesterday was a provision recognizing same-sex marriages performed elsewhere. I am personally devastated by the vote. I can only imagine the devastation for life-long Mainers who have never had the chance to marry.

They say that victory has many parents and defeat is an orphan. It seems that on this listserv defeat is a bastard and everyone wants to point to everyone who screwed us to produce this defeat. One certainly could make a list of folks, feckless allies, that perhaps could have helped make this vote a victory rather than a defeat. One could make an even longer list of folks that worked against us, with misrepresentations, lies, fear and prejudice.

On the other hand, rather than dwelling on everyone that could have helped, but didn't, or on all the folks that actively worked against us, I want to pause for a moment to do two things.

First, simply to mourn the loss and to imagine what could have been.

Second, there is a still longer list of caring, devoted and committed individuals who did whatever they could and who worked tirelessly to try to defend marriage equality in Maine. Gay/straight, young/old, those with money, those with time, those with industry and compassion tried to get this thing done. I have never been simultaneously as devastated individually and yet as proud of a massive effort in my life. My husband and I gave money until it hurt, we held a fundraiser at our restaurant that raised many tens of thousands locally, we wrote and posted our friends, we posted No on 1 signs, we housed young volunteers who came to Maine to aid in the canvassing and get out the vote. Despite all this I feel as though our contributions were nothing compared to the many, many others around the state who did even more, so much more, and the friends from around the na-

tion who also pitched in with time, money, hard work and all kinds of support—recognizing that although this was not their fight in their backyard, the fight of each of us is the fight of all of us. I feel I owe a bottomless debt of gratitude to these folks. I wish I could look each of them in the eye and assure them that, whenever they need similar help, I will be there.

When your home is burning and a neighbor comes to help you battle it, you owe him or her a debt regardless of whether you save the home. That person was there for you. So many folks were there for us. To each of you, I am indebted.

Maybe Maine was not Obama's fight; indeed, Obama has never said he is with us in the cause of marriage equality. On the other hand, for instance, Obama has said that he would rid us of Don't Ask Don't Tell. That is his commitment to us, and to date he has not acted when, in fact, he can. Some of you will give him more time. Some of you will not. For my part, I consider immediate elimination of DADT as a marker. It was his promise, he has the power, it is his arena, and it is one more stigma and badge of prejudice that needs to be removed. So, too, was DOMA. For me this is another marker. Obama has said it should be repealed, yet he has done nothing on this front. And let's not forget that the Democratic Party is more than Obama. To all the weak-kneed Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reids and similar feckless "allies" in Congress, grow a backbone. In the last 90 days I have seen more backbone, courage and mettle in young college students from Cincinnati who came to Maine to work for equality than I have seen in most of our 535 elected folks on Capitol Hill. After this fight, I know whom I respect. I respect the devoutly Catholic grandmother who recorded a moving ad to other Mainers saying that her son and his partner, who are making a good home for their young son, deserve the right to get married. I respect those college students from Cincinnati. I respect and love those friends and strangers who knocked on doors, wrote checks, advocated and worked so hard. I respect Mary Bonauto who debated the forces of prejudice tirelessly and everywhere there was a mike and a podium. I respect the truly tireless organizers of the No on 1 campaign who did everything they could think of to get this done and who, against all odds, almost succeeded. On the other hand, Barack, Nancy and Harry, you have yet to earn my respect. The most difficult thing to do in life is to speak truth to power. If any of you on this listserv are in a position to speak truth to the Democratic Party's power, tell them that the time is now to earn our respect.

There is a course to history. Our rights shall come. There are too many incredible people of

passionate intensity and good will fighting for those rights for it not to arrive. Today, I simply have to recognize and reconcile myself to the fact that it will take a bit longer in Maine.

Richard J. Yurko is married to Robert F. Leary and they have three sons, aged 24, 22 and 20. Yurko is the founding shareholder of the Boston law firm of Yurko, Salvesen & Remz, P.C., and he and Leary own The Morning Dove B&B and a restaurant, Katie's on Shore Road, in Ogunquit, Maine.

Letter:

A plea to Gutierrez

Dear Rep. Gutierrez:

Today, I reach out to you with great urgency and conviction to advocate for the inclusion of LGBT families in the comprehensive immigration reform bill that you are drafting.

While our country's immigration system is broken for many families, LGBT families are particularly vulnerable. As I am sure you are aware, gay and lesbian U.S. citizens cannot sponsor their foreign-born, same-sex partners for immigration, no matter how long they have been together or how committed their relationship. Without access to partner sponsorship, foreign-born partners can be and regularly are forced to leave the country and their spouses and children.

As a vocal supporter of the Uniting American Families Act of 2009, you are aware that this bill aims to end immigration discrimination against lesbian and gay Americans by allowing them to sponsor their permanent partners for immigration.

In advocating for justice for the LGBT community, it is important to acknowledge that LGBT immigrants are among the most vulnerable members of our community. They face the dual discrimination of being immigrants along with homophobia and/or transphobia. UAFA provides a vehicle for LGBT families to access justice and is a step towards Lambda Legal's mission of achieving full recognition of the civil rights of LGBT people.

You are one of the most tireless and committed advocates for our diverse immigrant community and a leader with vision, compassion and uncompromising principles of inclusion and fairness. Today, we look towards that vision, compassion and those principles and ask you to not leave LGBT families unprotected.

—Jim Bennett, Lambda Legal



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GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

SWEDE NOTHINGS

Thomas Ljungman (above) stars in the Swedish film *Patrik, Age 1.5*, one of the entries in this year's Reeling Film Festival. Read page 18.

THEATER

'Young' at heart.
Page 16.

Photo by
Paul Kolnik



HRC GALA

Gant and rave.
Page 21.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald
(MysticImagesPhotography.com)



SOFA 2009

Image is
everything.
Page 25.

Photo by Andrew Davis



NUNN ON DUNN: THEATER

A hip(-hop) twist on Shakespeare

BY JERRY NUNN

Adrian Dunn and HoperaWorld are presenting *Hopera: A Fallen Hero* in November. A twist on Shakespeare's *Othello*, Dunn composed the music and book as well as creating HoperaWorld. Nunn spoke to Dunn one on one.

Windy City Times: Hello, Adrian. Tell our readers why they should see your show.

AD: They should see it because it is the best new thing happening. It's a hip-hop opera. The show is about a young African American kid growing up in Chicago. He's trying to manage the terrain of dealing with an unsupportive mom and teacher. He does have a mentor that comes and help him along to reach his full potential. He deals with the loss of his best friend who is killed. The story is loosely based off of *Othello*. At the beginning of the show Obadiah kills himself and we rewind to how it all came to be.

WCT: The show is a mix of hip-hop and opera?

AD: In terms of the composition it is hip-hop. We have seven classically trained vocalists. The lead is an operatic vocalist. You are going to get some good singin'.

WCT: There is a DJ, also?

AD: Yes. [There are] a live band and a small string orchestra as well.

WCT: You composed the music?

AD: I composed the entire piece and score to *A Fallen Hero*. I also worked on the libretto with a co-writer who worked on the main rap character, whose name is Zion, for his lyrics.

WCT: What is your background?

AD: I am originally from Cleveland, Ohio. I came up through the Cleveland Orchestra Youth



Left: The cast of *Hopera: A Fallen Hero*. Right: Adrian Dunn.



Chorus. I went to college at Roosevelt University in Chicago. I completed my degree at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. I came back to Chicago and started my company, HoperaWorld.

WCT: So you have experiences to bring from all over.

AD: I think my experiences in Finland helped me to see not only how hip-hop is here in the states but what it looks like from the other shores—how people view hip-hop and African-American culture, and its influences on our world.

WCT: Have you seen the movie *O* [a 2001 drama with Josh Hartnett and Mekhi Phifer that's a loose adaptation of *Othello*]?

AD: Yes, I have. I loved that movie. It was a lot of my initial inspiration but, as you know, as artists you can start off one way and end up somewhere else. Verdi is one of my favorite composers and I studied *Othello* in college. The connection between William Shakespeare and the actual operatic text was so similar.

Going back to the *O* movie, the "Ave Maria" aria used at the end was even more of an inspiration. So many stories of young Black men are

glamorized so I hope this show will allow people to see the inner psyche of them in the 21st century. Obadiah King is like any Asian, white or Black kid. We basically see our connection through human experience. We all experience oppression and violence to some degree. I am using Obadiah to universally show how we are as people.

WCT: As gay people we feel oppression also, so there are things for us to identify in the show as well then.

AD: Absolutely. There are gay cast members in the show. I am gay. It is a big thing in dealing with the minority community as an artist period. I want to show people that all of our oppression is the same. This piece is about social consciousness. There is one gay character in the show. His name is Mr. Johnson. He is the mentor that helps Obadiah that I spoke of earlier. I think gay folks will really appreciate what we do with this opera because it is basically a musical.

WCT: What is planned for the future of this company?

AD: My goal is to get this show to Broadway. I mean a Broadway budget—not necessarily on

Broadway, but that would be awesome, too. We are currently recording the album right now. Our DVD will be on sale at the show this November.

Hopera: A Fallen Hero runs at the Dusable Museum of African American History, 740 E. 56th Place, Nov 12-14, at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. Visit www.dusablemuseum.org or www.hoperaworld.com for more information.

Also, see the Spotlight for more about Hopera.

CRITICS' PICKS

End Days, Next Theatre, through Nov. 29. Jesus, Elvis and Stephen Hawking play supporting roles to Laura T. Fisher's complex and wholly empathetic depiction of an Evangelical zealot. Never mind God. Fisher walks away (albeit not on water) with Deborah Zoe Lauffer's trippy, provocative drama. CS

Man of La Mancha, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre at No Exit Café, through Nov. 22. A misguided visual concept almost sinks this stirring musical adaptation of Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, but Danielle Brothers' cross-gender turn as the moonstruck old knight single-handedly carries the evening. MSB

These Shining Lives, Rivendell at Raven Theatre, through Nov. 21. A remount of Melanie Marnich's richly-personal yet fact-based drama about 1920's women who painted radium dials on watches; a tale of sexism and accountability that resonates today. JA

Thoroughly Modern Millie, Drury Lane, Oak Brook, through Dec. 20. Who cares if Jeanine Tesori's wonderful score is littered with interpolations? This is truly one fun tap-happy production that both jabs at and celebrates the art deco exuberance of the 1920s musical. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge,
Morgan and Sullivan

steppenwolf



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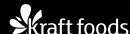
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Young Frankenstein the Musical. Photo by Paul Kolnik

THEATER REVIEW

Young Frankenstein the Musical

Playwright: Mel Brooks & Thomas Meehan (book), Mel Brooks (music & lyrics)
At: Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph
Tickets: 800-775-2000;
www.BroadwayInChicago.com; \$30-\$95
Runs through: Dec. 13

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Folks who've never seen Young Frankenstein the Movie will have a high old time at Young Frankenstein the Musical, an old-fashioned song-and-dance show where the gags come fast and furious. Mel Brooks, the principal creative force behind movie and musical, has an inexhaustible joke book that begins with brainy puns, builds to semi-scatalogical anatomical comedy and ascends to the heights of Jewish humor. As a composer and lyricist his songs are smart, tuneful and appropriate if not particularly memorable. He's penned some wickedly-sharp patter songs lyrics and a decent ballad or two, as well as comedy and character numbers in various traditional Broadway styles. The cast of director and cho-

reographer Susan Strohman bursts with talent, and Roger Bart in the title role is charming ... but more about that later.

But what about those who *have* seen the 1974 movie? The inevitable comparisons will focus broadly on film vs. stage, and narrowly on the lead role of Victor Frankenstein, played on film by Gene Wilder.

One of the great joys of the movie is that, in addition to a brilliant concept and script and stellar performances, the filmmaking itself is a loving parody of the 1930s horror film genre. Shot in black and white, it features the expressionistic shadows, sharp camera angles and period art decoration of the 1931 original that inspired it. The entire filmic aspect is, of course, completely missing in a full-color Broadway musical which swaps film style for Broadway song-and-dance. About half the numbers work very well, but the other half just try too hard to force songs into what were brilliant non-musical movie moments.

As the musical's Victor Frankenstein, Roger Bart doesn't try to impersonate Gene Wilder—much to his credit—except at a few key moments. Bart is different rather than empirically better or worse. Wilder, even when still, has a manic intensity few actors can duplicate. He has an attack, an edge, a hint of danger about him. The boyish Bart lacks that hint of danger although

SPOTLIGHT



Blending musical genres doesn't always work, but let's give Adrian Dunn a chance with **Hopera: A Fallen Hero**. Dunn utilizes a cast of operatic and hip-hop soloists, dancers and a live orchestra to present a modern-day take on Othello, Shakespeare's classic tragedy of love and jealousy. *Hopera: A Fallen Hero* plays 7:30 p.m. Nov. 12-14 and 4 p.m. Nov. 15 at the DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 E. 56th Place. Tickets are \$25 (\$20 for seniors and students); call 773-947-0600 or visit www.hoperaworld.com. Photo courtesy of Hoperaworld

he moves and sings with ingratiating grace and has excellent comedy chops. But Bart offers a more subtle performance than Wilder's in a show with a pedigree that includes burlesque, a very unsubtle type of entertainment. Victor refers to himself as "sane" in contrast to his grandfather who created the first creature. In a way, Bart's Victor *is* sane and sane (as well as virginal), surrounded by loonies, but this interpretation—in part Strohman's, too—offers no particular benefit for the show.

Among other players, Joanna Glushak's Frau Blucher and Shuler Hensley's Monster were the crowd-pleasers (rightfully so), and experienced eyes also could appreciate the high-stepping eccentric dancing of ensemble members such as Chuck Rea as the Village Idiot.

THEATER REVIEW

The Message Is In The Music

Playwright: Jackie Taylor
At: Black Ensemble Theater at the Beacon Street
Hull House, 4520 N. Beacon
Phone: 773-769-4451; \$45
Runs through: open run

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The message in the title of this latest musical revue from Black Ensemble Theater is that Rick Stone, the charismatic performer we recall for his powerhouse depiction of bluesman Howlin' Wolf in 2003, is playing the non-denomination-



The Message Is In The Music. Photo by Daniel Nicholas

al Lord identified in this show as "He." And if that's not enough to warrant a call to the ticket office, how about a score that includes covers of songs written and/or recorded by artists ranging from Curtis Mayfield and Stevie Wonder to Paul Simon and Elvis Presley, where even the band dances when the angels sing the disco-classic "I Feel Love?"

"In my house," declares the almighty Him, "everybody comes to the party."

Playgoers unfamiliar with the BET aesthetic may be understandably puzzled. For over three decades, the little company that Jackie Taylor built has been attracting national attention for its homages to pop-music icons often forgotten nowadays. And if that makes it a purveyor of "jukebox musicals," then tell me where you'll find a jukebox with both Paul McCartney's "Let It Be" and the Isley Brothers' "Fight the Power" on its playlist.

The plot is as simple as it is timeless: Lucifer wants to (yawn) destroy the universe, and to that end, has promoted war, prejudice and general discord throughout the earth. Existential questions raised by this goal are dismissed as casually as the theologically muddy introduction of a She-consort for our heavenly patriarch, along with a mixed-blood—mortal and divine—executive assistant called Trinity. (Christians can substitute their own titles for these characters, if they wish.) Tactics still demand that the devil's entourage be turned toward the righteous path, but given the secular humanitarian leanings of its counselors, is it any wonder that compassion and forgiveness triumphs over selfish nihilism?

The day's victory is accomplished by an ensemble delivering rock-solid vocals—in particular, Trinity P. Murdock, whose namesake's mid-show rendition of "Going In Circles" will wring your heart like a night in Gethsemane—rendered full-bodied by Robert Reddrick's eight-piece orchestra, featuring a brass section that Gabriel himself might envy, along with some catchy hoofing, deftly choreographed by Rueben Echoles. Running through the end of 2009 (if not longer), *The Message Is In The Music* makes joyful noise to affirm those values we all share as we welcome in the second decade of the 21st century.

Correction

The information for last week's review of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* contained incorrect information. The playwrights are Jeanine Tesori, Dick Scanlan and Richard Morris, and it's running at Drury Lane Oak Brook, 10 Drury, Oakbrook Terrace. Tickets are \$29-\$38; call 630-530-0111. The production runs through Dec. 20.

Windy City Times regrets the error.

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THEATER REVIEW

1512 West Studebaker Place

Playwright: the Brain Surgeon ensemble, from a concept by Liz Ladach-Bark and Joseph Riley
 At: Brain Surgeon Theater at Prop Thtr, 3502 N. Elston
 Phone: 866-811-4111; \$15
 Runs through: Nov. 22

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The title address is a shabby dwelling in an unnamed city, currently home to an assortment of citizens not without accomplishments, but at the height of the Great Depression, sadly down on their luck. The clan patriarch is artisan Stanley, his family comprised of wife Olivia, two young daughters and his razzle-dazzle sister Louise. Boarding in one attic room are musicians Mim and Juliet, in the other, writer Walter Lummet and his son—the latter nicknamed “mouse”

for his habit of creeping out the window onto the roof. During the course of our acquaintance with this community, Mim will be courted by the butcher’s son, Olivia will announce that she is pregnant, Walter will mourn the loss of his neglected son’s mother, Louise will be abandoned by her boyfriend “out west,” a locked safe possibly containing treasure will be discovered, and the landlady will demand her overdue rent.

If these plot complications seem—well, generic, it might be because the script is not the product of a single author, but a collaborative effort by the ensemble calling itself Brain Surgeon Theater. Surprisingly, the storyline exhibits none of the patchiness characteristic of committee-crafted texts, instead emerging as a Dickensian narrative woven round the question lying at the heart of all human destiny, and certainly at the center of every drama—namely, why do we stay here?

This is no trivial rumination. Just as every playwright must justify their personnel’s reluctance to flee discomforting circumstances, so does every denizen of this microcosmic universe, after lamenting their thwarted ambitions, weigh their current options. And as one strikes out alone, and others wait for crises to be forced upon them, the progress of each character’s self-examination so arouses our empathy that, when the play comes to an abrupt ending, we clamor for a sequel to tell us how it eventually comes out for these people of whom we have become fond.

Inspiring that response is a sharply focused cast wholly committed, adults and children alike, to vividly etched portrayals of the pilgrims populating this latter-day colony. Joseph Riley’s scenic design packs front stoop, parlor (with piano), kitchen, hallway, and bedrooms onto a stage measuring a mere 19 by 18 feet (with a 12-foot ceiling), while Christopher Cole and Gwen Tulin’s original music captures with uncanny accuracy the rallying optimism of its period. Hard times breed interesting beginnings—and Studebaker Place offers a dozen, at least.

THEATER REVIEW

Mojo Mickybo

Playwright: Owen McCafferty
 At: Seanachai Theatre at the Artistic Home, 3914 N. Clark
 Phone: 773-878-3727; \$26
 Runs through: Dec. 6

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Mojo Mickybo is a *tour de force* for actors Robert Kauzleric and Dan Waller, who almost redeem the predictability of playwright Owen McCafferty’s story of innocence lost in 1970 Belfast. When the writing veers into precious-bordering-on-twee (as it often does), it’s the performances that keep things from becoming as saccharine sweet as a Hallmark moment.

Directed by Jeff Christian, Kauzleric and Waller portray 17 characters between them, each one of them sharply etched. The thick Belfast accents are perhaps a bit too accurate—It took several scenes for our ears to adjust enough to be able to make out most of the dialogue. The bulk of that dialogue belongs to youngsters Mojo (Kauzleric) and Mickybo (Waller), 10-year-old boys who meet on a slow, hot afternoon and strike up an instant, intense friendship. Since Mojo is Protestant and Mickybo is Catholic, it’s clear early on that in this time of the Troubles, only sadness will come of this friendship. But before the sadness, McCafferty details an idyllic if impoverished boy’s life and a fine gallery of neighborhood personalities.

Roaming the streets of Belfast—skipping stones, rolling down hills, digging holes to China, taunting the neighborhood thugs—the two become thick as thieves. It’s a Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer in Erin, with a bit of Dickensian poverty and idiosyncratic adult folk thrown in. There’s also a good deal of William Goldman and George Roy Hill, the writer and director of the 1969 classic *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

When the film comes to the local movie house, Mojo and Mickybo are transfixed. A truly wonderful highlight of the 70-minute piece comes as the two watch it in awed silence. With key quotes forming an aural collage in the background (“Who are those guys?”), the boys register a mix of hero worship and wistful longing—until “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ On My Head” starts tinkling at which point the lads’ faces reflect dismay and confused betrayal that their macho idols could act like such softies.



Mojo Mickybo.

Online This Week:

- End Days
 - Bridget McManus interview
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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



Patrik, Age 1.5.

Reeling: The second week

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Richard Ganoung (star of the gay classic *Parting Glances* and the Sean Hayes comedic vehicle *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*) Queer Eye's Jai Rodriguez and a host of behind the camera LGBT filmmakers will attend the second week of Reeling 2009, the 28th edition of Chicago's Gay and Lesbian film festival. Fest director Brenda Webb has again overseen the wide-ranging selection of LGBT film fare that promises a continued array of highlights as the series approaches its finale, the Sunday, Nov. 15 screening of *Oy Vey! My Son Is Gay!*, starring actress and singer Lainie Kazan and its after-party festivities (more on that later).

But before that, festival goers will have a lot to choose from. Some second-week highlights include the Thursday, Nov. 12, screening of the endearing Swedish dramedy *Patrik, Age 1.5*, in which gay couple Göran and Sven decide to adopt a baby to round out their new dream life in suburbia. But a typo on the application in-

stead dumps a homophobic 15-year-old juvenile delinquent on their doorstep, helping to escalate troubles in the relationship and in their supposedly tolerant neighborhood. That's followed by *Just Say Love*, a two-character filmed play (with stylized lighting and sets) about two polar opposites—the artistic and philosophically inclined Guy who is gay and Doug, the “straight” hunky dodo construction worker—who fall for each other against the odds. Both films screen at the Landmark Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark—Patrik at 7 p.m. and *Just Say Love* at 9:15 p.m.

Laura Harring, star of David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive*, headlines the lesbian black comedy *Drool*. Harring plays a harried housewife, subjected to abuse by her racist husband (Oded Fehr from *The Mummy*) and disrespect from her teenage kids (becoming a spiritual cousin to both Mink Stole's Peggy Gravel in John Waters' *Desperate Living* and Divine's Francine Fishpaw in Waters' *Polyester*). A friendship with her new African-American neighbor, Imogene (Jill Marie Jones

of TV's “*Girlfriends*”), blossoms into something more until the husband walks in, discovering the romance. All hell breaks loose with darkly comedic results. *Drool* screens on Friday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. at Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash. It's followed by a 9 p.m. screening of *ZMD: Zombies of Mass Destruction*. Sooner or later, a queer addition to the killer-zombie genre had to arrive and *ZMD*, a horror comedy (cleverly billed as a “political zomedy”) in the tradition of *Evil Dead/Drag Me to Hell* auteur Sam Raimi, is great fun. Prepare yourself for lots and lots of gross-out gore and plenty of tongue-in-cheek dialogue *a la* *Shaun of the Dead*.

The Queer Film Society (QFS)—the film group that I started with my fellow queer film critics, academics and historians last spring—will co-host with Reeling a discussion panel on the state of queer cinema Saturday, Nov. 14, at 3 p.m. The panel, titled “*New Queer Cinema*,” will be moderated by Time Out film section editor and critic Hank Sartin and includes Gay Chicago Magazine editor and film critic Jonathan Lewis; Columbia College Film Department co-chair and author Joe Steiff; Nick Davis, assistant professor of English and gender studies at Northwestern University; myself; and perhaps most pertinent to the topic, out actor Ganoung. Will the rapidly growing number of indie films, mainstream movies and television programming featuring gay characters and themes increase recognition of queer audiences by the Hollywood studio system? Is Hollywood up to the task of accurately representing the LGBTQ community? Why don't queer audiences support queer movies when they're in theatres? What stories are still untold? Is Neil Patrick Harris the Great White Hope for gay superstardom? Does he have a female counterpart? More importantly—will others follow in his footsteps (should that be the case)? Are we ever going to see a Hollywood leading male actor (and actress) come out in our lifetime and continue to be a box-office draw? The panel will include audience members in discussing these and other topics.

Ganoung will stick around for a screening of *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss* at 5 p.m. and a post-audience Q&A with film critic Charlie Shoquist, another co-presentation of Reeling and the QFS. This is a rare opportunity to see out director Tommy O'Haver's 1998 charming roman-

tic comedy on the big screen. Sean Hayes stars as the adorable Billy, a photographer who is unlucky in love and career. He convinces the hunky “straight” Gabriel (Brad Rowe of *Shelter* fame) to pose for a series of sexy man-on-man recreations of famous screen kisses, and the “Is he, isn't he?” tension starts to rise. Will Billy get the perfect photo? Will Gabriel turn out to be gayer than he claims? Will Billy ever notice his sweet friend Perry (Ganoung)? O'Haver delivers light-hearted laughs, erotic tension and heartfelt lessons in love. *Note*: Due to a scheduling conflict O'Haver, who was scheduled to appear at the screening, will not be present. The New Queer Cinema panel discussion is free, and admission to Billy is \$10 (\$8 for Reeling members). Both events take place at Film Row Cinema.

Also screening on Saturday, Nov. 14, is *Rivers Wash Over Me*, Reeling's dramatic centerpiece. After the death of his mother in New York, Sequan Green, a sensitive African-American gay teen, is sent to live with relatives in backwoods Alabama. To say that Sequan has trouble adapting is putting it mildly in this entertaining melodrama highlighted by Derrick L. Middleton's performance in the leading role. The movie screens at 9 p.m. at Film Row Cinema.

The festival ends on Sunday, Nov. 15, with a 7:30 p.m. screening (at the Music Box Theatre—3733 N. Southport) of the aforementioned *Oy Vey! My Son Is Gay!*, the latest in a long line of ethnic-based comedies in which a closeted gay must finally, finally come out to his stunned but eventually supportive family (think *Mambo Italiano*, *The Wedding Banquet*, etc.). Evgeny Afineevsky's film is greatly aided by his willing cast, headed by Lainie Kazan, Saul Rubinek, Bruce Vilanch (playing straight as the wacky uncle), Carmen Electra, Vincent Pastore and Jai Rodriguez as the frustrated boyfriend. Afineevsky and Rodriguez will attend both the screening and festive after party at Architectural Artifacts, 4325 N. Ravenswood, kicking off at 9 p.m.

There are many other second-week films, short and long, worth checking out. Find out complete festival information, tickets, theatres and locations by calling 773-293-1447 or visiting www.reelingfilmfestival.org.

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The reel thing



The opening reception for Reeling 2009: The 28th Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival took place Nov. 5 at Architectural Artifacts, 4325 N. Ravenswood. Attendees mingled while the Joan Crawford-inspired band The Joans entertained. The closing-night gala will be held Nov. 15 at the same venue with special guest Evgeny Afineevsky, director of *Oy Vey! My Son Is Gay*. See www.reelingfilmfestival.org. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); see more online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



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NUNN ON ONE: REELING FILM FESTIVAL

'Oy Vey!': It's Bruce Vilanch

BY JERRY NUNN

Bruce Vilanch is no longer just a Hollywood Square. Whether he's writing for the Academy Awards or losing weight on Celebrity Fit Club, this comedic man behind the scenes continues to stand out. With his new movie *Oy Vey! My Son is Gay!* at Reeling it was time for Nunn on One to Get Bruce!

Windy City Times: Hi, Bruce. I met you a few years ago at the Grabby Awards in Chicago.

Bruce Vilanch: Oh, wow. I must have been chemically altered. That's what you do at the Grabby Awards.

WCT: You were a little grabby with me at the time.

BV: Well, if not there, where?

WCT: What have you been up to?

BV: I was in Houston, Dallas and Orland performing my one-man extravaganza. It was fun but it was hot in Houston and freezing every place else. In Florida I froze. You don't realize how un-fun a place can be until you are in Florida and it's cold. We were all looking at each other and going, "Why? Why does this place exist?"

WCT: You and me actually have a lot in common. We are both gay, adopted, studied theater in college and worked in journalism.

BV: And you are a size queen?

WCT: At times...



Bruce Vilanch.

BV: I know exactly what those times are.

WCT: Did being Jewish and gay attract you to the *Oy Vey* project?

BV: [Laughs] Our director—the crazy Russian, Evgeny—had been pursuing me to do a rewrite on it. Which I couldn't do but I did throw some jokes into it. He finally asked me to be in it. He had been so dogged in getting this movie made that he made it impossible to say no. It's a very sweet 1950's retro kind of comedy. If they had been doing sitcoms in the fifties this would have been it. It has a warm family, my big fat gay wedding feeling to it. That was what was fun about it. The cast is amazing, a lot of them Jews and some of them not gay like Lainie Kazan.

WCT: I spoke with the director, Evgeny Afineevsky, today.

BV: I hope you understood him. He's not the easiest. I kept saying, "Call the embassy; we need a translator!"

WCT: He is very intense. You have another gay-themed movie coming out call *Tru Loved*.

BV: It is a very sweet comedy where I play a single gay dad of a straight kid, actually. They are both really sweet family movies. They will not advance the radical fairy agenda. I mean strong armed activists won't be thrill with them because they are the lighter side of the whole experience. *Tru Loved* is actually how *The Bully-*

ing Project got started and the gay-straight student alliances in high schools across the country. *Oy Vey* is about how the older generation has to accept that not only people are gay but that they want to get married and have children. It's like a triple whammy that's being unleashed on these people.

WCT: I just saw *Oy Vey* today, and loved it.

BV: Well, then you know.

WCT: When are you coming back to Chicago?

BV: I don't know. I thought I might come in town for the premiere at the Music Box but I don't know if I have that date clear. I actually might be doing something there the first week in November. I may be working on something that is shooting in Chicago.

WCT: Wonderful. I just interviewed Lily Tomlin, and she mentioned you.

BV: Yes, well we just did her cover story for *The Advocate*. I interviewed her. I did what you are doing. She is turning 70 this year and playing Vegas for the first time.

WCT: And your friend *Better Midler* is playing Vegas, also.

BV: I just talked to her and she is in Vegas as we speak. I worked on the show with her. She will be there at least until February off and on. Then we will see if she will continue because it will actually have been two years, which is hard to believe.

WCT: I saw you in *Hairspray* in Chicago. What a great job you did with that role.

BV: Thanks. I try to stay busy. A moving target is harder to hit.

WCT: What's your favorite T-shirt saying?

BV: My all time favorite is "Pardon me but you are standing on my penis." I have a personal favorite that says nothing but it's Wilma Flinstone and she's in full bondage drag and spanking Betty Rubble who she has over her knee. I just think its Wilma and Betty when the boys are out. The secret life of cartoon characters...

Oy Vey! My Son is Gay! closes the Reeling Film Festival Sunday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport. Visit reelingfilmfestival.org for more details.

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Evgeny Afineevsky.

NUNN ON ONE: REELING FILM FESTIVAL Afineevsky shows us the 'Vey'

BY JERRY NUNN

Evgeny Afineevsky, writer and director of the movie *Oy Vey! My Son Is Gay!* is closing out the Reeling Film Festival with an appearance in Chicago Sunday, Nov. 15. *Windy City Times* spoke to the director about his film.

Windy City Times: Is this your first time in Chicago?

Evgeny Afineevsky: Yes—my first time and I am very excited.

WCT: Are you traveling all over to promote the film?

EA: Yes, I have been traveling a lot, for example this week I am traveling back to Montreal where the movie is already a big success, all four screeners were sold out. After that I am heading to Seattle where there is a huge political event. The film was created in Washington so that is like our home base. The mayor and the governor are coming and are involved in Proposition 71 [which ultimately seeks to pre-

vent the state's domestic-partnership bill from going into effect]. It is something like Prop 8. Next week I will be in New York for the AIDS Foundation for an event. So you see it's a lot.

WCT: Oy, vey! I am exhausted just thinking about it! You are originally from Russia, correct?

EA: Yes—born in Russia, raised in Israel [and] then came to the United States...

WCT: How did you decide that you wanted to be a director?

EA: You know, it's funny. I always acted and produced. When I was in Israel, I directed for the stage. When I came to America, I had such an accent that I could not act. I speak three languages but can't act here. I was producing movies instead. When I was developing *Oy Vey* I saw that the people we hired were not working out so I did it myself. Then I decided to direct it as well.

WCT: Did you rewrite the script?

EA: It was by another writer in the first place but when I got a hold of it, I recreated the entire script. I made it into a comedy of errors and situations. With my vision it is an old fashioned comedy with a new twist. In our days we still have these kinds of people but I am trying to bring the message to a new generation. We still have problems like Proposition 8 and equality because of the older generation. The message I wanted to convey in the script is that this is about love. I try to tell it in the simple language of jokes. It is more powerful than all this fighting and demonstrations. When are you are not pushing people will hopefully accept such a thing.

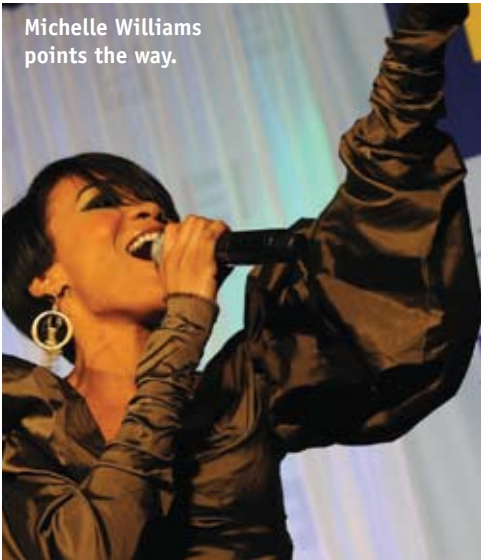
For more about Evgeny—such as how he got such a top-notch cast—go online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



From left: Vernita Gray, Pat Ewert, Lisa Madigan, Lauren Verdich and Gail Morse.



Robert Gant.



Michelle Williams points the way.



Joe Solmonese.

HRC shines on

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Chicago held its annual gala at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker, Nov. 7. HRC, the United States' largest LGBT-rights organization, boasts a large constituency in Chicago and, as in past years, held a sold-out event.

"Time to Shine" was the theme of this year's gala. The theme was inspired to reflect a time of change, with political shifts and activism for LGBT rights. Dinner Co-Chairs Ashley Fowler and Kyle Jackson kicked off the event by introducing performer Michelle Williams (formerly with Destiny's Child) who didn't miss a beat. Instead of the standard performance of singing to a seated crowd, Williams encouraged everyone to get up and dance while she floated amongst the attendees and selected random guests to join her on stage to dance with her.

With the energy set, national HRC President Joe Solmonese spoke, inspiring the crowd to celebrate the gains made for the LGBT community.

The Corporate Equity Award went to Rush University Medical Center and the 4th annual LGBT College Student Award recipient was Tony Taylor. Taylor, a founding member of his high school's gay-straight alliance, was crowned prom king as a senior. As a college student, Taylor has used his artistic creativity to express his political belief in the freedom of expression and disdain for homophobia. He has created a Web-based talk show that promotes urban gay issues, often denouncing machismo stereotypes such as "thugs" and "trade." In addition, Taylor has served as chairman for the Youth Pride Center, an African-American LGBT organization focusing on youth on the South and West sides of Chicago.

Actor Robert Gant (TV's *Queer As Folk*) spoke eloquently about the damage he believes the far right has made in LGBT people's pursuit of Christian beliefs and practice. Despite the seriousness of the theme, his presentation had a very positive spiritual tone and was well received by those in attendance.

The night ended with Chicago's DJ Laura B getting the crowd dancing as soon as dinner was done. Text by Mel Ferrand; photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com), with many more online at WindyCityMediaGroup.com

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Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Connect Multi-Chamber structured format of this program, which gives each participant an opportunity to speak to a receptive audience about his/her company's products and services. Don't miss this unique opportunity to expand your reach and resources! Member: \$20

Chicago House Luncheon with Bill Clinton Chicago House Inaugural Speaker Series Luncheon Featuring President Bill Clinton 773-2485200X303 <http://www.chicago-house.org>

LGBT Call In Show on Cable TV CAN-TV, 6:30-6:55 p.m. on Cable Channel 21 in Chicago, 2nd Friday of each month. 773-209-1187; <http://gayliberation.net>

Writer/performer Terry Galloway, Author of Mean Little deaf Queer is reading and signing her book at Women & Children First; www.meanlittledaefqueer.com

Veterans Day Dinner, Chicago AVER The Chicago Chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights 17th annual Veterans Day Dinner and silent auction with charismatic transgender guest speaker Lt. LeAnaa Bradley, U.S. Navy retired after 37 years of service with two Purple Hearts from Vietnam service. \$30 includes dinner and drinks. Ann Sather Restaurant, 909 W. Belmont. www.averchicago.org 773-752-0058; www.averchicago.org/

The Call Boys' flag football fundraiser Join the Call Boys flag football team to help raise funds for TPAN. www.cattleallchicago.com

'VEY' TO GO Sunday, Nov. 15

Oy Vey! My Son Is Gay will be the closing-night film at Reeling 2009.



Thursday, Nov. 12

Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame Induction 2009 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame induction ceremony. <http://www.glhalloffame.org>

Toshi Reagon, Midwest Tour Toshi Reagon, out lesbian singer, in a mini Midwest Tour "Music For Your Life" <http://www.toshireagon.com>

Reeling 2009: Patrik, Age 1.5 Admission: \$10 (\$8 members), tickets available online: <http://reelingfilmfestival.tix.com> <http://www.reelingfilmfestival.org>

CoH: Speed Dating—Women's Night Center on Halsted hosts an evening of Speed Dating for women co-sponsored by Out Alumni Chicago, the Chicagoland Gay and Lesbian Singles Meetup, and the Chicago Professionals Meetup. Tickets are \$12 at the door, and \$10 advance online at www.centeronhalsted.org. Cash bar begins at 6:45 p.m.; 773-661-0763; www.centeronhalsted.org

Friday, Nov. 13

An Evening with Terry Galloway Access Living, An Evening with Terry Galloway (performance, reading, videos). Call for details. 312-640-2100 <http://www.meanlittledaefqueer.com>

The Addams Family Musical Opening The Addams Family A New Musical, Ford Oriental Theatre, through Jan 10, 2010. <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com>

Reeling 2009: Out in the Silence & Voices of Witness Africa Admission: \$10 (\$8 members), tickets available online: reelingfilmfestival.tix.com; www.reelingfilmfestival.org

Reeling 2009: Drool A makeup saleswoman, Imogene (Girlfriends' Jill Marie Jones) takes pity on the reserved Oklahoma housewife, Anora Fleece, and befriends her. Their friendship grows and they become more than friends. Admission: \$10 (\$8 members), tickets available online: reelingfilmfestival.tix.com; www.reelingfilmfestival.org

Snow White and the Drag Queen Who Stole X-Mas Break out the egg nog and the leggings! MidTangent Productions presents its spectacle sequel SNOW WHITE AND THE DRAG QUEEN WHO STOLE X-MAS, a holiday extravaganza in two acts on the Hydrate Nightclub stage. \$10; www.hydratechicago.com

Reeling 2009: Gender Benders program These shorts feature a range of tales on gender bending, from flirty and fun, to provocative and empowering. The films are as varied as the gender identities of their characters, all of whom refuse to accept the norm in their self-expression. Admission: \$10 (\$8 members), tickets available online: reelingfilmfestival.tix.com; www.reelingfilmfestival.org

Saturday, Nov. 14

Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band Presents Broadway Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band Presents: Broadway! Featuring Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, Evanston Township High School Band and Guest Emcee Laura Freeman 630-901-6947; www.lakeside-pride.org

Carson Pirie Scott's "Community Day" benefits Gerber Hart Carson Pirie Scott's "Community Day" Purchase a booklet of coupons in advance at Gerber/Hart for use at Carson Pirie Scott's on Nov. 14: For \$5 donation to Gerber/Hart, receive one coupon for \$10 off most purchases, one coupon for 30% off a single purchase before 9 a.m., six coupons good for 20%, 15% and 10% off various merchandise in the store. Entire \$5 of every booklet goes

to Gerber/Hart. Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 West Granville Ave. www.gerberhart.org 773-381-8030 773-381-8030 <http://www.gerberhart.org>

Reeling 2009: Beyond the Down Low From the rich history of homosexual contributions during the Harlem Renaissance to the modern fear of being outed within close-knit organizations such as the black Greek system, this Reeling shorts program presents different facets of a culture within a culture. Admission: \$10 (\$8 members), tickets available online: reelingfilmfestival.tix.com; www.reelingfilmfestival.org

Windy City Rollers All-Stars in national roller derby tournament Nov. 13 to 15 in Philadelphia. WCR will play the winner of Kansas City v. Denver in the second round of play. Their first game will be at 1:30 p.m. EST on Nov. 14. Tickets: \$35-45/day, \$85-115 for three-day pass; www.declarationofderby.com

Reeling 2009: Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss Before Will & Grace, Sean Hayes starred in the independent feature Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss. Written and directed by Tommy O'Haver, Hayes plays Billy Collier, an unsuccessful, gay photographer with a penchant for Polaroids and women's melodramas. Admission: \$10 (\$8 members), tickets available online: reelingfilmfestival.tix.com; www.reelingfilmfestival.org

Sunday, Nov. 15

Groceryland honors founders Groceryland honors the three who created the first Groceryland, 15 years ago: Victor Salvo, Stuart Keeshin and John Regalado. Helen Shiller and Tom Tunney are special guests to honor the gay visionaries who created a model of service for the city, and built a network of four pantries for the AIDS community.

Lecture, Robert Allerton: The Private Man and the Public Gifts Heir to a Prairie Avenue fortune, this reclusive man dedicated his life to philanthropy in the arts by helping to transform the Art Institute of Chicago and the National Tropical Botanical Gardens of Kauai into cultural treasures, and donating his downstate prairie mansion and gardens (Allerton Park and Retreat Center) to the University of Illinois. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. 2 p.m. \$15 per person/\$10 for museum members R.S.V.P. to 312-326-1480 by November 11. Glessner House Museum, Museum coach house 1800 S. Prairie, 312-326-1480 312-326-1480; glessnerhouse.org/events.htm

An Evening with Diane Schroer The Center welcomes ACLU-Illinois and Diane Schroer (transgender activist) a woman who lost a job offer because of her sexual status and won a groundbreaking federal sex discrimination lawsuit. ACLU's John Knight will also speak on the recently passed Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. 773-472-6469 X 495; www.centeronhalsted.org

Reeling 2009: Closing Extravaganza Join Reeling for the Closing Night Party after the screening of Oy Vey! My Son is Gay!! www.reelingfilmfestival.org

Monday, Nov. 16

An Afternoon with Terry Galloway University of Illinois, Chicago, An Afternoon with Terry Galloway (performance, reading, videos); www.meanlittledaefqueer.com

Club Hindi-Urdu Honoring Ifti Nasim at "Yeh Shaam Mastani" Celebrating accomplishments of the South Asian Diaspora living in the US and encouraging the emergence of Hindi-Urdu speaking professionals in the fields of academics, business, and entertainment. Ifti Nasim, an out Pakistani poet living in Chicago, author of 'Narman' and other books of poetry in both Urdu and English, is to be honored for his work representing homo-



STAR POWER Tuesday, Nov. 17

The Chicago Red Stars (which include Lindsay Tarpley, above) will host a benefit at Trader Vic's, 1030 N. State.

Photo courtesy of Chicago Red Stars

sexual South Asians; 5:30 p.m. at Loyola (North Side campus on Sheridan); e-mail sangatchicago@aol.com

Tuesday, Nov. 17

TRANcinema Film Festival Center on Halsted celebrates Transgender Awareness Month with "TRANcinema Film Festival" at the Hoover-Leppen Theatre. Enjoy a casual movie night for those 18+ who identify as transgender or have an interest in questions of gender identity. A suggested \$5 donation may be offered to support continuing transgender programs. www.centeronhalsted.org

Chicago Red Stars Charitable Foundation Event Chicago's renowned Chef Hans and the Red Stars exclusive event benefiting the Chicago Red Stars Charitable Foundation. \$50 advance, \$65 at door. Hors d'oeuvres, 2 drink tickets, silent auction with autographed items from PS teams, MLS teams, Chicago Sports Teams and tickets to Bulls, Cubs, White Sox, Blackhawks. 5:30-8 p.m. Trader Vic's, 1030 N. State; 708-496-9520; www.womensprosoccer.com

Lambda Legal Benefit Join Lambda Legal for a night of fun and entertainment with the Chicago Cabaret Project. \$10 per person benefiting Lambda Legal. Contact Jeff Souva at 312-663-4413, ext. 335. 312-663-4413; www.chicagocabaretproject.com

Wed., Nov. 18

Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Mixer Networking and upscale lounge atmosphere, complimentary passed appetizers and martinis from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and then a cash bar until 9 p.m. Member: \$20. Non-Member: \$30

Chicago Pride Timers Book Group Tonight: The Beautiful Room. This joint program is open to all older adults. www.centeronhalsted.org

Thursday, Nov. 19

Federation of Gay Games Legacy Awards Federation of Gay Games Legacy Awards will be presented to Tracy Baim, for Media and Journalism, and to Dick Urvari, honoring his and late partner Joe LaPat's work for Outreach and Scholarship Support in Cologne, Germany. www.gaygames.com

Saturday, Nov. 21

Fifth Annual Night of Fallen Stars, A Day of Remembrance Transgender performers are featured. Special appearance by Jai Simms, the first transgendered artist to win a reality series: MTV/P. Diddy's "Making His Band." 5:30 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. performance. \$5 suggested donation at the door. Hosted by Broadway Youth Center, Center on Halsted, Howard Brown Health Center, Illinois Gender Advocates and Equality Illinois. www.centeronhalsted.org



GET THE POINT?

Various dates

Writer/performer Terry Galloway will be at different Chicago venues over the next week. See www.MeanLittleDeafQueer.com.

Get
calendar
online



WindyCityMediaGroup.com
ChicagoPride.com

BILLY MASTERS

"He's got a hot bod and he knows it. He takes his clothes off. There are no trailers, because it's low budget—but he doesn't even go behind a screen. I've seen him naked more times that I've seen my girlfriend naked."—Jeffrey Ross talks about the still-sexy Steve Guttenberg. Apparently the two guys are in NYC shooting It's Not You, which sounds like something worth checking out when it hits Netflix in a couple of weeks.

Justin Timberlake is obsessed with me. Clearly, he can't accept our rendezvous at the Emmys for what it was—a fleeting passion. You'd think he could leave it there, but no. Now he's been skulking around my hometown of Medford, Mass.—which I don't return to 'til Thanksgiving. I'm sure that's why he was just blocks from the Masters' homestead. It couldn't have anything to do with the fact that his latest film project, The Social Network, about the founding of Facebook, was being filmed in the neighborhood. Timby, you've gotta let this go.

Am I the only one who thinks Dancing with the Stars has been very lackluster this season? And, Lord in merciful heaven, if there are two less talented singers than Derek Hough and



Kathy Griffin enjoys the gays of her lives.

Mark Ballas, I have not encountered them. Their "song" on the recent results show was one of the most excruciating things I've ever sat through. Painful. But not so painful that I wouldn't sleep with either of them (or nuzzle in between them). Sadly, it looks like we're gonna miss a chance to glimpse Derek in his natural habitat. He was reportedly asked to play gay for an upcoming episode of Cougar Town, but had to decline because of his busy schedule. "With all the rumors going around, I thought it would be really funny because it's just not true," Hough said. "But I was like, 'You know what? If that's what you want to see.' I hope he and Mark remember that during their live performances.

Kathy Griffin just celebrated her 49th birthday in typical fashion—with the West Hollywood gays. She also used it as an opportunity to celebrate the release of her new CD, Suckin' It for the Holidays. And where did this swanky soirée take place? At the Abbey, of course. When asked why, Kath explained, "I just heard it was named 'Best Gay Bar in the World' [by Logo], so that's where I wanted to be." She eschewed the offer of hanging out in their private VIP room—you can't promote anything that way. Instead, Kath had a guy walk around carrying a 10-foot-long sign promoting her upcoming L.A. concerts, while she posed for photos in a Mrs. Claus outfit (complete with Pretty Women side cut-outs).

Pics will follow on BillyMasters.com.

Our own Jack Mackenroth has developed a reality-television show that will spotlight NYC's thriving drag community. The Queens of Drag will include such luminaries as Lady Bunny, Hedda Lettuce, Sherry Vine, Bianca Del Rio, Peppermint and Mimi Infurst, along with a number of younger divas-in-training. Filming of the pilot is almost done and, intriguingly enough, one of the producers is Colt Studios head honcho John Rutherford, who was probably enticed by those nude pics of Jack that are on BillyMasters.com. Good enough for me.

Sir Ian McKellen recently told Details magazine that every time he stays in a hotel, he rips pages out of the Bible. The passage in question is Leviticus 18:22, which is commonly translated as "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind; it is abomination." I think I'm really into abominations—elsewhere in the Bible it says that eating shrimp and lobster is an abomination. Of course, the Bible also says that if you curse your parents, you should be put to death. None of us would have gotten through puberty.

One of the most gorgeous men around is The Bold and the Beautiful's Brandon Beemer. If he weren't dating such a stunning woman as Nadia Bjorlin, I'd be jealous. But they're so hot together, I can handle it. I actually can handle that more than those rumors that he was dating Lance Bass, who is simply one of his best friends. Yup, Brandon's very supportive of our community. He took part in photographer Adam Bouska's "No H8" campaign, protesting the ban on gay marriage in California. In fact, he did two photos—one alone, and one with the lovely Nadia with the pair barely covered by a towel. Brandon recently joined the Everyman campaign to raise awareness about prostate and testicular cancer. He didn't show his testicles, but close. The photo, which ran in Cosmo, leaves very little Beemer to the imagination ... just the way I like him. And he showed even more when he joined Nadia for a scorchingly hot nude pictorial for Italian Vogue. Of course you can see all at BillyMasters.com.

Could it be that Levi Johnston is looking at gay porn? Certainly gay porn stars. I'm told that the smartest man in Wasilla wanted to do some research for his upcoming Playgirl photo shoot and had his "people" gather as many photos as possible of nude male models—most of whom were gay porn stars. I'm told once he saw them, he was concerned that he might not "measure up." Someone better find a stunt dick or a good fluffer ... and fast!

Let me slip in a special thank you to Brent Corrigan. I recently helped launch SDGLN.com, which is a new online gay zine for the San Diego community. I was surprised and touched that Brent (and his hot friend, Johnny) showed up to support me—and thrill the capacity crowd. Thanks, baby.

When I'm slipping anything into Brent Corrigan, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I'm proud (and shocked) to announce that I have inexplicably been nominated for "Best Personality" by Cybersocket Magazine. Actually, the way the category is describes is: "Well-known personalities including artists, performers, porn stars or other cultural icons." See? I'm an icon! But unlike most icons, I don't have a prayer of winning. That doesn't mean you shouldn't all vote for me anyway. You can go to www.CyberSocketWebAwards.com—or I'll post a link directly on www.BillyMasters.com, which I know you check out regularly. And, like a good icon, I will answer your prayers. Just contact me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Levi quotes Leviticus in his Playgirl interview! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

We're humbled to be among the 6 finalists

Sidetrack wishes to thank the 19 member Logo TripOut Travel Writers' Academy for honoring Chicago with our nomination for the contest – "Best Gay Bar in the World" & everyone who voted!

We're proud to be in the company of our fellow finalists:

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EXIT (Amsterdam) • **LE DRUGSTORE** (Montreal)

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EDGEWATER GLEN 3/BR (6200N), ONE MO FREE: walk to beach, PET FRIENDLY, spacious 1800 sq ft, great kit, FDR, French windows, vintage built-ins, GLEAMING oak floors, HUGE SUNROOM, laundry. \$1300/heated 773-743-4141 www.urbanequities.com (11/16/09-4)

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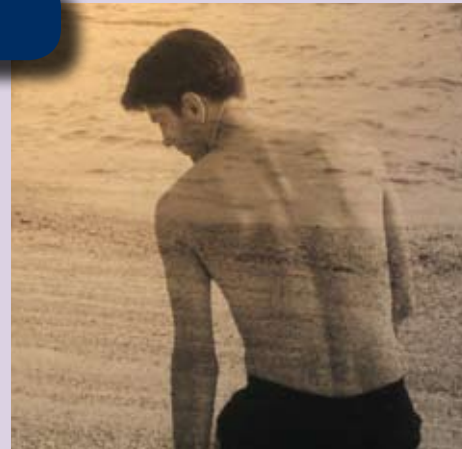
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SHARON GLESS IN HANNAH FREE



SOFA, so good



The 16th SOFA (Sculpture Objects & Functional Art) CHICAGO fair took place at Navy Pier's Festival Hall, 600 E. Grand, Nov. 6-8. The event featured masterworks from 68 top international galleries and dealers, five special exhibits by famed museums and 32 lecture series presentations. Among the local businesses present were Perimeter Gallery, Ann Nathan Gallery, Jean Albano Gallery and the Ken Saunders Gallery—and among the attendees were lesbian comedian Jessica Halem and her father, famed glass artist Henry Halem (lower left). Photos by Andrew Davis; many more at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

PEP rally



Jimmy Choo and Vanity Fair Magazine co-hosted the launch of Project PEP with the Elton John AIDS Foundation Nov. 5 at Jimmy Choo Chicago, 63 E. Oak. Project PEP is designed to support the funding of the Simelela Centre, which provides comprehensive 24-hour service to sexual-violence survivors in South Africa. Jimmy Choo CEO Joshua Schulman (left photo) told Windy City Times that "this is a way to help women in need. ... We're going to be able to send a year's worth of [anti-HIV] medication to this center through sales, so it's really an important cause." Photos by Andrew Davis; more online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

Return Chicago Engagement after sold-out shows during its premiere

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.

Tix thru the Film Center Box office or Ticketmaster, 800-982-2787, www.ticketmaster.com, and all Ticketmaster outlets. The Film Center and its Box Office 312-846-2800 (24-hour movie hotline) or 312-846-2600, or visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org.

Screen dates & times:

Friday Nov. 27
5 p.m., 7:45 p.m.

Saturday Nov. 28
8 p.m.

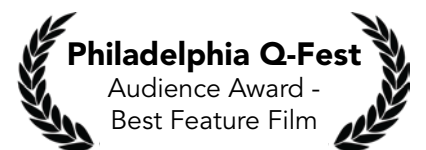
Sunday Nov. 29
4:15 p.m.

Monday Nov. 30
8:15 p.m.

Thursday Dec. 3
8:15 p.m.

“★★★★” — *Chicago Tribune*

“Hannah Free affords a terrific role for Sharon Gless, who runs with it gloriously. ... Claudia Allen has skillfully adapted her play to the screen.” — *Los Angeles Times*



5 NOMINATIONS - Midwest Independent Film Festival

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Produced by WENDY JO CARLTON MARTIE MARRO SHARON ZUREK TRACY BAIM
Directed by WENDY JO CARLTON

www.HannahFree.com

GAY GAMES PROFILE

Bobby Hoepfner's (home) run for the Games

BY ROSS FORMAN

Bobby Hoepfner is excited for his third Gay Games in 2010, his first outside of the United States, and not just so his softball team can try to defend its gold medal won in Chicago in 2006.

Hoepfner also wants to visit his favorite Cologne gay bar, Ex-Corner, and his friend Dieter, who happens to be the owner of the bar.

"Having been a member of the Chicago gay sports scene since 1989 and participating in North America tournaments in volleyball, beach volleyball, basketball softball and tennis, it's tough picking just one sport to participate in," Hoepfner said. "I love team sports and would play them all at the Games if it were feasible."

But next summer in Germany Hoepfner will be on the softball field. He recruited, managed and pitched for the "C" Division champion in Chicago.

He played basketball at the Gay Games in New York City in 1994, and his team, which included Sam Coody and Tony Miller, finished in fourth place.

The Gay Games, said Hoepfner, 45, is, "a life-changing experience."

"I remember my first Gay Games in New York City, walking into the stadium [for the] opening ceremonies with my basketball team, joking around with them and with other members of Team Chicago and meeting many other athletes from all around the world," he said. "One of my fondest memories of that first opening ceremony was seeing the Dutch athletes dressed in a sea of orange. They stood out like a sore thumb, but I remember them all laughing and having so much fun."



Bobby Hoepfner (left) and partner Kevin Boyer. Photo courtesy of Hoepfner

Hoepfner lives in Ravenswood with his partner of eight years, Kevin Boyer, who has worked for the Gay Games in a public-relations capacity since before the Chicago Games.

Hoepfner is a corporate travel specialist at American Travel Solutions.

"For me, the [Chicago] Gay Games was more than a weeklong event," Hoepfner said. "As a partner of the co-vice chair of Chicago 2006, I was witness, as well as volunteer, to quite a bit of the hands-on planning and preparing. This likely increased my anticipation over the average Gay Games participant. [The Games were] highlighted by a gold medal and a Closing Ceremony at Wrigley Field that included Cyndi Lauper."

Here's more about Bobby Hoepfner...

—**High school:** Des Moines (Iowa) Hoover, Class of 1982

—**Hobbies:** "Too many sports for extra hobbies"

—**Superstitions:** "I always wear my long [University of Iowa] Hawkeye gold softball stockings if we're playing an important softball or volleyball game, which seems to be about every week."

—**Little-known fact, skill or trait:** "I have been to 22 different countries, and I can make

music with a straw."

—**Favorite sports team:** University of Iowa

—**Favorite pro athlete:** Michael Jordan (past) and Venus Williams (current)

—**Complete the following sentence: "Since Kevin is my boyfriend and he's the PR person for the Gay Games:"** "... then there likely will be expectations for assisting to get people signed up and registered. I'm sure I'll have to meet my quota. And VIP tickets to events [from him] would be nice."

—**Greatest sporting accomplishment:** "In 1989, my first year playing gay softball in the old MSA league, our Touché-sponsored softball team finished in third place, back when there were only two divisions, competitive and recreational. I hit a home run to help get us to the semifinals. As a 25-year-old gay athlete, I remember feeling pretty special at the awards banquet when the top three teams got special designated tables [near] the front of the banquet hall."

SPORTS SHORTS

NFL team cuts controversial player

The National Football League's Kansas City Chiefs have cut running back Larry Johnson after a series of actions that included using anti-gay slurs about his now-former coach, Todd Haley, according to USA Today.

After his actions, Johnson originally said, "I regret my actions. The words were used by me in frustration, and they were not appropriate. I did not intend to offend anyone, but that is no excuse for what I said." However, the New York Times reported, the staff was unimpressed with Johnson's *mea culpa*—especially because he did not specifically apologize to gays.

Johnson also made fun of a fan on Twitter, saying he made more money than the admirer. However, that may be the case: Johnson stands to make at least \$2 million, even if another team does not sign him.

Rollers competing for nat'l title

The Women's Flat Track Derby Association have announced that Chicago's Windy City Rollers will compete for the national roller-derby title in the fourth annual WFTDA National Tournament Nov. 13-15 in Philadelphia. The event is known as the "Declaration of Derby."

The Rollers placed first at the North Central regional championships, earning them an invitation to the national tournament and a first-round bye. They will play the winner of Kansas City/Denver in the second round of play. The Rollers' first game will be at 1:30 p.m. ET Nov. 14. See www.declarationofderby.com.



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FITNESS

Alexander's model behavior

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Alexander William's work requires him to be in peak shape; after all, he is a fitness model. (He has been in *Exercise for Men*, among many other publications.) He said that one goal is to have a regimen that's "as maintainable as possible. You see guys using all of these supplements in their diets, and it's just unrealistic. I want to be fit when I'm 35, 45, 55," said William, 26. "I don't want to do something that I can't maintain down the road."

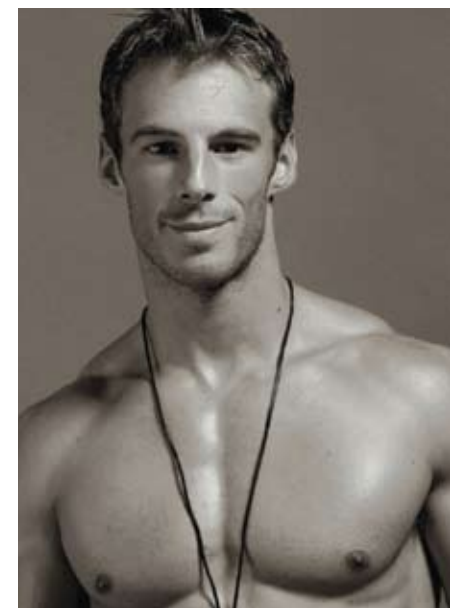
William said that he tries to do weight activity two or three times a week, and he "sneaks in cardio, and I hate cardio—so I try to mask it. I box, I play soccer—anything to fool myself into enjoying some cardio activity."

So William, a Chicagoan, talked about what exercises work for him—body part by body part:

—**Shoulders:** "I've got bad shoulders," Williams admitted, "so I tend to take it easy on them. I've got small dumbbell weights, and there are shoulder-building exercises that are good for rotator cuffs. You see people using cable machines, and do the axe chop? Things like that will help keep your ligaments in line. Small weight lifts are [enough]; some guys try to do too much."

—**Chest:** "This is one I definitely like, and if you do it right it'll fill out our frame pretty nicely and you'll fill out clothes well," William said. "A dumbbell bench press is probably the best exercise for the chest. There are a lot of stabilizer muscles that'll kick in [along] with what you normally get from a bench press."

—**Arms:** "If you're looking for big arms, spend more time on the triceps," he said. "I like a lot of cable pull-downs, extensions with barbells—and you can load up the weights because there isn't a large range of motion. With biceps, curls are great; I like the preacher curls a lot."



Alexander William.

—**Back:** "I like back exercises as well," William said. "A lot of pull-down [exercises] work. Lat pull-downs are good for the back and side; you can end up with angel wings [the muscles that jut out from beneath the arms] and look bigger. Shrugs are good, too—as long as they don't grab too much; some people take 100-pound dumbbells."

With the lower back, "you see people do this reverse sit-up motion." [Note: William later expounded in an e-mail, calling the movement a "back extension—[it's] done on an extension bench or back extension/roman chair bench. For simplicity's sake, it can also be done using a Swiss Ball." He emphasized that one of the keys for him is stretching.

To see what Alexander has to say about other parts of the body, including the derriere, visit www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Alexander William's Web site is alexanderwilliam.com; he blogs at awfitness.blogspot.com.



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Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC

A widely published author and speaker, Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, 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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