

HOWARD BROWN MOVING AHEAD

PAGE 6



PATTI LUPONE

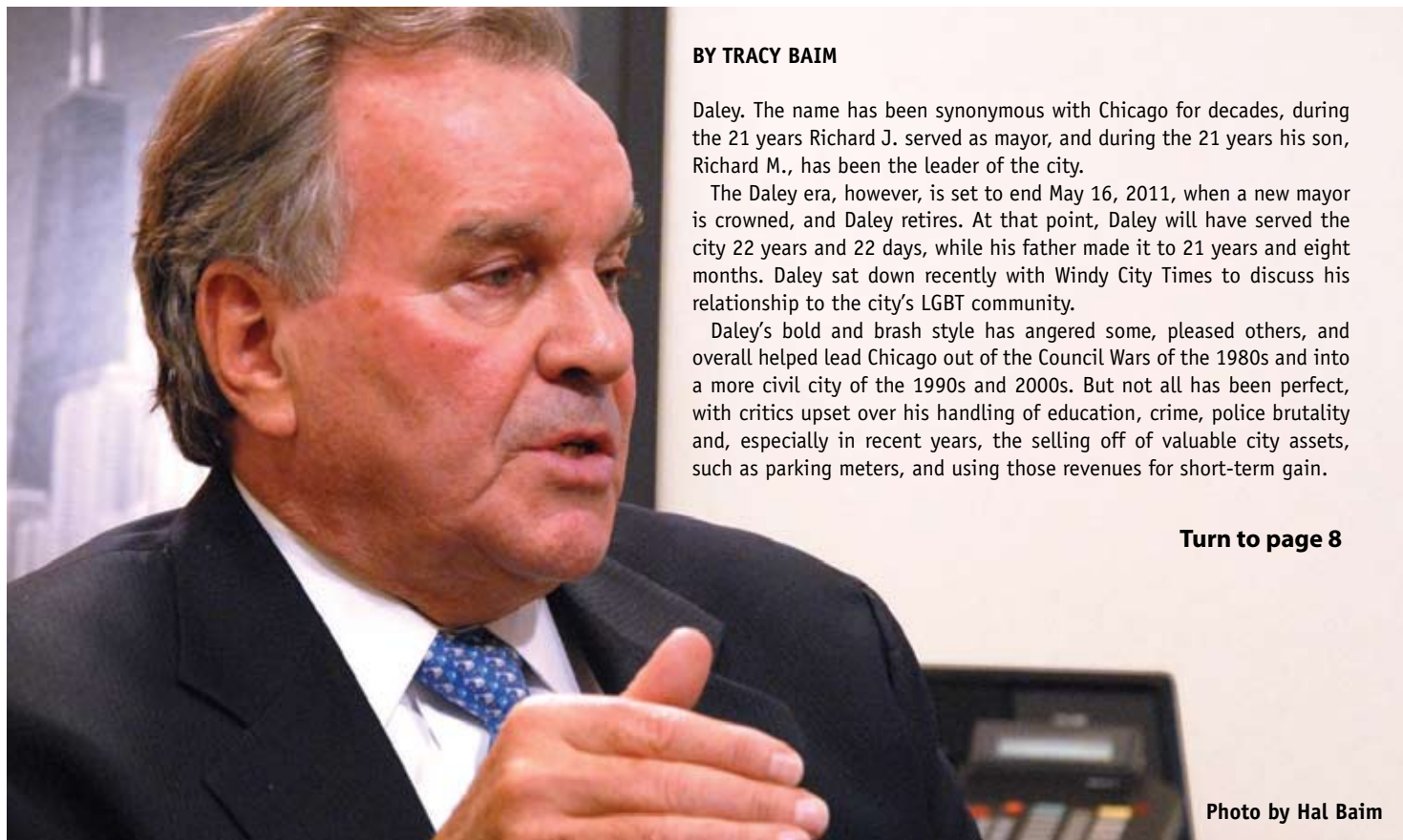
PAGE 24



TRAVEL: VICTORIA

PAGE 26

The Daley dynasty to end



BY TRACY BAIM

Daley. The name has been synonymous with Chicago for decades, during the 21 years Richard J. served as mayor, and during the 21 years his son, Richard M., has been the leader of the city.

The Daley era, however, is set to end May 16, 2011, when a new mayor is crowned, and Daley retires. At that point, Daley will have served the city 22 years and 22 days, while his father made it to 21 years and eight months. Daley sat down recently with Windy City Times to discuss his relationship to the city's LGBT community.

Daley's bold and brash style has angered some, pleased others, and overall helped lead Chicago out of the Council Wars of the 1980s and into a more civil city of the 1990s and 2000s. But not all has been perfect, with critics upset over his handling of education, crime, police brutality and, especially in recent years, the selling off of valuable city assets, such as parking meters, and using those revenues for short-term gain.

Turn to page 8

Photo by Hal Baim

Ricky situation



Superstar singer, father and now-out gay man Ricky Martin briefly stopped in Chicago to sign copies of his book, *Me*, at Borders, 2817 N. Clark on Nov. 12. Find out more about the appearance on page 23. Photo by Jerry Nunn

Gay Texas councilman reflects on speech, bullying

BY ROSS FORMAN

The legacy of gay teen Zach Harrington—who committed suicide as a result of anti-gay bullying—lives on through Joel Burns' words, his emotional comments on a Tuesday night in October in Fort Worth, Texas, some 185 miles south of where Harrington lived.

The two will forever be linked through YouTube and other social media outlets, such as Facebook and Twitter.

It's the same for Burns and suicide victims Asher Brown, 13; Billy Lucas, 15; Seth Walsh, 13; Tyler Clementi, a college freshman; and others.

Burns, 41, is the openly gay Fort Worth city councilman who, on Oct. 12, delivered an emotional, heart-rendering, very personal, near-13-minute speech about bullying, suicides and the message that, yes, without question, life gets better.

His speech has been viewed about 2.4 million times.

Harrington would be smiling—he was the impetus for Burns' words.

And Burns didn't even know Harrington.

Harrington, was 19 when he killed himself at his family's home in Norman, Okla., a week after attending a Norman City Council meeting where a heated public debate centered on the fact that the council acknowledged receipt of a

Turn to page 12





OPENING NIGHT BENEFIT FOR EQUALITY ILLINOIS*

DECEMBER 1, 2010

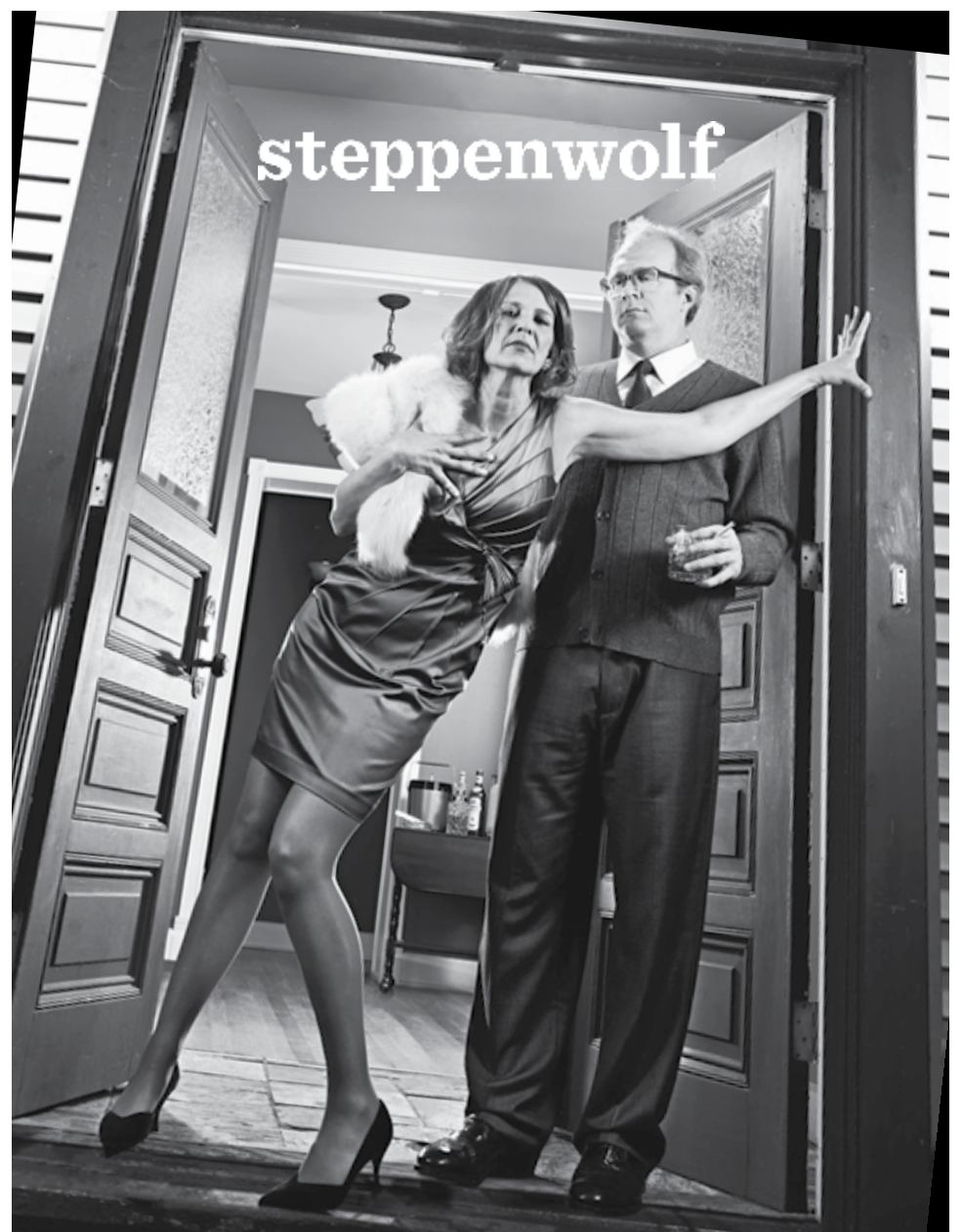
POST THEATER VIP RECEPTION
AT THE LUXURIOUS
CRIMSON LOUNGE
333 NORTH DEARBORN

LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE
AT WWW.EQIL.ORG OR CALL 773.477.7173

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY
BEFORE THEY ARE GONE!**

*Proceeds from your ticket purchase will benefit Equality Illinois Education Project, a 501(c)(3) organization, and may be tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

WWW.EQIL.ORG



EDWARD ALBEE'S

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

Directed by: PAM MACKINNON

Featuring ensemble members: TRACY LETTS & AMY MORTON
with CARRIE COON & MADISON DIRKS

On the campus of a small New England college, George and Martha invite a new professor and his wife home for a nightcap. As the cocktails flow, the young couple find themselves caught in the crossfire of a savage marital war where the combatants attack the self deceptions they forged for their own survival. Ensemble members Tracy Letts and Amy Morton face off as one of theatre's most notoriously dysfunctional couples in Albee's hilarious and harrowing masterpiece.

BEGINS DECEMBER 2!

Buy online at **steppenwolf.org**
or call **312-335-1650**.

Corporate
Production Sponsor



Foundation
Production Sponsor

The Elizabeth Morse
Charitable Trust

2010/11 Season
Lighting Sponsor



Additional
Corporate Support



Official
Hotel Partner



this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS

DADT rulings, reactions	4
Field of zeros & shattered hopes	5
Howard Brown looks forward	6
Unabridged at 30	7
Interview with Mayor Daley	8
Hall of Fame	10
Lutheran controversy; police station	11
Gay Texas councilman	12
St. Charles; protest against AFAH	13
'A Day with HIV in America'	14
Benedictine; civil-union bill	15
Gay in the Life	16
View by Baim; letters on HBHC	18

Photos on cover (left, from top): Ed Devereux by Hal Baim; Jamal Edwards by Kat Fitzgerald; Patti LuPone by Ethan Hill; and Victoria's Butchart Gardens by Amy Matheny

'IT DOES GET BETTER

Essay by Joel Burns	12
---------------------	----

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Scottish Play Scott	19
Theater reviews	20
Knight; Salt DVD; Reeling closes	22
Dan & Bill Savage; Ricky Martin	23
Patti LuPone; Kate Bornstein	24
Pop Making Sense	25
Travel: Victoria, B.C.	26
Billy Masters	29

OUTLINES

Real estate; classifieds	27
Calendar Q	28
Sports: AsiaPacific Outgames, TPAN	30



DOWNLOAD THIS!

Go to www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com to download complete issues of Windy City Times and Nightspots. Then click on any ad and be taken directly to the advertiser's Web site!

online exclusives at
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



IT'S AN HONOR

The Evangelical Catholic Diocese of the Northwest honored people such as Equality Illinois' Rick Garcia at a recent dinner. Read more about it online (and see pictures).

Photo by Tully Satre



Read about the family fun some people experienced with LEGOs (yes, LEGOs).

Photo by Marcy Baim



Equality Illinois held a trans social at The Glenwood. See pics from that event.

Photo by Kate Sosin

'DUE' DATE

Amuse Bouche looks at turkey and wild-rice soup; Sugar & Spice critiques the food at Due Lire.

RUBBER MAN

Find out more about the Mr. International Rubber competition held in Chicago.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes bits on Absolutely Fabulous, Oprah and The Real World's gay-porn connection.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

Wild Pug's last hurrah
MOvernment at QSC
Halloween on Halsted
Project Runway's Mondo



Find Nightspots on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

Lesbian playwright
Patricia Kane
Show #391



www.WindyCityQueercast.com

Sample decadent chocolate creations from Chicagoland's finest restaurants, caterers, and chocolatiers.

This world AIDS Day commemoration will include a light buffet, open bar, and live music by DJ/Producer Mark Picchiotti.

WORLD OF CHOCOLATE

BENEFITING THE

AIDS
FOUNDATION
OF CHICAGO

Thursday, December 2, 2010
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Hilton Chicago (720 S. Michigan Ave.)

Buy your ticket online and be entered to win the world's most expensive truffle, La Madeline Au Truffle, provided by Knipshildt Chocolatier.

Purchase tickets at
aidschicago.org/events

Groups splinter on DADT timing

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

When Congress came back to begin its lame-duck session Nov. 15, it was suddenly hearing mixed messages from LGBT groups concerning repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT).

Two relatively small and obscure groups that support repeal of the military's ban on gays issued a statement Nov. 15 urging the Senate to pass the annual defense authorization bill "whether or not the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell' is included."

The general circulation media immediately began reporting that there was a rift in the LGBT community over the issue and that the two groups—OutServe and Knights Out—had called for stripping DADT repeal from the FY 2011 Defense Authorization bill.

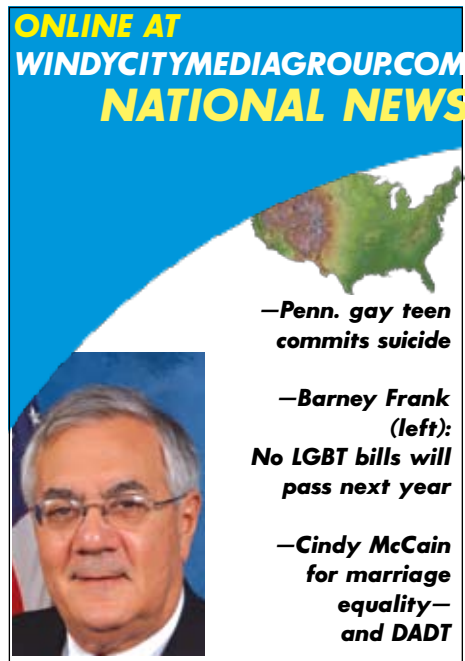
Reaction from many in the LGBT community was swift and harsh. Gay political blogger John Aravosis said it was an effort to kill DADT repeal. Blogger Pam Spaulding characterized it as a "bombshell." And four groups—the Human Rights Campaign, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, Servicemembers United, and the Center for American Progress—issued a joint statement Nov. 15 urging LGBT groups to "send one message" to Congress: "Repeal DADT Now."

"Under no circumstances should DADT repeal be stripped from the underlying Defense Authorization bill," said the statement. "That is simply a non-starter."

A co-chair of one of the two groups that issued the original statement—OutServe and Knights Out—soon issued a clarification of his group's earlier message.

"Nowhere do we call for repeal to be stripped from the [defense spending bill]," said a spokes-

ONLINE AT
WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM
NATIONAL NEWS



—Penn. gay teen commits suicide

—Barney Frank (left): No LGBT bills will pass next year

—Cindy McCain for marriage equality—and DADT

person, identified as JD Smith, a pseudonym for an active duty servicemember. Smith said that his fellow active duty service members had stood by him when he was under investigation under DADT "and risked their careers in order to protect me." He criticized Sen. John McCain, who has lead the filibuster against DADT repeal, as being willing to withhold necessary funding from all servicemembers in order to "perpetuat[e] discrimination against gay and lesbian service members."

And Christopher Neff, deputy executive director of the pro-repeal Palm Center, issued a statement saying OutServe "should be commended for their principled stance in support of every service member no matter the outcome of the lame duck session."

OutServe's website identifies itself as a three-month-old organization which claims 1,000 active duty military members. The second group, Knights Out, says it has about 200 "members" affiliated with West Point academy.

The urgency of having Congress address DADT repeal in the lame-duck session was heightened by the Nov. 2 mid-term elections. Republicans increased their numbers significantly in the Senate and took over the majority of the House. Those changes take effect in January.

But until then, both the Senate and the House, meeting in lame-duck session, are led by Democrats, most of whom support repeal.

Passage of DADT repeal is given little chance under a weakened Democratic majority in the Senate and no chance in a Republican House.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's office would not say when the defense bill might come up on the agenda but a spokeswoman hinted that a vote to try and break the current Republican-led filibuster could come as early as Friday.

The Senate came up three votes short in breaking the filibuster in September, but several Republicans said then that they did not want to vote on the DADT repeal until after seeing the Pentagon study, due Dec. 1, on how repeal might

be implemented. Anonymous sources leaked some news about the study last week, indicating that it shows few servicemembers would have difficulty with the change. That seemed to help momentum for repeal proponents.

In fact, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, a key Republican who supported the filibuster in September, joined Independent Joseph Lieberman in a letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates Nov. 15 asking for early release of the study.

"We are hopeful," said Lieberman and Collins, "that release of the report and the opportunity for our colleagues to review its findings and recommendations will help inform their understanding and alleviate some concerns they may have regarding the military's capacity to implement repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' in a manner that is consistent with our armed forces' standards of readiness and effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention."

McCain told NBC's Meet the Press Nov. 14 that

U.S. Supreme Court refuses to vacate DADT stay

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

In a move that did not catch anyone by surprise, the U.S. Supreme Court, on Nov. 12, denied a request from attorneys for Log Cabin Republicans to vacate an order that enabled the military to continue enforcing Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT).

The 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals had, on Nov. 1, granted the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) a stay of a lower court's injunction against enforcement of DADT. Log Cabin filed a petition asking the high court to vacate the stay, which had been in place since Oct. 20—first as a temporary stay, then as a permanent stay until the federal appeals court can address the DoJ's appeal of a federal judge's ruling that DADT is unconstitutional.

The two-sentence order issued Nov. 12 indicated that Justice Anthony Kennedy, who is responsible for disposition of such requests from the 9th Circuit, referred Log Cabin's request to the entire bench. The order did not indicate a dissent by any of the justices but did indicate that the court's newest member—Justice Elena Kagan—recused herself from the decision.

Log Cabin attorney Dan Wood said he would now ask the 9th Circuit to expedite consideration of the government's appeal. A 9th Circuit panel is scheduled to hear arguments in the case in February and a decision is not likely until April or later. DADT will remain in effect during that time, absent some action by Congress to repeal the law sooner.

The Senate is expected to take up repeal language with the defense authorization bill, perhaps as early as Nov. 17 (on a motion to break the current Republican-led filibuster). But even if the Senate does approve the repeal measure, it still has several more potentially difficult hurdles to clear: a House-Senate conference committee vote; votes again in the House and Senate on the committee's final version of the legislation; and—assuming President Obama would sign it—a certification process and 60-day waiting period that could put the measure back before Congress yet again.

Meanwhile, Log Cabin Republicans has begun goading the White House over the lawsuit and repeal measure, criticizing the DoJ for opposing its request to end the stay and claiming that the Obama administration has not dispatched anyone to press for passage in the Senate.

"President Obama remains far from the front lines of the fight for legislative repeal while commanding his lawyers to zealously defend 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' in court," said Log Cabin Executive Director Clarke Cooper. Cooper said Log Cabin this week "conducted meetings with numerous Republican senators potentially in

he still opposes repeal and that Congress should have hearings to examine the Pentagon study before proceeding with a vote on repeal. Earlier, McCain was said to be in talks with Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, about stripping repeal language from the defense bill. The Grand Rapids Press, in Levin's home state of Michigan, reported that Levin told reporters there that he hopes to pass the defense spending bill and DADT repeal, but "we just don't know if we can."

Meanwhile, groups committed to repeal are stepping up pressure for a vote during lame duck. GetEQUAL, a relative new LGBT-rights activist group, visited Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's office the morning of Nov. 15. Later, 13 former veterans were arrested after they tied themselves to a fence in front of the White House, in an action aimed at urging Reid and President Obama to push for repeal of DADT.

©2010 Keen News Service

favor of repeal, all of whom are waiting for the President's call. The White House has been missing in action on Capitol Hill, undermining efforts to repeal [DADT] in the final session of this Congress, potentially leaving the judiciary as the only solution for our brave men and women in uniform."

Notably, Kagan's recusal from the order at this point hints that she would likely recuse herself, too, from the case once it reaches the high court on the merits. Her recusal would set up the possibility of a tie vote in the high court, thus limiting the 9th Circuit's decision—whatever it is—to the 9th Circuit.

©2010 by Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

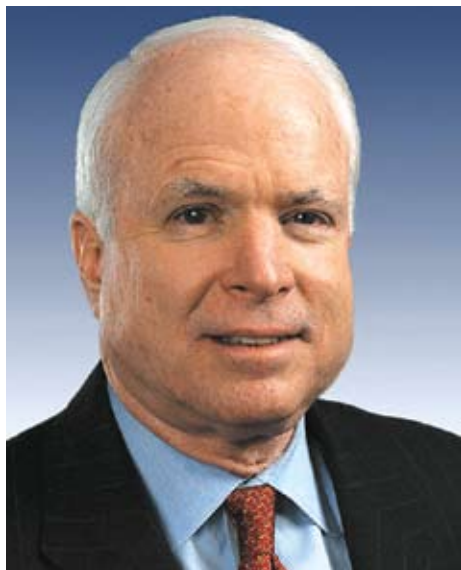
DADT protesters arrested at White House fence

Three generations of LGBT veterans and advocates went to the White House fence Nov. 15 to call for the U.S. Senate, Majority Leader Harry Reid, and President Obama to make good on their promises to secure the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) during the abbreviated, lame-duck session of Congress that started that day, according to a press release.

The 13 individuals—who ended up being arrested—included Lt. Dan Choi (who had previously been arrested); former U.S. Army Arabic Linguist Ian Finkenshinder; former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom, who was discharged in 1976 for declaring and admitting she was a lesbian; and Robin McGehee, co-founder/director of GetEQUAL, the group that organized the protest.

"On the White House fence today, and in a jail cell this evening, are thirteen American patriots," said McGehee. "Included in the thirteen arrested are veterans and advocates spanning three generations of brave and courageous Americans, who sacrificed their careers and lives to see the day this discriminatory ban on openly gay and lesbian service in the military finally goes into the history books. Today, we have sent a loud and clear message to the U.S. Senate and President Obama that we expect them to make good on their promises to end this inhumane law this year, during the lame-duck session of Congress."

Earlier in the day at the National Congressional Cemetery, anti-DADT advocates held a vigil at the gravesite of Sgt. Leonard Matlovich. Matlovich, a recipient of both the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, made headlines in the 1970s after he came out as openly gay and fought to stay in the U.S. Air Force.



Sen. John McCain.

VALEO

AT CHICAGO LAKESHORE HOSPITAL

Chicago's Dedicated and Comprehensive LGBT Program

Valeo at Chicago Lakeshore Hospital provides comprehensive psychiatric and addiction-related treatment for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals. The program offers a safe, affirming therapeutic environment for members of the LGBTQ community. The Valeo staff is comprised of well-trained, experienced gay and gay-sensitive behavioral health professionals from a wide variety of disciplines.

4840 N. MARINE DRIVE
CHICAGO, IL 60640
1-800-888-0560
www.chicagolakeshorehospital.com

Field of zeros and shattered hopes

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

For two years, Democrats held the White House and the majority in both chambers of Congress. The window of opportunity for eliminating federal laws that treated the LGBT community as second-class citizens was open. The window of opportunity for passing federal legislation to provide equal benefits of citizenship was open. Some hoped the windows might be open for as long as eight years. But the recent midterms are shutting those windows now—in fewer than eight weeks.

Republicans won back a majority of the House and it is an even more conservative Republican majority than the LGBT community experienced in 1993, when Congress passed “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) on gays in the military. Democrat Tom Foley was speaker of the House then, and Richard Gephardt was majority leader. It is even more conservative than the 1996 Congress that passed the Defense of Marriage Act. Republican Newt Gingrich was Speaker then, aided by Dick Arme.

In 1993, there were 258 Democrats in the majority. In 1996, there were 230 Republicans in the majority. In 2011, there will be at least 239 Republicans and many of them are of an emerging Tea Party wing that is pushing the party more strongly toward an uncompromising right-wing ideology.

In 1993, there were 57 Democrats in the Senate. In 1996, there were 52 Republicans. In 2011, there will be 53 Democrats, but the Senate of today is one of deliberate obstructionism. The Republican minority has, with 41 votes, been repeatedly blocking consideration of even routine legislation in order to demand votes on amendments that it knows the majority will object to. And in 2011, Republicans will have 47 votes.

The horse race for who will lead the Republicans in the House is really more of a dog-and-pony show. Everyone fully expects ranking minority leader John Boehner of Ohio will become Speaker of the House and his sidekick Eric Cantor of Virginia will become Majority Leader. Both men have earned a score of zero from the Human Rights Campaign in the past three Congressional sessions.

Kevin McCarthy of California appears to be on his way to election as the third-ranking GOP leader, majority whip. And Tea Party darling Michele Bachmann of Minnesota is kicking up some dust in her bid for the fourth-ranking Republican leadership position—that of GOP Conference Chair. Most establishment Republican senators seem to want Jeb Hensarling of Dallas, Texas, to have the job. All three have HRC scores of zero, for every Congressional session they have served.

As a Minnesota state senator in the mid-2000s, Bachmann did distinguish herself with repeated efforts to pass an amendment to the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage there. And if successful in snaring the leadership position, her ascension could signal an even harsher atmosphere against LGBT people. The position as GOP Conference Chair helps determine committee assignments and set legislative priorities for House Republicans.

No surprise, then, that LGBT political observers have nothing good to say about the coming Congressional session.

“The prospects of passing ENDA and repealing DOMA and DADT are slim to none,” said longtime gay Democratic activist David Mixner on his blog davidmixner.com. “No matter what the military report says in December, the Republicans in Congress are not about to allow LGBT citizens into the military.”

Nan Hunter, longtime gay legal activist, said the LGBT community must “go back to playing defense in Congress.”

“Bills that seemed like viable prospects a few

months ago—ENDA, the Domestic Partners Benefits and Obligations Act—are seriously dead, perhaps for years,” said Hunter. “[An] administration that was timid and gun-shy on LGBT issues to begin with will now face the prospect of Republicans using their new House majority to initiate many, many oversight hearings and investigations. Most of these will probably center on financial issues and health reform, but the GOP base may want some action on social issues as well.”

Alex Nicholson of Servicemembers United was less pessimistic concerning the chances for repealing DADT. On his website, he said he expects a “handful of angry and unreasonable Republicans will certainly try to obstruct, but the key to success is going to be striking a deal with a few moderate and reasonable Republicans to proceed on the bill. The McCain contingent should be irrelevant to securing that agreement.”

But Republican Senator John McCain is reportedly “in talks” with Democratic Senator Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. And reports suggest they are discussing the possibility of removing DADT repeal

language from the defense authorization bill.

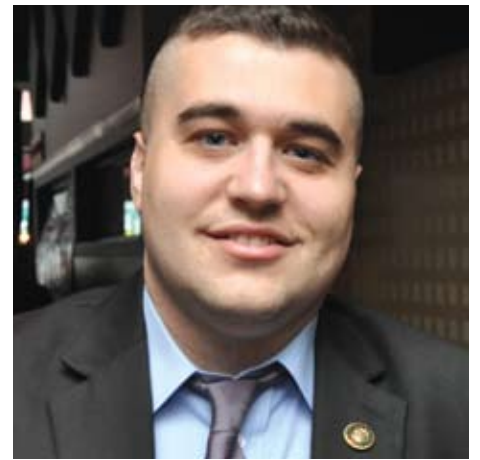
The White House released a statement recently saying it “opposes any effort to strip ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ from the National Defense Authorization Act.” And President Obama said last week that he thinks there will be enough time, “potentially,” to repeal DADT in the lame-duck Congress. But not many are buying that hope.

“Yes, well potentially, I could win the lottery,” said blogger Pam Spaulding at pamshouseblend.com, “but the above statement is practically meaningless. It would have been enlightening to hear President Obama address the demoralized base, particularly those LGBTs who advocated for action in the first two years, knowing that midterms would suck all the air out of ‘change.’ But of course, those who ‘knew better’ kept telling us that ‘It’s only been ____ months since he’s been in office; he has a lot on his plate.’ It was the excuse to give him a pass.”

Mixner agrees.

“Our opportunities have mostly vanished with our inaction over the last two years,” he said in his blog, “and we face a tough new world.”

“Clearly the paradigm has changed on election



Alex Nicholson. Photo courtesy of Nicholson

day. What is very clear is that is the national strategy of a delaying votes on our action items for freedom over the last two years turned out to be disastrous mistake. Many of us urgently begged for our President and our national organizations not to delay action or we would face a new Congress. Well, that is exactly what happened although no one could have forecast the landslide that took place.”

©2010 Keen News Service

I didn't survive gay bashing
so I could die from lung cancer.

I had to stop smoking.

— MARK

CIGARETTES ARE MY GREATEST ENEMY

TOBACCO CAUSES MORE DEATHS THAN AIDS, DRUGS, BREAST CANCER AND GAY BASHING COMBINED

1-866-QUIT YES

QUITLINE **784-8937**

CHICAGO TOBACCO PREVENTION PROJECT

RESPIRATORY HEALTH ASSOCIATION of Metropolitan Chicago

Design: Better World Advertising [www.socialmarketing.com]

Howard Brown's plans to move forward

This is one of an ongoing series of articles on the HBHC story. In this segment, Windy City Times looks back at the history of the organization, the current financial situation, and the questions that have arisen.

NEWS ANALYSIS BY YASMIN NAIR

A black-and-white paper flyer attached to an iron fence on Argyle street on Chicago's North Side advertises a clothing swap and benefit for Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC), which recently announced that it needed \$500,000 in 50 days if it is to keep its doors open. Elsewhere, in the virtual world, people have begun Facebook groups and appeals and are hosting and benefits to raise money for the beleaguered organization. There is a palpable sense of shock and fear in a community where many rely on HBHC to provide culturally sensitive and competent healthcare, and rallying cries to save it. At the same time, there is an ever-widening and deepening sense of immense anger that things were allowed to reach this point.

In March of this year, the board announced via a press release that it was placing CEO Michael Cook and CFO Mark Joslyn on paid administrative leave. In the months since, both have since left the organization—Cook announced his resignation and Joslyn was let go. At the time, Steven Phelps, then chair of the board, stated in the initial press release that “[t]hese administrative changes pertain to an internal personnel matter which do not impact the mission of Howard Brown Health Center.”

As it turns out, nothing could have been further from the truth. On Nov. 4, Mark Andrews, now board chair, and Jamal Edwards, the president and CEO of HBHC since June 1, announced that the financial situation for HBHC was much worse than foreseen and was the direct result of mismanagement of grant funds. Specifically, as previously reported in this paper, the mismanagement was related to the prestigious Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) grant for which the center was the lead agent, and which is disbursed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). But in a startling and new announcement, the men said that a restated audit revealed a deep deficit, which puts its services in jeopardy. They also stated that the mismanagement involved “over \$3 million of grant funds between 2006 and March 2010.”

When Northwestern University gained control of the MACS grant, it was legally entitled to the remaining balance. However, that grant account was overdrawn and HBHC had to draw from its other grant accounts to make up the difference, leading to the current financial crisis where it faces a severe reduction in cash.

To raise cash, HBHC has established a “Lifeline Appeal,” asking the community to chip in with donations. The effort appears to have matched with some success; the Center recently announced that it had already reached 20 percent of its goal. An anonymous donor, whose son received care at HBHC, has come forward with a \$100,000 1:1 matching-funds challenge grant, with a deadline of Nov. 30.

All of this speaks to the community's support. Still, in conversation with Windy City Times or in more informal gatherings and events, many are deeply angered at the recent turn of events and also suspicious about whether the support will do anything to actually change the functioning of the Center. Looking back, even briefly, at the facility's history, their fears are not entirely unjustified. Founded nearly 40 years ago, the storied healthcare provider is facing what may well be its most difficult period ever, but this is by no means the first time that HBHC has been embroiled in controversy.

In 1974, the year it was founded, the most serious health ailments facing the gay and lesbian

community were sexually transmitted diseases like syphilis. In its early years, HBHC organized free buses that roamed the gay neighborhoods and offered free testing. When the AIDS crisis hit in 1981, Howard Brown was the only place that could offer anonymous and culturally competent testing and counseling to gay men. A board was formed in 1976, and HBHC went on to become what it is today, a multimillion-dollar organization. According to its 2008 Form 990, its income was over \$16 million dollars and it employs over 200 people. (An IRS Form 990 is a yearly reporting return that certain federally tax-exempt organizations must file. It provides information on the organization's mission, finances and programs.) The road to what HBHC has become was paved with personnel and financial turbulences.

In 1985, the situation at the clinic was so dire that this paper felt compelled to write a series of articles detailing the status of the clinic. The second one detailed what it called a “malaise” and the fact that the organization “lost over \$100,000” in 1984. Interestingly, this happened right after the clinic got the MACS grant. What followed in the article was a detailing of various convoluted and turgid histories of the relations between board members, of conflicts in leadership and an apparent lack of oversight over financial matters. At the end, Michael Galb wrote, “Much confusion has centered around the financial situation at the clinic. Many people hesitate to give money because they suspect the books are handled in a haphazard fashion.” Those lines could easily reflect the situation today.

As the years went on, HBHC became more powerful as an organization, adding more services and hosting ever more elaborate fundraising events. But controversy continued and the mid-to-late 1980s saw HBHC gain and lose five executive directors in as many years. Over the years, HBHC has become less, not more transparent even as it has extended its health care services to a more diverse population.

With this history in mind, the question that has arisen in the community over the past few months is: Why should the public trust that the organization will not simply continue to replicate its previous history? Windy City Times spoke to Edwards for answers to such questions and for details about the center's commitment to an overhaul. Asked why the community should believe that he would bring any fundamental change to the organization, Edwards said he was in accord with the community: “I’ve told the board I do believe that these questions are valid



and should be addressed by the board and there does need to be a change ultimately on both sides of the agency. For a non-profit to function properly, there needs to be two systems that must operate consistently with best practices management and governance. They have to work appropriately for an organization to thrive. We’ve worked on a lot of our management issues. And I am very actively talking with the board on our governance issues.”

Citing specific changes in the way the finances were being managed, he emphasized that there would no longer be any programs that incurred a deficit. Citing the Broadway Youth Center as an example, he said that while it is one of their most successful programs, it often operated on a deficit. This year, it is budgeted to break even.

Asking the community to directly help raise \$500,000 might be effective in the short run, but it is not a sustainable long-term solution, and neither is the option of even some employees foregoing their salaries. For such reasons, HBHC is considering taking the step of selling at least some of its assets, the most valuable of which is the building at 4025 N. Sheridan. Edwards elaborated on this plan by admitting that, “[o]ur situation right now is the consequence of our mistakes, we know that we can’t go to the public and say we have all this debt to repay and we want you to give us a handout to pay back our bills. So we made the decision as an executive team that we really need to start looking at all of our assets and all of our options to be very responsible for the community.” He was emphatic that the selling of the building would not mean a disruption of services: “We most likely would look at selling it and leasing it back until as part of our application to become a federally qualified health center, we would have access to federal and state capital money to help us build a new building or to expand the existing one.”

Becoming a federally qualified health center raises the issue of whether HBHC, given its financial woes, is likely to get federal funding

under the circumstances. Edwards is optimistic about the facility's chances, saying that while “our chances are not as great had [the problems] never happened, I also know there are federally qualified health centers that have been through inspector general investigations. The government is not investigating the future management of our funds but the past, and this money will be money for the future. What they will know about our management team will let them know that there’s not any risk of misusing their funds.”

According to Edwards, the new hires he has brought on board will serve to bring a new culture of accountability to HBHC, and he spoke of two of them as examples. Editha Paras is the new vice president and CFO. Paras, who has an MBA, also has experience in the banking industry and that, according to Edwards, makes her especially qualified to bring a change to HBHC as she “used to be on the side of the bank that had to make decisions about extending credit and knows how important it is to have transparency.” Edwards also cited his hiring of Chuck Benya, the new vice president and chief development officer, who has a masters in public policy.

Benya and Edwards have known each other for some years. Benya was most recently chief development officer at Vital Bridges, where Edwards had served on the board of directors and was vice chair of said board from 2008 to 2009. Edwards emphasized that Benya had been at Vital Bridges before he got on the board and that he had no hand in his hiring at the time. But he also said that knowing Benya's quality of work up close was definitely a factor in hiring him at Howard Brown, given the exigency of the situation and knowing that he had to have someone he could trust from the start: “I hired Chuck, with whom I already had a rapport, because I knew he would be able to hit the ground running. And I knew he’d be up for a challenge, and he’s done everything I’ve expected of him and more. He’s really committed to community-based fundraising, which is really important to me as well.”

Regarding other changes, Edwards cited reduced operating costs, such as cutting out the communications officer. In an earlier interview, he acknowledged that WCT's reporting on the community's frustration with the lack of information directly from the board had also contributed to this decision. In addition, several management positions have been eliminated or consolidated and they are trying to reduce their occupancy expenses by talking to their landlords and seeking concessions. HBHC has also spoken to many of its medical vendors and got concessions to reduce costs from lab fees and medical supplies. In addition, it has a new audit firm, Crowe Horwath. As for public relations, Edwards now speaks to the media directly but Jill Allread of the firm Public Communications Inc. is donating the remaining necessary work.

While these are all significant and necessary steps, the larger question of HBHC's accountability still remains in question, vis-à-vis the board, which, ultimately, controls a great deal of the decision-making and, like any board of a non-profit, also controls how much an executive director can change. Boards are ultimately re-

Turn to page 31



Left photo: Howard Brown Health Center President/CEO Jamal Edwards by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com). Right photo: Former CEO Michael Cook.

Unabridged turns 30

BY ROSS FORMAN

In 1980, there was no bookstore in Boystown that specialized in selling gay literature, so Ed Devereux put his past to the task.

Devereux had previously worked in bookstores—in college, at the Book Center at the University of Illinois and at Barbara's Bookstore on Broadway. He was also a sales representative for a publisher, Random House.

When the storefront at 3251 N. Broadway in Lakeview became vacant, Devereux went into action. "I wanted to sell all kinds of books, so I decided to open up Unabridged as a full-service neighborhood bookstore with a specialty in gay literature," he said.

Flash forward to the present, and Devereux, 57, is now celebrating his 30th anniversary as the owner of Unabridged Bookstore in Boystown.

"The store did well from the beginning," Devereux said. "When [the store] opened, we had one wall unit of gay literature, and grew the gay section from there. Before we opened, a group from [Lakeview's] Nettelhorst School came to meet with us; they assumed that 'gay books' meant porn, but we allayed their fears about being an 'adult bookstore.'"

In fact, when Unabridged opened, it didn't even sell any of the gay erotica magazines popular at the time—customers had to go down the street to the Waldenbooks that carried them. Several years later, Unabridged expanded north, and then a few years after that expanded south.

It's been a three decade run of growth and changes—good and bad, great memories and

moments to forget.

"Changes ... there have been many changes [over 30 years, particularly] more and more small, gay-owned businesses and bars opened in Boystown, anchoring the neighborhood," Devereux said. "Even as gay people later moved to other neighborhoods in the city, Broadway and Halsted [Streets] still have a great gay business presence."

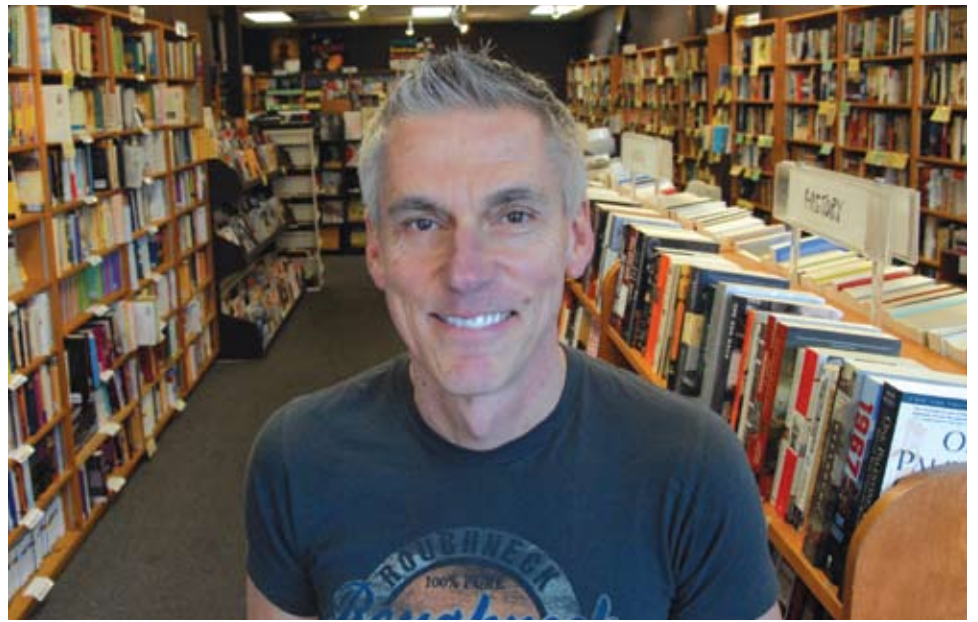
"When we first opened, the bookstore chains in the city were Kroch's and Brentano's, B. Dalton's and Waldenbooks; all of them are now gone. We saw—and survived—the advent of the big book discounters, such as Crown Books, [which is] now gone. And also the onslaught of the superstores, such as the Barnes and Noble in our neighborhood which is now gone; and the Border's, now scheduled to close. And [also] the advent of online bookselling and Amazon."

"Our mission has always been to be a great bricks and mortar, neighborhood bookstore—and we are still flourishing."

"The demographics of our neighborhood have changed, but we continue to sell a wide variety of books. Interestingly, we sell a lot more children's books than gay books today, even though the gay section is still an integral and very successful part of our store. A recent change in our industry is the e-book; its effect remains to be seen, but I feel there will always be a desire in communities for bricks and mortar neighborhood stores."

Devereux lived in Boystown for 28 years, but for the past two years has called Andersonville home—along with his partner, Patrick Garnett, and their two dogs.

"The [store] location we chose turned out to



Ed Devereux. Photo by Hal Baim

be a very good one," Devereux said. "Our choice to make the store a general store with a large gay section, almost like a store within a store, also turned out to be a good one. Specialty-only bookstores, whether it's a cookbook store or mystery store or a gay store, have all had a particularly hard time with the advent of online bookselling. Early on, we committed to paying living wages, with full vacations and 100 percent paid healthcare, which we still do. This has allowed us to have and keep the most amazing bookselling staff—with low turnover, and workers with bookselling in their blood. We continue to be a neighborhood store where our customers and staff know one another."

There are now three full-time and two part-time staff members at Unabridged.

"The Internet presence of Amazon has certainly changed our business, but our store has continued to flourish," Devereux said. "The recent downturn in the economy affected us like everyone else, but 2010 is turning out to be a good year."

And a memorable anniversary year, too, one that was celebrated in early-November.

"I love what I do. I hope to be here for another 30 years," Devereux said. "I really believe, even with online bookselling and e-books, that there still is a need and desire for real books sold in real stores."

And the handwritten recommendations that are ever-present at Unabridged.

"The yellow shelf signs throughout the store, the handwritten notes, are a signature of our store," Devereux said. "Whenever I meet some-

one and tell them I own Unabridged, they always say they love our handwritten recommendations. All of us who work here do the signs; it lets us communicate with all our customers about what we're reading and what we like—and customers will let us know if they agree or disagree with our recommendations."

Devereux said it's hard to estimate, but thought Unabridged now has about 20,000 titles in the 5,000 square-foot store. And the gay section maybe one-tenth of the store, about as much as the children's section. The gay section, Devereux said, "remains an essential and successful part of the store."

Unabridged has been the venue for numerous popular, well-attended signing sessions, such as authors Anne Rice, David Sedaris and Armistead Maupin.

"I definitely have a passion for bookselling and a passion for reading," Devereux said. "And like I said, that is also true of the rest of the Unabridged staff."

—**Devereux's favorite books:** "It's so hard to pick my all-time favorites," Devereux said. "But a good example of a book I've loved that sells weekly, even though it's older (written in 1999), is Claire Messud's *The Last Life*. That also shows the power of our shelf signs to sell books. My current favorite book is a novel called simply 'C' by Tom McCarthy. My favorite author of the moment is David Mitchell; I have read or re-read all five of his novels during the past couple of months. He is certainly one of the best fiction writers writing today."

LOCAL ITEMS

Mountain Moving tribute Nov. 17-18

Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville, will pay tribute to Mountain Moving Coffeehouse with two nights of performances by poets, singers and writers on Wed.-Thursday, Nov. 17-18, at 7 p.m.

Performers on Nov. 17 are Stacy Fox, Marty McConnell, Ellen Rosner and Sissy Van Dyke. The Nov. 18 line-up includes Sapna Kumar, Jeanne Theresa Newman and Sarah Alice Weidemann.

Founded in the fall of 1974, the coffeehouse operated for 31 years until closing its doors in 2005. For more information, call Gerber/Hart at 773-381-8030.

Local art student in GLAAD auction

Bruce Iberg, an undergraduate senior at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago was recently selected to submit artwork for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's ("GLAAD") annual art auction in New York City next month. GLAAD's 9th Annual OutAuction celebrates the year's top 100 artists.

Iberg was selected from a pool of 400 applicants to show among artists such as Pablo Picasso and Joan Miro. The work will be auctioned off to benefit the organization's efforts to prevent defamation of LGBT people in the media.

"My artwork speaks mainly about ideas of masculinity," says Iberg, "I narrate the rituals and traditions that many men experience today." Iberg's screenprint titled *Eta Kappa*, depicts horseplay reminiscent of his experiences during his time in a social fraternity.

The event takes place Sunday, Nov. 21, in New York City.

For more information about GLAAD's 9th Annual OutAuction, go to <http://www.glaad.org/events/outauction>.

Youth with YPC ties wins national award

D'Angelo Keyes, who was a member of Youth Pride Center (YPC, which focuses on LGBT teens and young adults of color) when he lived in Chicago, has won the Collin Higgins Youth Courage Award.

Youth Courage Award recipients receive a grant of \$10,000 and will be honored at The Trevor Project Gala in New York City June 28, 2011. The awardees will also receive an all-expense-paid trip to attend the National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change, presented by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, in February.

Keyes—who is currently an activist in Philadelphia dedicated to providing education and working to break down stigma with LGBTQ youth—is the second YPC-connected award recipient in three years. Perre Shelton, a student at Harold Washington College, won the honor in 2008.

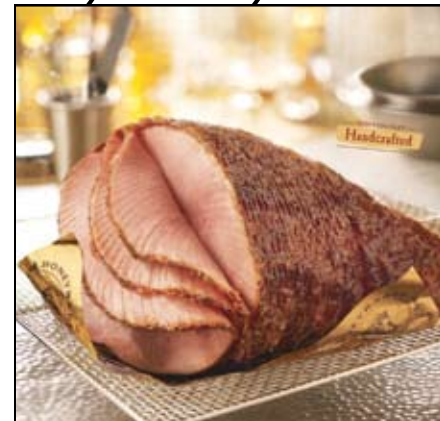
AIDS alliance seeking members

Illinois Alliance for Sound AIDS Policy (IL ASAP)—a project of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) that aims to develop, nurture and support statewide policy and advocacy leaders in Illinois—is seeking up to five new members to join its advocacy group.

Selected participants must be willing to engage in outreach and media activities in their area of the state to educate people about HIV/AIDS policy issues and foster advocacy. Participants must have access to and be comfortable with using the internet and email; most IL ASAP communication is done electronically. They must participate in monthly teleconferences and communicate IL ASAP activities to AFC.

The last day to apply is Monday, Dec. 6. Contact Pete Subkoviak at psubkoviak@aimschi-cago.org or 312-334-0963.

"I love my HoneyBaked Ham"



Visit our new Lakeview location at
2815 N. Ashland Avenue (at Diversey)

To place your holiday orders call:
(773) 880-8400 or - HoneyBakedOnline.com



HONEYBAKED®
.....
The world's best ham

DALEY from cover

Daley has had a mostly positive response from Chicago's LGBT community. But even the LGBT community is not unanimous in its support of the mayor, although the relationship is far smoother than its initial bumpy road.

Flashing back

Mayor Harold Washington, who served as mayor until his death in 1987, was a strong ally of the gay community. During that time, Daley was Cook County state's attorney, working on gay issues in that office. After Washington died, Eugene Sawyer was the compromise candidate to fill his remaining term, and under Sawyer the city's gay-rights bill finally had passed in 1988. At the time, Daley said he did not do behind-the-scenes lobbying for the bill, but now he says that when he was asked, he did push for some aldermen to support the measure.

In 1989, Daley was able to defeat Sawyer and then other candidates in the general election, thus beginning his 21-year career as mayor.

He was confronted early in his first term by AIDS activists—including the outspoken HIV-positive editorial cartoonist Danny Sotomayor—for his lack of leadership on AIDS issues. There was a very heated standing-room-only meeting in November 1989 held at Ann Sather restaurant on Belmont Avenue. Critics attacked the mayor for his lack of response to the epidemic, and Daley walked out of the meeting.

At a meeting of the gay Chicago Professional Networking Association (CPNA), held in early 1992 at the Vic Theatre, critics also lambasted Daley. And in a spontaneous verbal attack on Daley, more than two months later about 40 AIDS activists screamed insults at him April 2, 1992 during a 90-minute march against anti-gay violence, in response to the shooting of a gay man, Ron Cayote, near the Manhole bar.

Daley eventually capitulated and on April 29, 1992 he supported Ald. Helen Shiller's efforts to increase the city's AIDS funding by \$2.5 million to \$3.57 million.

As reporter Rex Wockner wrote Dec. 1, 1989, for Outlines newspaper (which purchased Windy City Times in 2000): "Amidst continuing controversy over the city's new anti-AIDS advertising campaign, which has been 'completely rejected' by a long list of gay and AIDS organizations, Mayor Richard Daley—standing against a backdrop of the ads—unveiled Chicago's long-awaited 'AIDS Strategic Plan' Nov. 1.

"Saying the 'AIDS epidemic is reaching critical proportions in our city,' Daley called the plan 'another landmark in health-care planning for the

city of Chicago ... The plan reflects the best of all our communities, including academics, medical professionals, Hispanics, African-Americans, gays/lesbians,' he said."

In an interview earlier that year with Outlines, during his mayoral campaign, Daley was asked about Mayor Sawyer's condom campaign, which did not include gays. Daley responded: "Well, see, my position is that the gay and lesbian community is in the forefront of this ... so you have to look to them for the expertise. That means bringing people together ... a task force to sit down and discuss things, not just issue press releases and say, 'We're gonna give everybody condoms out and that's gonna be the answer and solve our problems.' To me, that requires more education, prevention, testing immediately—and a commitment to get more federal and state money, grant money into this system. Just handing out condoms, I don't think that's a complete answer ... "

Reporter Wockner asked Daley about his being viewed as a "late-bloomer" to gay rights, and what changed him, besides being pushed by his friend Ald. Kathy Osterman. Daley said: "About 1980, dealing with crimes in the gay community and making the office more sensitive with training programs to victims and witnesses; maybe that's a late-bloomer, it was almost nine years ago ... "

Fast-forward

Twenty-one years after that 1989 interview, Daley has proved himself to be among the country's most progressive mayors on gay issues. No other city has had a mayor supporting gay-inclusive policies for this many years in a row.

For example, Daley expresses his absolute support for the goal of same-sex civil marriage and his consistent opposition to all attempts to pass discriminatory marriage amendments to the federal and state constitutions. Under the Daley administration, Chicago reconstituted Washington and Sawyer's Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues as what is now known as the Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues and sponsored the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, which is the first and possibly still only municipal project of its type in the country.

Daley's office also sponsors the nation's only government-backed annual salute to LGBT veterans, including a wreath-laying in the Richard J. Daley Plaza. His administration also supported the expansion of existing human-rights legislation to include gender identity (including "appearance, expression, identity or behavior") and honored the "gay district" along North Halsted Street in "Boys Town," an area with numerous



Mayor Richard M. Daley at City Hall Oct. 10, 2010, speaking with Windy City Times publisher Tracy Baim. The interview was also videotaped by M.J. Rizk and Martie Marro and will be online at www.chicagogayhistory.org in the next few weeks. The Mayor had a standing ovation during his last Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame induction ceremony Nov. 10. See photos this issue. Photos by Hal Baim

gay businesses, by lining it with rainbow-colored pylons.

Daley also became the first sitting mayor of Chicago to march in the Pride Parade, June 25, 1989. He wore a button that said "The issue is human rights: ParentsFLAG." [Mayor Washington had spoken at the 1986 and 1987 post-Pride Parade rallies, and former Mayor Jane Byrne rode in the parade after she was out of office.] Daley later made a rule—dictated, he said, by his wife, Maggie—that he would never work on Sundays. Since the Pride Parade is always on a Sunday, he has never been in the parade since. However, he created an alternative Mayor's Pride Reception where hundreds of LGBTs gather each year to honor Pride Month at the city's Cultural Center.

Daley announced his retirement in September, 2010, and a range of potential candidates have surfaced, from pro-gay, to gay, to anti-gay.

As the city prepares for the unknown future under a new mayor, Daley spoke about his relationship to the LGBT community. Following are excerpts:

Baim: What memories do you have of first knowing about homosexuality?

Daley: When I was in high school, a number of my dad's staff [in the mayor's office] were gay.

"They die the same way, they cry the same way, they bleed the same way."

- Mayor Daley on the issue of gays in the military

I remember my dad ... he said they were good people, friends of ours, good employees. You'd never be ashamed just to know them.

Baim: So you don't think your dad ever had an issue with them?

Daley: No, he never did. I never felt that.

Baim: The stereotype would be he would have had problems with that. With gay people.

Daley: Because they worked for him, and he knew them. He felt personally that they're wonderful employees, and in charge of different agencies and departments and he never felt they were any different from anyone else.

Baim: When you were Cook County State's Attorney, that was a time when we were first learning about hate crimes. What did you do ...

Daley: I [wanted] to make sure the community was represented with the committee in the state's attorney's office. Making sure the investigation was thorough, the prosecution was thorough. Also, understanding some were maybe afraid to come forward at that time, so you had to make sure that you were going to fully protect them under the laws. So they weren't going to have discrimination at their job ... coming out of the closet. They were victims of a crime and should be treated as victims of a crime and then dash dash [whatever else]. That's what I tried to do, and that required understanding, making sure that the police and even the prosecutors were understanding that. They were citizens and they had to be fully protected under the law.

Baim: During the 1980s, there were still

raids on gay bars and businesses. In terms of the police harassment happening to businesses and individuals, what do you think your role was as state's attorney?

Daley: The Chicago Police Department and the Chicago corporation Counsel did that, I always felt, "Why are you doing these things?" I talked to the Police Department, especially when we had meetings with police departments all over Cook County.

Baim: When the gay-rights ordinance failed under Washington and passed under Sawyer, you were asked if you helped on votes.

Daley: They asked me about helping some people, I said sure and went ahead and called.

Baim: Did you call aldermen?

Daley: Yes, I am very proud of it. I didn't want .. to venture into what other people were doing. Kathy [Osterman] asked me, other people asked me, they needed certain votes and I worked with them. I didn't try to get accolades, it was the right thing to do.

Baim: The first couple years of your first term in office, it was contentious with AIDS activists, and Danny Sotomayor ...

Daley: Right. They were not just mad at me, they were mad at everybody... the president



Daley at the 1989 AIDS Strategic Plan press conference. Photo by Rex Wockner



have different political philosophies, some are liberal, some are conservative. But they've been very good for the city. You can see it today. ... I've been very out front with the community, continually. I remember 2004 in Boston [at the Democratic National Convention], someone asked me a question about gay marriage, and I said I believe in it. Because I've had the privilege of knowing the families, they're having children, adopting children, raising children, these are wonderful families. Don't blame them for all the marriage problems, don't blame them for all the other issues ... I went to the convention and all the Democrats got mad at me because they thought I had planted it ... I said no, someone just asked me that question and they'd never asked me that question before, and I gave my answer. A lot of them were upset with me because they thought I was stepping on their grounds.

Baim: Some of the things you have done, no city has followed in your footsteps. Like the Hall of Fame.

Daley: The Hall of Fame is very important because it's on cable TV. ... It was like educating people. I remember when we put all the [pylons on Halsted] up in gay town up there, and people were really objecting, writing me nasty letters. I said for what? The merchants there, the people there, the families, individuals, they're a great part of the city. I sometimes call these people and say, you know who you're writing about? ... You know, like their son or daughter ... "Well, no, I like them"—so why are you mad about these people? If you put it in a personal way, I think people realize, "Why are you hating people." That's the thing I don't like.

Baim: What about the Center on Halsted, Chicago's LGBT community center?

Daley: I think the Center on Halsted, there was a lot of people who really believed in that. That was a great thing. It made a strong statement. ... There are a lot of [people] who are not welcome back in their families. Unfortunately, even today. So they have to have a place they feel comfortable, and a place that is part of their home, within the community

Baim: What about the Gay Games in Chicago, in 2006? [I served as co-vice chair of the Gay Games board and worked on government relations with Daley's team.]

Daley: That gave us a prelude to the Olympics, our presentation. How well it was organized, and how well it went. It was amazing, all the different events. So that gave us kind of a looking at the Olympics, because it went so well. Everything moved along smoothly, opening and closing ceremonies, and how everybody reacted in the city. It was just a welcoming. That was kind of an inspiration to me to actually trying to get the Olympics.

Baim: You have always appointed gay people to administration posts. When did you know Ron Huberman is gay? Did it play into your decisions? [Huberman was Daley's chief of staff, then headed the Chicago Transit Authority, and now heads the Chicago Public Schools. He resigned from that post effective Nov. 27.]

Daley: No. It never played, I knew he was gay. I wouldn't bring it up to him. I never wanted to make the impression I was appointing him because of that. So what, it doesn't matter. It

gave a good role model for us to see that, and across the country and the world. I think it is very important for that.

Baim: You were in the Pride Parade, but then never again because of not working on Sundays. Now you have a Pride reception.

Daley: It is to honor men and women in the gay community. It was a reception, and thanking them. Once I took Sundays off—it didn't matter who was coming to town, there is no way they ever saw me do anything on Sunday. Once you break that, then they say, Why don't you come to my parade. I said, Can you change it [the gay pride parade] to Saturday? They said no. [Laughs] And so I wanted to make sure ... the reception was just to thank them. ... That is one of the biggest parades in Chicago, that's a lot of work. Again, they're good citizens, that's the thing I was expressing to them.



Daley riding in Chicago's 1989 Pride Parade. Photo by Rex Wockner

Baim: What about your friendship with gay people, including gay activist and businessman Martin Gapshis [who died several weeks ago].

Daley: I knew him since I was a kid, and his whole family, his mother and father, and my parents and all that. He was a wonderful guy. What a loss. He was really genuine, kind, not only for the gay community but a lot of other causes. You have to remember, people in the community are involved in a lot of other causes, not just the gay community, but other things that do take place in the city. That's why they become wonderful citizens, they're always giving back.

Baim: You have had several community liaisons: Jon Simmons, Nancy Reiff in a slightly different position, Mary Morten, Larry McKeon and now Bill Greaves. [Both Simmons and McKeon have since died.]

Daley: Larry was a policeman. He told me when he was a policeman years ago, he hid it ... Larry was a wonderful guy. Very positive about life. He was great, a personal friend.

Baim: Did all of your liaisons serve you well?

Daley: They really did. I really believe that. I think they worked hard at it.

Baim: Bill Greaves is your current liaison.

Daley: Bill is good. I saw him last night, he was at the immigration and refugee committee. He's present, not on the side of something.

Baim: The LGBT community is divided itself. Geographic, race, class, so a lot of the North Side white community has been very supportive of you, but sometimes there's definitely debates within the African-American gay community on education, healthcare, crime, etc. Do you feel you have a good ear into all parts of the gay community?

Daley: Yeah, sure. I do, yeah. I met with a group of youngsters at Night Ministry a couple years ago. A lot of the African-Americans who are gay, are thrown out of their homes, they can't stay in their communities, so of course they come up north. How do we get housing for them? Why should they be thrown out because they're openly gay, and thrown out of their community, their church or anything else? That's really unfortunate, so I talked to many of the young people about where they are in life, and all that. So we try to get housing for them, and good social services, and make sure they become part of the community. But in the end, all the issues are the same, education is the same, crime is the same in different proportions, so I've had a good ear with the African-American community and their issues. The only way we're going to solve these issues with the community, the police are not going to solve these issues ... it has to be a culture of nonviolence, it has to be within the community. It can't be somebody else trying to do it.

Baim: How about youth and the failed proposal for a gay high school. With these youth suicides nationally, what is your solution, if not a school?

Daley: I go back and forth on this. If you want to isolate them, they have to go over there. I don't know if that's good. That's the only thing I have a problem with. OK, if you're gay, you go over there. ... I don't believe in that. I wasn't afraid of the issue, but ... my problem is you're going to say that's the gay school, and every gay person has to go over there.

Baim: My understanding is it would be a choice to go there.

Daley: Yeah, but OK, everybody can say, he's having problems in school, we think he's at risk, for their own benefit we think he should go over there. Then all of a sudden you're dumping everybody over there. ... I go back and forth. I have no problems with the concept, but I thought the implementation would be isolation. Some people may differ with me on it. ... A lot of people on the board thought the same.

Baim: There are a lot of openly gay and lesbian police officers now, but also ones who still have problems with gay people. How do we deal with this?

Daley: I think people in general have problems, this whole stereotyping of the community. We have to break it down. They're your sons or daughters, your brothers or sisters, your mother or father, your friend, your neighbor. ... Anybody in authority, some people have that [bias].

Baim: Is there a solution in terms of education?

Daley: It's a combination of educating them, because if you go in the community, sometimes they're the victim. How do you handle the other

one? If you don't handle them with respect and understanding, then they feel alienated, they feel like you have not understood "I've lost my loved one." This is my lover, my friend. And that always has difficulties ... and they're all the same, we try to break that down. Make sure the commander, the sergeant, and anybody else understands that.

Baim: Do you count openly gay folks among your close friends or family members?

Daley: Oh yeah. ... It's part of Chicago, and it's a good thing.

Baim: Now that you are leaving, are you worried your legacy will be chipped away? That Chicago will go backwards?

Daley: I hope not. I don't think Chicago can go back to Beirut on the Lake, it can't go back to the Council Wars, it can't go back to people screaming and yelling. If it does ... we thought we broke the barriers down. ... A lot of politicians want to divide people. That's the worst type of politics and government we can have. We have to have everybody in one big tent.

Baim: Do you have a sense that is even possible, for the next mayor? To be able to work with all these constituents, on social issues?

Daley: I hope so, because all the issues are the same. ... When you isolate people in politics, it's very bad for society. Your issue is my issue, my issue is your issue. That's how I approach these issues. ... A gay victim is a gay victim. It's a victim of a crime. If we don't handle that the same way ... we have to have respect and understanding for others.

Baim: Is there something you want to be remembered for, for your legacy?

Daley: When you get into government, if you

Turn to page 10



Daley speaking at the Opening Ceremony of the Gay Games July 15, 2006 at Soldier Field. Photo by Steve Becker



Daley with Asians and Friends Chicago members.



Daley with Stan Sloan.

Daley's last GL Hall of Fame

TEXT BY TRACY BAIM
PHOTOS BY HAL BAIM

Mayor Richard M. Daley received two long standing ovations during the 2010 induction ceremony for the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Nov. 10.

An estimated 700 people packed the event at the Cultural Center, the 20th time the city has inducted LGBT people, organizations and allies into the Hall of Fame, still believed to be the only one of its kind in the world.

Daley said he was "very proud of our relationship," even though it has had its ups and downs and difficulties. "This community has given more to the city than the city and country has given to you," he said.

Chicago "is better off for this community," Daley said. "I thank you on behalf of 21 years," referring to his time in office as mayor. "The city is very grateful for, and I mean it personally, your contribution. You have an ally, whether as mayor or as a citizen, you can call on me."

The individual LGBTs inducted this year were: Claudia Allen, Dan Di Leo (posthumously), Scott Free, Bob Gammie, E. Patrick Johnson, David Ernesto Munar, Achy Obejas, Paul G. Oostenbrug, Jose Rios, The Rev. Stan Sloan and Mark E. Wojcik. The organizations: Asians and Friends Chicago and International Mr. Leather. The Friends of the

Community inducted were the ACLU of Illinois and the Chicago History Museum.

Mayor's LGBT liaison Bill Greaves thanked Daley on behalf of the community, and Daley was presented with the book *Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community* (a book I wrote and edited with a team of journalists). The book was signed by hundreds of people in the community. "Chicago says yes to us, and we are thriving in it," Greaves said, taking off from a Gertrude Stein quote about Alice B. Toklas.

Hall of Famer Gary Chichester also spoke about Daley: "We can only hope whoever is the next mayor is half a friend" to the community as Daley, Chichester said. Chichester's Hall of Fame committee co-chair, Lourdes Rodriguez, also spoke highly of Daley's support of the event.

Mayoral candidates Rahm Emmanuel and Carol Moseley Braun were among those mingling with the attendees. Other politicians included City Clerk candidate Marilyn Morales; state Reps. Greg Harris and Deb Mell; and Ald. Tom Tunney.

Past Hall of Fame inductees Michael Leppen and Tarrina Dikes read the biographies of this year's inductees as they came up for their awards and a photo with the mayor.

The evening was dedicated to three Hall of Famers who passed away this year; Renae Ogle-tree, Martin Gapshis and Laird Petersen.

See <http://www.GLHallOfFame.org>.



Daley with Mark Wojcik.



Daley with Scott Free.



Jose Rios and David Munar, two of this year's inductees.



Mayoral candidate Carol Moseley Braun.



Daley with Bob Gammie.



Daley with Claudia Allen.



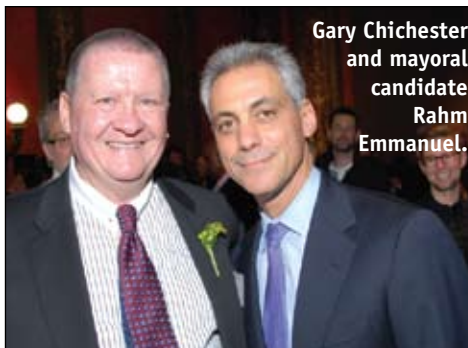
Daley with Achy Obejas.



Daley with E. Patrick Johnson.



Daley with Paul Oostenbrug.



Gary Chichester and mayoral candidate Rahm Emmanuel.

DALEY from page 9

start to think of your legacy, then you have a road map, and you try to find out you never made mistakes. People will say what it is. I hope civility was brought back in 21 years. Everybody's come together I think more than in any other city. ... For example the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Other cities won't let gay people march in the St. Patrick's Parade. What is wrong with them? It's a parade! ... That alone makes a statement. That is ridiculous.

Baim: Do other mayors ask you about how you've managed to work with the gay community?

Daley: I say they can be the best citizens you want. They have more of a love and affection for their community, for their family, the whole city ... if you don't embrace them, then you're going to isolate them. That would not be good for the city. You'll find out they're great citizens, they're great employees, whenever you want them, they're there, at any cause they're there, not just for the community itself, but the entire city.

Baim: How has Obama done so far?

Daley: This whole issue dealing with the military [Don't Ask, Don't Tell] should end as quickly as possible. Because they're my firemen, my policemen, they're every role in government. Why is this somewhere we've isolated them? I've met all the veterans they've served in the different wars, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, Second World War, these were heroes, these were men and women that went to fight for their country. We have to do that [lift the gay ban] as quickly as possible. They die the same way, they cry the same way, they bleed the same way.

Baim: But how has Obama done?

Daley: I don't want to get into that. I am a big supporter of his. We all say under the circumstances, he's done a lot for the country.

Baim: What will happen in the midterms? [This interview took place right before the midterm elections.]

Daley: The recession has hurt people. ... This century is going to be a tough century. ... You can't have debt in your house ... then you see the government doing this? ... You can't spend to get out, then you keep increasing taxes and people can't afford to pay? ... I have to balance my budget. ... I think people would rather see tough decisions and then move on, rather than just lies.

Baim: What about your gay support over the years?

Daley: If you look at the skyline, if you take every profession on that skyline, you take all parts of the community, they've been involved in every aspect of improving [these past] 21 years. They've never, ever been excluded.

Baim: Any final regrets or things you want to get done?

Daley: When you say regrets, not really, because once you start doing that, then you start questioning yourself. ... The time when I took on the Board of Education, the Chicago Housing Authority, and ... realizing the gay community ... they've been isolated, and now to bring them into the mainstream. That was the issue, in the city, let's move on, this country is great and can be greater with them, not without them.

Baim: How is Chicago going to be fiscally?

Daley: I think we're going to leave the city in a good shape. The economy is tough. We lost over a billion dollars in four years on the revenue. So we balanced the budget ... we're going to report to the next mayor, each department, and we're going to have an outside audit. ... I'm not leaving the city in debt.

NEXT WEEK: A Windy City Times 25th anniversary special, the original interview between Mayor Harold Washington and Tracy Baim, published September 1986. What did Washington say about the gay-rights bill? AIDS? Rumors about his own sexual orientation? Pick up next week's Windy City Times for a special reprint of this 1986 Windy City Times exclusive.

Lutheran agency denies adoption to gay Lakeview couple

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

When Lakeview couple Matt Nalett and Fred Steinhauer began the process to adopt a 15-year-old boy earlier this year, they gained excitement with each step along the way, passing background checks, a home inspection and meeting with the boy's therapist, case worker and a welfare agent as part of the rigorous process all potential foster parents undergo.

But the process was halted Sept. 15 when Nalett and Steinhauer were told the faith-based agency overseeing the care of the 15-year-old—"Kenny"—did not license adoptive or foster care families who identify as LGBT. The couple was turned away while Kenny, a ward of the state for the last seven years, would remain under care of the agency—the River Forest-based Lutheran Child and Family Services (LCFS) of Illinois.

Nalett and Steinhauer, who have lived together for seven years and were legally married in Canada, said they feel they were "led on" by LCFS. Steinhauer told Windy City Times they "made it very clear" to the agency that they were a gay couple from the start of their process. They had been regularly meeting with Kenny for "a number of months" before they were first told their sexual orientation violated the agency's policy.

"They knew very clearly that we were a same-sex couple. They knew for months before then and it was no secret," Steinhauer said. "We were never made aware of their policy."

Nalett originally met Kenny this year, while volunteering with a Lakeview area group for teenage runaways. Kenny came to the group after a long history of unstable housing. At one point, Kenny—who is also gay—had run away from a group home where he had encountered bullying.

According to Kendall Marlowe, spokesman for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), three faith-based agencies in the state—LCFS, Catholic Charities and the Wheaton-based Evangelical Child and Fam-



Matt Nalett and Fred Steinhauer. Photo courtesy of Nalett

ily Agency—do not license same-sex foster or adoptive parents.

While the agencies have done so under a specific exemption to the Illinois Human Rights Act for faith-based adoption agencies, Lambda Legal staff attorney Christopher Clark argued the agencies' receipt of state funding—a cumulative total of over \$40 million in fiscal year 2010—renders their exclusion of same-sex prospective parents discriminatory and illegal under state, county, city and potentially federal law.

"The law prohibits the government from discriminating against LGBT families when providing social services and government-funded social service organizations have to comply with the law," Clark said. "There is a fundamental difference between a private adoption agency and an organization involved in placing children in foster homes, which is a state responsibility."

Lambda Legal met with DCFS and staff from the state attorney general and governor's offices in early November to "begin to resolve the legal issues" surrounding the controversy, Marlowe said. If the parties involved choose to change their legal interpretation of the aforementioned agencies' policies on same-sex adoption, those agencies would "have to grapple with that," he added.

Marlowe declined to discuss details of any specific actions that may be taken, but wanted to make it clear that LGBT families considering becoming foster or adoptive parents remain welcomed by DCFS. Most Illinois adoption agencies are inclusive of same-sex couples.

"We still want gay men and lesbians coming to us to parent. We know from experience and research that sexual orientation has no bearing whatsoever on the ability of a parent to provide a safe, loving permanent home to a child," he said.

"DCFS is happy to see further movement in Illinois toward tolerance and inclusion and we will continue to collaborate and work toward that goal," Marlowe added.

Since Nalett and Steinhauer's story was first reported on WFLD Fox 32 on Nov. 8, Kenny was transferred from the care of LCFS to DCFS and will be assigned a new case worker, though he is still living in the same group home. Meanwhile, Nalett and Steinhauer have begun their process to become foster parents anew—a process they expect may take up to six months.

"The person who suffers most is not us, it's really Kenny," Steinhauer said, when asked if he felt frustrated at restarting the process again. "He still remains in the foster care system, being bounced from one agency to DCFS and that doesn't really do anyone any good."

Steinhauer hoped, in addition to he and Nalett being licensed as Kenny's foster parents, their story would help other prospective foster and adoptive parents, opening up "a whole new avenue of resources for children who desperately need loving homes" and raising awareness of the continued discrimination queer families face in the state.

LCFS did not return Windy City Times' request for comment for this story as of press deadline; moreover, the agency's policy on same-sex adoptive and foster parents is no longer visible on its website.



The ribbon cutting, from left: Ald. Shiller, Public Building Commission Executive Director Erin Lavin Cabonargi, Mayor Daley, Public Building Commission ranking member Samuel Sax, and Ald. Tom Tunney.

New police district building opens

BY TRACY BAIM

Ald. Tom Tunney was all smiles Saturday, Nov. 13, as he welcomed Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and other North Side politicians to his 44th Ward and the brand new 23rd District Police Station building. The district is very diverse and includes a large segment of the city's LGBT population.

On Nov. 22, as 23rd District Commander Kathleen Boehmer pointed out, her officers will start their police shift in the oldest still-operating police building in the world (the Town Hall building at Addison and Halsted is 103 years old) and move a few hundred feet west to the nation's newest and most state-of-the-art police facility, at 850 W. Addison. The new building is a few blocks east of Wrigley Field, and around the corner from the Center on Halsted.

Dozens of politicians, media and community representatives attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the facility. It makes extensive use of recycled materials, according to Public Building Commission Executive Director Erin Lavin Cabonargi, and is on track to receive the Gold rating as a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for its energy efficiency and recycling targets.

When it comes to building infrastructure, Cabonargi said Chicago is unmatched in the U.S. This was the thirteenth new police facility built

in Daley's 21 years as mayor, and the city has also built many new fire stations, schools and other public buildings.

"When you wait, you stop progress," Daley said of the need to build new facilities for the changing world. "I am very proud" of this building, he said.

Ald. Tunney has championed both the saving of the historic old police district facility, and the building of this new structure, which also includes a public parking component. Cabonargi said Tunney's leadership was "pivotal" in planning the new building. There are discussions now about what to do with the old building, Tunney said.

After a presentation about the facility, Daley, Tunney and others went on a tour. They viewed the public art by Todd Palmer, community rooms, the lockup rooms, the physical fitness area, locker rooms, the computer systems, police cubicles, the environmental features, and more.

Ald. Tunney stopped to have his fingerprints taken, sparking laughter from the mayor and others.

Other officials at the ribbon cutting included Chicago Police Department Supt. Jody Weis, U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley, Ald. Helen Shiller, Ald. Vi Daley, Ald. Eugene Schuster, and state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz.

The \$30-million building is 44,000 square feet, and was designed by Wight & Company.



Ald. Tunney, Police Supt. Jody Weis, and Ald. Helen Shiller.



Daley looks on as Ald. Tunney goes through the state-of-the-art fingerprinting system.



Public Building Commission Executive Director Erin Lavin Cabonargi, Police Supt. Jody Weis, Ald. Helen Shiller, Mayor Daley, 23rd District Commander Kathleen Boehmer, Ald. Eugene Schuster, and Ald. Tom Tunney.



Wayne Bittner. Photo from Nik Koele

PASSAGES

Wayne Bittner

Wayne Andrew Bittner passed away Nov. 3 in Chicago, where he had been living the past 13 years. He was 35.

Born on July 21, 1975 in Lawrenceburg, Ind., he is the youngest son of Alvin J. and Mary M. Bittner (née Werle); and brother of Joan M. Bittner (San Francisco, Calif.) and Mark J. Bittner; and uncle to Andrew J. Bittner (Denver, Colo.)

Burial services were Nov. 8 at St. Paul's Church, New Alsace, Ind.

He is a 1997 graduate of Purdue University, with a degree in mechanical engineering; he also graduated in 1993 from East Central High School in St. Leon, Ind.

Bittner was a member of the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus for many years. Donations in his name can be made at <http://www.cgmc.org/donations>.

It Gets Better

BY COUNCILMAN JOEL BURNS

The following is a transcript of the speech that Councilman Joel Burns delivered to the Ft. Worth, Tex. city council on Tues., October 12, 2010.

Mayor, we are gathered here today in our pink shirts to bring awareness to the fight against breast cancer here in Fort Worth and across the globe. But tonight I ask my colleagues' indulgence in allowing me to use my announcement time to talk briefly about another issue that pulls at my heart.

The parents of Asher Brown complained to school officials in the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, outside of Houston, that their son was being bullied and harassed in school. The bullies called him "faggot" and "queer." They shoved him, they punched him. And in spite of his parents' calls to counselors and principals, the harassment, intimidation and threats continued. For years it continued. A couple weeks ago, after being bullied at school, Asher went home, found his father's gun, and shot himself in the head. His father found Asher dead when he came home from work. Asher was 13. I would like for you to look at Asher's face.

Unlike Asher, Indiana teen Billy Lucas never self-identified as gay, but was perceived to be by the bullies who harassed him daily at Greenburg Community High School. Three weeks ago he hung himself in his grandparent's barn. He was 15.

Minnesota 15-year-old Justin Aaberg came out to friends at age 13 after which the harassment and bullying began. It grew as he moved from middle school to high school. When he found the harassment more than he could bear, he hung himself in his room and was found by his mother.

Classmates started teasing and name-calling Seth Walsh in the fourth grade. It continued through his middle school years where other students told him the world didn't need another "queer" and that he should "go hang himself." On Sept 18, after being threatened by a group of older teens, he went home, threw a noose around a tree branch, and he did just that — he hung himself in his back yard. His mother saw him, pulled him down and Seth survived on life support for nine days before dying a couple weeks ago.

Teen bullying and suicide have reached an epidemic in our country, especially among gay and lesbian youth, those perceived to be gay, or

kids who are just different. In recent weeks, New Jersey teen Tyler Cleminti jumped off a bridge to his death after his roommate outed him on the Internet. Rhode Island teen Raymond Chase hung himself in his dorm room. And we learned just yesterday of Oklahoma teen Zach Harrington who killed himself after attending a City Council meeting in Norman, Okla. where speakers made disparaging anti-gay remarks.

There is a conversation for the adults in this room and those watching to have—and we will have it: that this bullying and harassment in our schools must stop and that our schools must be a safe place to learn and grow. And I am committed to being part of that conversation.

But tonight I would like to talk to the 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17-year-olds at Paschal, Arlington Heights, or Trimble high schools, at Daggett or Rosemont middle school, or any school in Fort Worth, or for that matter, across the country. I know that life can seem unbearable. I know that the people in your household or in your school may not understand you or that they may even physically harm you.

But I want you to know that it gets better.

When I was 13, I was a skinny, lanky, awkward teen who had grown too tall too fast and would stumble over my own feet. I was the son of a Methodist Church pianist named Jeanette, and a cowboy named—fittingly—Butch, in Crowley, Texas. As their son and as a kid in a small town, there was a certain image of who I thought I was supposed to be. But as I entered adolescence, I started having feelings that I didn't understand and couldn't explain, but I knew they didn't mesh with the image of what I thought I was supposed to be.

I was a sensitive but friendly kid. I was a band dork. I played basketball, but not very well. I was teased like all kids, but I was fairly confident and didn't let it bother me much.

But one day when I was in the 9th grade, just starting Crowley High School, I was cornered after school by some older kids who roughed me up. They said that I was a faggot and that I should die and go to hell where I belonged.

That erupted the fear that I had kept pushed down: that what I was beginning to feel on the inside must somehow be showing on the outside. Ashamed, humiliated, and confused, I went home. There must be something so very wrong with me, I thought. Something I could never let my family or anyone else know.

I have never told anyone this story before tonight—not my family, not my husband, no one. But the numerous suicides in recent days have upset me so much—and have just torn at my



heart. And even though there may be political repercussions of my telling this story, this story is not for the adults who might choose or not choose to support me. This story is for the young people who might be holding that gun in their parents' bathroom tonight. Or the rope. Or the pill bottle.

You need to know the story doesn't end with me putting the gun back on that shelf. There is so much more.

Yes, high school was difficult. Coming out was painful. But life got SO much better for me. And I want to tell any teen who might see this: Give yourself the chance to see just how much better life WILL get. And it will get better. You will get out of the household that doesn't accept you. You will get out of that high school and never have to deal with those jerks again if you want. You will find and make new friends who will understand you. And life will get so, so much better.

I look back, and my life is full of so many happy memories that I wish I could share with those who photos were shown earlier and others who have taken their lives, memories that I wish I could share with the 13-year-old version of me.

If I could, I would take the 13-year-old me by the hand, and take him to the campaign office in 1992 of then-Governor Clinton, where, for a speechless moment, J.D. Angle and saw each

other for the first time.

I would take the 13-year-old me to the first day of spring 1993 on a West Texas ranch hill-top, surrounded by a dozen head of black angus cattle who thought we were there to feed, and as the sun set—turning the sky pink and purple and orange in a way that only a West Texas sunset can—I jabbed my hand into my jeans pocket and pulled out the two rings I'd spent literally my last dollar on, and slipped one on J.D.'s hand and asked him to spend the rest of his life with me.

I would take the 13-year-old Joel to election night in 2007 as the early vote numbers were announced and a room filled with countless family and friends erupted in cheers as it was clear I would win my first election, so that he could see the love and support for me that was in that room.

And I would take the 13-year-old me to just a few days ago, at Baylor Hospital, to see our dad, no longer the 40-year-old tough cowboy that I thought would never understand me, but now the 67-year-old, still-pretty-tough cowboy who has grown older. And the 13-year-old me would see me holding my dad's weathered hand and see, as my dad woke up from his operation, him squeeze my hand, and look up at me, and say, "Joel, I sure am glad you're here." And me say, "I am too, Daddy, I am too."

To those who are feeling very alone tonight, please know that I understand how you feel. But things will get easier. Please stick around to make those happy memories for yourself. It may not seem like it tonight, but they will. And attitudes will change. Please live long enough to be there to see it.

And to the adults, the bullying and harassment have to stop. Society cannot look aside as life after life is tragically lost.

If you need resources, please check out TheTrevorProject.org online. You can call me and I will get you whatever resources you need.

Thank you to those in this room for allowing me this time. And to J.D. and the rest of my family, I am sorry for you to learn of this painful personal story in this public way, but know that I am able to tell it because of your love for me.

Again, attitudes will change; life will get better, and you will have a lifetime of happy memories—if you just allow yourself to make them.

Windy City Times will be taking submissions of essays to run on our Web site, www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com, and in future issues. Please send your submission to editor@windycitymediagroup.com

TEXAS from cover

proclamation recognizing October as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender History Month in the city.

Harrington attended the meeting that evening.

"[Zach's] death, and reading about it on Oct. 11, was what prompted me to go sit down and write my speech. Sure, I had been thinking about [writing] it for many weeks, but just never took action on it," Burns said.

Harrington's death was the final straw.

So, at lunch on that Tuesday, Burns went home. He cried more, reflecting on the recent rash of teen suicides and his own teen troubles growing up and being bullied for being gay.

And then he wrote.

Burns wrote his now-famous Oct. 12 speech at lunch that same day. And he didn't edit a word when he delivered it.

"Each and every bullying story spoke to me personally because of my own personal experiences," when bullied, Burns said. "It was, realizing that a kid killed himself after hearing disparaging remarks at a city council meeting," that truly set Burns off. That suicide was the green light to address this at my own city council, or, as he said, "a sign, something I had to take on."

Burns talked Oct. 12 about his childhood, including the time at age 13 when he was bullied.

He was going to tell, for the first time ever, of his attempted suicide. His emotions took over, and he skipped that part.

Burns, who has had the same partner for 19 years, has been a worldwide sensation since his speech hit the web. He's appeared on CNN, NBC, MSNBC and The Ellen Show, among other high-profile media outlets.

The response to his speech "has been completely unlike anything I would have expected. It's been amazingly encouraging, very gratifying," Burns said. "When I read it, I had in mind that, at some point in the future, I wanted to use [the speech] to talk to local high school students in the district that I represent to address the issue of bullying. I had no idea what kind of ... pulpit or opportunity that I would have to have a conversation about this issue."

The flood of feedback has been incredible, to say the last. He's gotten more than 30,000 messages. And although Burns is only paid \$25,000 annually to sit on city council—and also works as a local realtor—he is using his own personal money to pay part-time help so everyone gets responses. "Every bit of that [money spent] is worth it, even if it just impacts one kid," he said.

Burns has gotten e-mails, phone calls and Facebook messages from literally around the world. And he's been invited to speak all over the world about his story and bullying. "It's amazing that the conversations [about bullying] still contin-

ues," a month after my speech," he said.

Burns has been on the Fort Worth City Council since 2007—and he's up for re-election in 2011.

"I got very positive responses from all of my [fellow] city council members," about the speech, Burns said. "Others cried during and after [my speech.] Numerous Fort Worth [city] staff members who were in the meeting [also acknowledged that they too] had dealt with suicides, and I never knew about [their troubles]."

Burns' speech was powerful, moving and gripping—and he was given a standing ovation when he finished.

The local ABC-TV affiliate went live from City Hall with a report on Burns' speech, even though the reporter had finished a story about city matters before Burns spoke—and yet the reporter scrapped that story for, instead, a report on Burns' speech.

By 10:04 that night, after the ABC broadcast, Burns said his cell phone, "was exploding."

Including a message from a friend who asked if Burns was planning to post his speech on YouTube. Burns said he was, perhaps over the weekend.

But the friend said that wasn't soon enough—it needed to be posted immediately, and volunteered to do so.

Sure enough, by 5 a.m. the next day, it was on YouTube. And by noon on Oct. 13, the speech had more than 5,000 views.

Today, the speech has been viewed about 2.4 million times.

Talk about a viral sensation.

"I remember thinking, 'I can't believe 5,000 people have seen this; that's crazy, more than I could ever imagine,'" Burns said. "It's been an amazing experience; that's for sure."

Especially, Burns said, the response he's received from teens worldwide.

Burns has since communicated with more than 10 teens who were planning their own deaths, but each re-considered after viewing his speech and reaching out to him.

"That's pretty amazing," he said. "I think about that and, well, I don't know of anything I'll ever do that will be as fulfilling, as rewarding."

More Joel Burns:

—The quote: "My life [since that speech] is a lot busier; I just have less free time than I did before. But that's OK."

—His partner, J.D. Angle, works in politics.

—Burns and Angle met 19 years, in 1992, working on then-Gov. Bill Clinton's primary election campaign, when he was running for the Democratic nomination for president.

—Being gay: In 2007, some of Burns' opponents tried to make his sexuality an issue in the press. But Burns won, "so that proved [my sexuality] wasn't that big of a deal to the people of Fort Worth, or at least in my district," he said.



St. Charles North High School. Photo from school's website

'Ally Week' stirs controversy at suburban high school

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

A week set aside to promote anti-bullying at St. Charles North High School became enveloped in controversy as some students decided to show their opposition to the LGBT community.

On Nov. 8, the first day of "Ally Week" at the school, three male students wore T-shirts with the slogan "Straight Pride" on the front and a Bible verse from Leviticus on the back. After students complained to school administrators about the T-shirts the boys were called into the dean's office. The students were not disciplined for wearing the T-shirts but did agree to the dean's request to black out a portion of the bible verse with permanent marker and never wear the T-shirts to school again. When two other boys came to school Nov. 9 with "Straight Pride" T-

shirts (without the bible passage on the back), they were asked to cover them with sweatshirts, and they complied with the request. Lastly, on Nov. 12 another boy wore a "Straight Pride" T-shirt to school; he was allowed to keep it on for the rest of the day.

In all of the cases school administrators, after talking with the students, determined that the boys did not intend to inflict physical or emotional harm and concluded they were just trying to make a statement about straight pride according to Jim Blaney, director of school and community relations. Blaney said that the school officials felt the students had a right to express their point of view because of the First Amendment; however, he added that others might see what they did as offensive or a form of bullying.

Blaney said that these events prompted discussions throughout the week among students, teachers and staff over First Amendment rights, political views and minority rights. The school, according to Blaney, decided to use this event as a teachable moment for all of the students that it's ok to disagree but respect is the key. Blaney noted that the school's poster promoting "Ally Week" is filled with signatures from students, staff and teachers and has been growing all week in the wake of the T-shirt controversy.

Amanda Harshbarger, a student at the school and a member of its gay-straight alliance (GSA), said that "the fact that the bullies weren't punished may have led other students throughout the week to feel like they could wear the same kind of shirt without any consequences." She went on to say that "no matter who is being bullied it is wrong and shouldn't be happening in our schools regardless of who the person is." Harshbarger also said that many more people are paying attention to bullying in the school because of the T-shirt controversy but wished the response to this individual issue was dealt with immediately; however, she is happy with the school's overall response to combat bullying.

St. Charles North has had a GSA for several

years and has had a curriculum in place to teach students about respect, bullying and suicide prevention since the spring of 2009, following the school district's summit on suicide prevention held earlier that year.

Blaney shared that teachers/staff wore "ally" shirts all week to show their support. Harshbarger noted that there are "ally" stickers with the message "If you feel bullied" on many classroom and staff office doors that direct students to adults.

Blaney told Windy City Times that the district's Parent University topic this week is "Bullying in

LGBTs protest AFAH

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The Gay Liberation Network (GLN), headed by Andy Thayer, protested the "Americans for 'Truth' About Homosexuality" (AFAH) annual banquet Nov. 13. The event was held at the Christian Liberty Academy in Arlington Heights.

AFAH, led by Executive Director Peter LaBarbera, is classified as a "hate group" by the Southern Poverty Law Center, and LaBarbera has been quoted as supporting Uganda's "kill the gays" bill. LaBarbera has also been a driving force to get anti-gay referenda on Illinois' ballot for many years.

Thayer told Windy City Times that the protest was to "call out the bigotry and hatred" that still exists in all corners of America. He said that direct action protest is still necessary especially after the recent election results, inaction by the Obama Administration regarding Don't Ask, Don't Tell and initiatives like Proposition 8 in California.

Dave, a dinner attendee, stayed outside for a while to talk to the protestors. He told Windy City Times that he came to the dinner "to understand homosexual behavior." Dave then said "sex outside of marriage is wrong" and noted,

the Cyber Age: What Parents Need to Know." There, attendees will hear from a student who has been bullied and another student who will teach the parents about social-media websites and how electronic devices are used. Harshbarger mentioned the Facebook page entitled "SCN Students against Bullying at CUSD303 School Board Meeting," which she set up with four other individuals so people can attend the board meeting to discuss what happened and work on an action plan to make sure that bullying is not tolerated at the school any more.

without being asked, that he has never been married but has sexual feelings, even though he said he does not act on them.

The protest lasted slightly more than an hour, with about 50 people from all age groups holding pro-equality signs, waving rainbow flags, banging a drum, marching and chanting slogans. Only a handful of people were seen walking into the building during the protest and the parking lot to the academy was only about one-quarter full. Many other drivers honked their horns in solidarity with the protestors.

Police were present but stayed on the sidelines, except for one incident where a local resident complained about the noise. They told her that unless she had a court order the protest could continue. She left the scene yelling at everyone present when she could not comply.

Thayer and Roger Fraser, a GLN member who lives in the area, spoke to the crowd at the close of the protest. Fraser invoked the Spartacus speech from history when everyone got up and said "I am Spartacus." As Fraser was speaking a woman came out of the building to shout at the protestors. When her shouts were ignored, she seemed startled and went back into the facility. Following the speeches the protestors gathered their signs and flags and left the area.

CAMERON MACKINTOSH'S
SPECTACULAR NEW PRODUCTION

Les Misérables

BOUBLIL & SCHÖNBERG'S LEGENDARY MUSICAL

Lyrics by HERBERT KRETZMER

ON SALE NOW!
FEBRUARY 2-27

800.775.2000 • BROADWAY IN CHICAGO.COM

Cadillac Palace

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ALL BROADWAY IN CHICAGO BOX OFFICES
AND TICKETMASTER RETAIL LOCATIONS • GROUPS 15+: 312-977-1710

LesMis.com

**Thursday, Nov. 18
7:30 p.m.
Norma Price
Crossing with the Virgin:
Stories from the
Migrant Trail**

**Saturday, Nov. 20
7:30 p.m.
Sappho's Salon
Featuring Gabrielle Everall
and Ripley Caine, special
guest
DJ SpinNikki**



5233 N. Clark
(773) 769-9299

wcfbooks@aol.com
www.womenandchildrenfirst.com
Parking Available
Wheelchair Accessible



HIV-positive Jennifer Jako and HIV-negative daughter Bianca, who are featured in "A Day with HIV in America." Photo courtesy of Rick Guasco

Giving HIV a face: Photo essay tackles stigmas

BY HELEN ADAMOPOULOS

They wake up in the morning smiling. They get dressed and take the bus to work. They go shopping at Trader Joe's, pay their bills and walk their dogs. They go to church, play with their kids and grow enormous pumpkins in their gardens. They are people living with HIV.

Positively Aware, a magazine published by Chicago's Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), depicts people affected by HIV taking part in all of these activities and more in the photo essay "A Day with HIV in America" in its November/December issue. The pictures show people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds and all ages going about their daily routines in communities from New York to Los Angeles. Positively Aware editor Jeff Berry said the point of the essay is to create a sense of community and humanize HIV.

"It will really put a face on the epidemic," Berry said. "I hope it will chip away at some of the stigma."

The 26-photo essay features snapshots people around the country took Sept. 21. Berry said the magazine received more than 100 submissions. Participants also wrote captions for their pictures, sharing details about their lives.

"I was really astounded by the variety and diversity," Berry said. "It was actually very mov-

ing. So often we just hear about statistics."

One photo that stuck with Berry features Ann Wright and her HIV-positive twin girls, Sade and Mya. Each grinning girl holds a black poodle in her arms. The caption says they want to be veterinarians. Another photo shows Jennifer Jako, who has been HIV-positive for 20 years, pushing her 4-year-old daughter Bianca—mouth open in an ecstatic smile, hair flying—on a swing. Bianca was born HIV-negative because of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART).

"Stories like that, they're so powerful and yet so everyday," Berry said. "It makes me want to just continue to try to tell these stories."

The project began at a Positively Aware planning meeting last August as part of a discussion about what the magazine should do for World AIDS Day Dec. 1. Berry said Positively Aware Art Director Rick Guasco came up with the idea. Despite the lack of time and tight budget, Berry writes in his editor's note for the November/December issue that they proceeded "full-tilt boogie" with the project.

Berry said that aside from himself and Guasco, Operations and IT Coordinator Josh Thorne and Editorial Assistant Sue Saltmarsh worked on the photo essay. They created the Web site adaywithhiv.com as well as a Facebook page and a Twitter account to advertise the project.

Berry said he and Guasco decided which photos to print in the magazine as part of the five-page essay. All of the submissions can be viewed at adaywithhiv.com.

"We tried to choose those which really reflected what the project was about and showed diversity," Berry said.

Evany Turk—who manages the Positive Adherence and Stable Housing Now (PASHN) medication adherence program at the Chicago House and Social Service Agency—is one of the 26 whose photos were printed. The picture shows Turk and her sons—6-year-old Kywon Nelson and 17-year-old DeShawn Turk—in front of their house before they left for school.

"My family is my motivation for living and doing good and trying to change," Turk said. "I have to take care of them, so I have to keep myself healthy. That's what a day with HIV for me is. All the things I do in a day, I do to better my kids' life."

Cyber activist Robert Breining, who also has a photo in the magazine, said it's a great idea to send the message that HIV-positive people aren't that different from those who don't have

it. In his picture, Breining holds a 45-pound pumpkin he and his partner grew in their garden in Levittown, Penn.

"Everybody thinks that we're this skinny person that lies in bed taking their medicine," Breining said. "It just shows we're normal people."

Breining reaches out to others with HIV through his Web site PozIam.com. He said that if people with HIV aren't comfortable with their status, then others won't be either.

Berry agrees that people who are positive need to identify themselves without fear of being ostracized. He said educating people and raising awareness will help reduce the stigma.



Robert Breining, another person featured in "A Day with HIV in America." Photo courtesy of Jeff Berry

"A lot of it's just based on fear, but also ignorance about how the virus is transmitted," Berry said. "We need to bring the discussion up and not be afraid to come forward."

Berry said that although they do not have any definite plans, the Positively Aware staff members are considering making the photo essay an ongoing project. For more information about TPAN and Positively Aware, visit tpan.com and positivelyaware.com.



**Have your
premiums
increased
recently?**

See me:
**Charles T. Rhodes,
Agent**
2472 N. Clark
773.281.0890

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
(not in NJ)
State Farm Indemnity Company (NJ)
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois



Jeff Berry. Photo courtesy of Berry

University ousts teacher for commitment announcement

BY KATE SOSIN

Illinois' Benedictine University is facing a firestorm of unfavorable press and a possible lawsuit for allegedly ousting an administrator over her same-sex wedding announcement.

Dr. Laine Tadlock says she was forced out of her position as the director of education at the school's Springfield campus for publishing news of her Iowa wedding to partner Kae Helstrom. Tadlock had been out as a lesbian to her supervisors since before she was hired five years ago, she said.

According to Tadlock, the university previously allowed her two weeks vacation for her wedding and honeymoon, and it was in the process of finalizing partner benefits for Helstrom. But, Tadlock has said when school officials started receiving angry calls about her July 12 wedding announcement, she was put on administrative leave and offered early retirement.

She turned down the offer.

"It was their way of sweeping under the rug what they saw as a problem," said Tadlock's lawyer, Rick Frazier. The offer included a clause that prevented Tadlock from suing the university. Frazier and Tadlock countered the initial retirement offer for better benefits and compensation, but the school refused. That's when things got confusing, Tadlock said.

Tadlock was re-assigned to a position as director of accreditation, something she said she knows little about. "Of all the jobs possible to offer me, that would not be the one," Tadlock told Windy City Times. "I knew I was not qualified and I was not willing to take responsibility for the continuation of the University based on my skills that I thought were inadequate."

A Nov. 10 press release from the University alleges that Tadlock was qualified for the position and that she was warned that "a refusal to report to work in this new position would be considered a resignation from employment."

Tadlock rejected the new position, and received notification Oct. 28 that the school had accepted her resignation.

"It was certainly not [a resignation]," attorney Rick Frazier said.

"If my being employed there is against the tenants of the Catholic faith, then how could I be the director of another program?" Tadlock said.

The school has vehemently denied that it terminated Tadlock. However, the press release suggested that the University's actions were in fact a response to Tadlock's wedding announcement and subsequent decisions to go public with the controversy.

"It was not Tadlock's orientation, but rather the public disregard for the fundamental Catholic beliefs, which was the basis for the University's decisions," the release stated. It goes on to warn that "in the event that Tadlock seeks legal redress, whether on the basis of the supposed 'termination' or otherwise, the University will defend itself vigorously, and believes it will prevail."

But Rick Frazier says the law is on his client's side. He's looking into filing a complaint with the Illinois Human Rights Commission, and says a lawsuit is "on the table."

Tadlock says she doesn't regret any of her actions. "Never once did Kae and I think about, 'Hmmm...how is the university going to respond to [our wedding announcement]. It just wasn't on the radar because they'd been so accepting so far."

Civil-union bill may be on fast track

Could the Illinois General Assembly pass a civil-union measure soon?

That is the question on the minds of many as state legislators began their veto session Nov. 16. The Illinois House, in particular, will be more socially conservative next year, seemingly making the passage of measures such as the civil-union a priority.

State Rep. Greg Harris said that the bill seems to be on the edge of passing, telling Windy City Times that voting could take place very soon.

According to ChicagoPride.com, Equality Illinois Public Policy Director Rick Garcia said, "We are in overdrive working to get the civil union bill passed before the end of the year—and, the governor is fully on board." Gov. Pat Quinn, who recently was re-elected after a close race against Republican state Sen. Bill Brady, has expressed his support of civil unions.

Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov told Windy City Times that, although he does not have a time line set for movement on this measure, his position "is that the bill is still alive



Bernard Cherkasov. Photo courtesy of Danny Maurice

before the General Assembly. I'm hopeful that when they're back in session they will consider this bill because there are tens of thousands of same-sex couples in Illinois who need the protections—and need them urgently."

He added that "if the bill is not up for a vote during the session, it dies. That means we have to start from scratch with the next session

[which starts in January]—which means that [all of these] same-sex couples are at a disadvantage."

However, even though civil-union activists would have to restart the campaign to get the bill passed in the next session if this session does not pass it, Cherkasov remained hopeful—even with more Republicans occupying assembly seats next year. "More Republicans doesn't mean [fewer] LGBT-friendly [people]," he said. "I believe that every legislator, having the opportunity to learn more about his or her LGBT constituents, will know why this is the right bill. It's just that the education process takes a long time."

—Andrew Davis

Laird Petersen memorial Nov. 20

A memorial has been set for former Chicago activist Laird Petersen. The tribute will be Saturday, Nov. 20, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Center on Halsted, Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Petersen's memory can be made to: The Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago, Ill., 60613.

Get the Shot

Help Chicago fight the flu, get the flu shot. The 2010-2011 flu vaccine includes protection against H1N1 and other forms of influenza. If you live in Chicago and don't have a doctor, call 311 or contact the Chicago Department of Public Health.



Call 311 or visit www.cityofchicago.org/Flu



City of Chicago • Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Chicago Department of Public Health • Bechara Choucair, M.D., Commissioner



At Home on the Range

TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN, PHOTOS BY HAL BAIM

Michael Musgrave and Shawn Harms, partners on and off for the past 12 years, live together in a rural area far northwest of Chicago, in a beautiful, picturesque home, with more than 120 sprawling acres of land that they own. Their finely detailed, family-owned home includes a fully stocked wine cellar, an indoor pool and Jacuzzi, a stand-alone video game, and weight room.

They also have a barn, pond and 100-year-old farmhouse.

And the animals. Ah, yes, their loving animals. Harms helps in their care a bit more than Musgrave, but they both have obvious affection for those in their heard. There are the five dogs—different sizes, breeds and colors, and all are friendly.

They also own three horses, seven exotic, egg-laying chickens, four goats, three cats and four ducks.

And next year they plan to add turkeys and possibly steers.

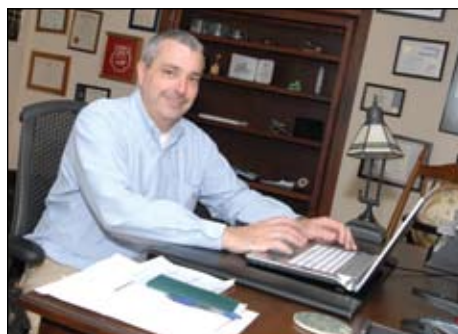
Musgrave's favorites are the dogs; he's a dog-person.

Harms said it's too hard to pick his favorite. "I love them all."

Musgrave, 46, moved into the home with his parents in 1972 from suburban Glenview. "I never thought I'd want to move back here, but it's really nice not having neighbors and the city life," he said.

Harms was Musgrave's first boyfriend.

"This is a relatively gay-friendly area. Every-



Michael at work in his home office (above) and at play in his wine cellar (below).



one around here is super friendly and no one really cares [about our sexuality]," said Musgrave, who graduated from Huntley High School.

Musgrave is the Chairman of the family's business: WPM - Western Printing Machinery Co., a

Schiller Park-based international company with about 50 employees locally that manufactures and services inline and offline finishing and converting systems for the printing and related industries. He came out at work about five years ago, "and no one really cared," he said, "and that was one of my biggest fears".

"This is a very blue-collar industry, and I really wasn't sure what to expect when I came out," Musgrave said. "I knew that I couldn't afford to alienate a customer. Losing one customer could cost people's jobs."

Harms, 30, who grew up in Oklahoma, was in the U.S. Army until 2005. "Being closeted in the Army was rough," he said. Harms actually was asked his sexual orientation during his Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), when he was asked if he was gay. He still signed the form, "because I needed the Army."

During his Army run in the mid-2000s, he was stationed in Korea—and drove M1A1 Abrahams tanks until being promoted to a Command Sergeant Major's personal driver and security.

Harms received an honorable discharge.

The couple now have made a fantastic home for themselves in an area just outside Huntley, Ill., and they are happily part of both the fledgling gay community, and the overall society of this area.

This is the first of a series of articles about gays living in the Far Northwest suburbs of Chicago.



The couple with four out of five of their dogs on their 120-acre property.



Shawn (left) and Michael with one of their four ducks.



The couple's indoor pool.



Mayoral candidates make things official

The race to become Chicago Mayor Richard Daley's successor became a bit clearer after pastor and state Sen. James Meeks, former White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and U.S. Rep. Danny Davis officially threw their hats into the ring.

At the University of Illinois at Chicago, Meeks told supporters Nov. 14, "A city that really works must have a leader. A leader who can't take Chicago Public Schools blaming the teachers union ... Whites blaming African Americans and African Americans blaming Hispanics ... The South Side blaming the West Side ... Cubs fans blaming White Sox fans," according to the Chicago Tribune.

Meeks' announcement was relatively showy, complete with a seven-piece band, hundreds of backers wearing "Leadership for change, Meeks for Mayor" T-shirts—and an introduction by former state Republican Party Chairman Andy McKenna.

At the Hotel Allegro in Chicago's Loop, Davis made his candidacy official the same day. He asked people to help him and his team find solutions to the problems that plague the city. At one point, Davis said, "You don't have to be rich, you don't have to be wealthy, you don't have to be high in the penthouse—all that you have to be is highly motivated and involved to

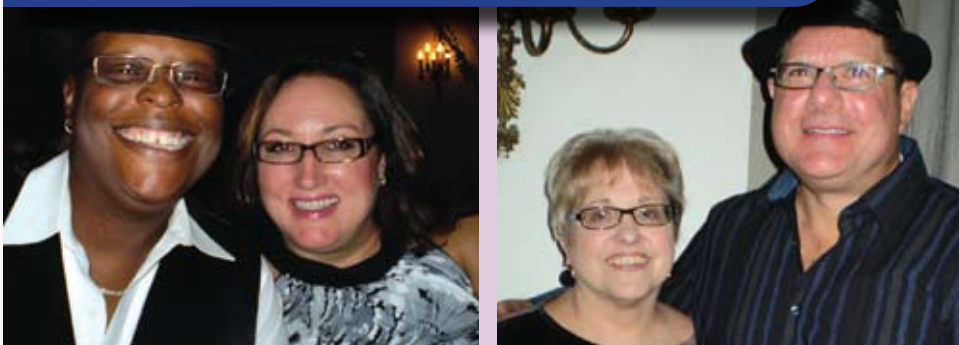
make a difference," according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

The day before, Emanuel confirmed what everyone knew—that he plans to run for mayor. At a school gymnasium, Emanuel spoke of maintaining Chicago's status as a "world-class city." Emanuel, who is considered a favorite in the race, already has \$1 million in his campaign account and name recognition, according to Slate magazine. Regarding the question if Emanuel's boss, President Obama, would campaign for him, White House senior advisor David Axelrod told Meet the Press host David Gregory that the chief has not decided even though Obama's "view of Rahm is very clear."

Meeks, Davis and Emanuel join other individuals who have already declared their candidacy, including Gery Chico, the mayor's former chief of staff and school board president; former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun; and City Clerk Miguel del Valle. According to the Huffington Post, Braun strategist Mike Noonan said that revealed that his team plans on provoking Emanuel's temper.

Among those who have dropped out of the race is Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, who cited familial obligations. State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulas, who recently lost a very close race for Obama's old U.S. Senate seat to Mark Kirk, was rumored to be considering a mayoral run; however, he declined to run, despite the attempts of some aldermen to woo him.

OPALGA's gala



Approximately 250 people gathered at the 14th annual OPAL (Oak Park Area Leadership) Gala, hosted by the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA) Nov. 13. The gala had a wedding-like feel, with seemingly dissimilar attendees happily gathering to celebrate. From teen to senior and same race to biracial couples, people in genders spanning the spectrum and, even several straight allies filled the hall at the 19th Century Club for the event aptly called "Welcome Home."

A Place for All: Oak Park River Forest High School's Gay-Straight Alliance was the recipient this year's Opal Award. Since 1997 the club has provided a safe and fun environment for it's members as well as the opportunity for members to foster and develop their voices to speak up and out about their experiences both with each other and in the community at large as they strive to make things better for LGBTQ people everywhere. The club members take this so seriously that their official name is A Place for All (or APA) because they want ALL students, including transgendered and questioning students, to feel welcome.

The Oak Park Library has made a consistent effort to maintain collections of materials by or for sexual minorities. This includes making these materials identifiable and readily available, defending them when confronted with censorship challenges and proactively assembling LGBTQ bibliographies and guides to resources; hosted LGBTQ events including film showings, meetings, and public forums. A pinnacle event took place in 2007 when the Oak Park Library applied for and received a grant to create the first focused Transgender Resource Collection in a U.S. library. In addition to serving the local community, the library has created a Library Toolkit for other libraries interested in knowing more about Oak Park's Transgender Resource Collection. For this and the ongoing fight against ignorance and silence, the Oak Park Library received the Opal Award. Photos and text by Mel Ferrand

VIEWPOINTS WINDY CITY TIMES



**TRACY
BAIM**

What's the matter with... HBHC?

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC, formerly Howard Brown Memorial Clinic) has been a very difficult Chicago LGBT agency to cover over the years. I started reporting about their work in 1984 when I first started as a writer at GayLife newspaper. The clinic had been in place since the 1970s as a health service provider, and research center, but with the start of the AIDS epidemic, it necessarily shifted its focus to this crisis.

HBHC has provided incredible and necessary services for the city of Chicago for tens of thousands of people across several decades. But the agency has gone through many staff and board upheavals, and has had more than its share of controversy, especially involving executive directors. It has always been difficult to get to the truth, about what was really behind any scandals.

This most recent crisis might be larger, but its cause is rooted in the same climate that created previous problems. As an outsider, especially someone trying to cover their problems, I would boil down the complicated issues to two simple concepts: too much secrecy and too little accountability.

For decades, HBHC has been really good at

silencing the departing board members and employees (through confidentiality contracts and severance packages). Whether this is to protect the agency or their own remaining jobs, the clinic has somehow managed to operate mostly behind a veil of secrecy. And when there are no problems, maybe that policy seems to work fine. But when problems happen, and they are covered up, the secrecy only makes the situation worse. Then, the lack of accountability adds even more sludge to the garbage pile.

While some people do not believe the recent crisis at HBHC was done for personal gain, it did cause actual pain. Funds may have been diverted from government projects to cover general overhead, or, worse, funds might have been diverted and misspent in other ways. And, how does one even describe "personal gain" in this situation? If, by diverting money to cover up financial gaps, some people (or board members) were allowed to stay in place, that is personal gain of a monetary or "status" kind. The protection of reputation is a matter of personal gain even if no money was taken.

But if the problems had been pointed out at the time, and taken to the community, the community would likely have understood and stepped up to help. Honesty is always the best policy.

When I was on the Gay Games board and we were short of funds at the end of the event, I strongly advocated going public with the amount we needed to raise, and our board did in fact speak very truthfully to the community. Several hundred people came forward to help us break even within a year of the event's closure. We were very clear to everyone about what was needed, and we negotiated with vendors and venues to end in the black. Hiding would not have made the situation go away, and in fact would have only made it worse once it became known. The Gay Games was a \$10-million high-profile community project, and had it lost mon-

ey on a permanent basis, it would have been an embarrassment to Chicago and hurt our vendors. Our board rightfully would have been held accountable.

The same is true of HBHC. Whenever their financial troubles started, both the board and executive staff should have been honest with their situation. And if any other LGBT group is currently facing a similar crisis, I urge them to come forward now, and be honest with our community.

As it stands, HBHC's new leaders are trying to clean up the garbage they inherited. But no one really believes things will change at HBHC unless the following changes happen:

—100-percent full disclosure of what was known and when it was known;

—Any executive, decision-making staff member from that time period is fired;

—Any board member who served on HBHC prior to Jan. 1, 2010, should be asked to leave, with a solid and fully transparent transition plan to bring in new board members.

It may be true that not all board members, or top staff, had a role in the problems of the last two or three years. But there are only two places you can stand: you either knew it was happening and did nothing (and that includes not making it public), or you didn't know and therefore you were not doing your job. In the case of the board, your role is oversight of the organization. The board is just as guilty as the staff in a non-profit such as HBHC. If you are a board member who tried to make change, but you were not successful, then you can still serve our community without having to be on the board to do so. Anyone can help.

We need HBHC in our community. There are good employees who work there, and clients need the services of HBHC and Lesbian Community Care Project. But we need the culture at HBHC to change to one of transparency and accountability. Now.

Howard Brown's casualties

Dear Editor:

In light of the tragic situation facing the Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC), let's take a moment to focus on the amazing group of professionals who are employed there. With most of the focus on the departed senior staff and the crisis (certainly important) it is also important to remember all those who provide the amazing services at HBHC.

It is the HBHC staff who likely make the small salaries, receive few benefits and dedicate hours and hours of their time to care for their community. Many who have no choice but to live from paycheck to paycheck will experience the greatest loss if they lose their jobs. Unlike senior staff who are now gone, they don't have any 401Ks, investments or property to sell if they need cash.

I have been active with HBHC for more than 26 years. I sit on the HBHC Community Advisory Board (CAB) and the MACS CAB and spoke for the HBHC in Washington, D.C., for the MACS Study's 25th anniversary. For more than a quarter century, thousands of others have been greeted, scheduled, examined, counseled, cared for and treated with respect (and lives have been saved!) by an amazing group of professional employees from Howard Brown.

They are the true heroes of the organization, and they are forced to sit quietly by the sidelines for fear of losing their jobs and learn of their possible fates either from the media or just before it hits the press. Unfortunately, they are the ones who may suffer the greatest loss. Let's not forget this amazing group of individuals who all deserve a whole lot more than they got.

Sincerely yours,
Danny Kopelson
Chicago

Board must go

Dear Editor:

I was glad to read in your recent article "Howard Brown in Crisis" that the board of directors is done pointing fingers and finally taking some responsibility for this disastrous fiscal fiasco. Having attended several Howard Brown fundraisers over the years, I am shocked at how my and other donors' money was terribly mismanaged.

If Howard Brown is truly interested in a fresh start, then every current board member should resign. The existing board is clearly either lazy, incompetent or possibly complicit. For example,

how is it that this board is now only forming a compliance committee? How does a competent board suddenly realize that it needs \$1,000,000 for the facility to keep its doors open?? Also, hiring more lawyers as managers or board members is not the answer. Howard Brown needs people with operating experience, as well as individuals with finance and accounting backgrounds.

Having served on numerous corporate boards, I know a good board from a bad one. This is a bad one. Personally, I would never recommend that anyone donate one dime to Howard Brown if members of the existing board remain. Fool me once, shame on you—fool me twice, shame on me.

Mark D. Schindel
Chicago

Send letters and viewpoints to
Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.
Items may be edited for length or clarity.

VOL. 26 No. 7, Nov. 17, 2010

The combined forces of Windy City Times, founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper, founded May 1987.

PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis
BUSINESS MANAGER Meghan Streit
DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA Jean Albright
ART DIRECTOR Kirk Williamson
ACCOUNT MANAGERS: Terri Klinsky, Amy Matheny, Kirk Williamson

PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT Cynthia Holmes
NIGHTSPOTS MANAGING EDITOR Kirk Williamson
NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863
SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Emmanuel Garcia
THEATER EDITOR Scott C. Morgan
CINEMA WRITER Richard Knight, Jr.

BOOKS WRITER Yasmin Nair
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS Mary Shen Barnidge, Jim Edminster, Steve Warren, Lawrence Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Catey Sullivan, Zachary Whittenburg, Jonathan Abarbanel
COLUMNISTS/WRITERS: Yvonne Zipfer, Susie Day, Jorjet Harper, Lee Lynch, Steve Starr, Lisa Keen, Charles Dewey, Michael Knipp, Mark Corece, Sabine Neidhardt, Sam Worley, Billy Masters, John Fenoglio, Chuck Colbert, Micki Leventhal, Sarah Toce, Rachel Pepper
PHOTOGRAPHERS Kat Fitzgerald, Mel Ferrand, Hal Baim, Steve Starr, Emmanuel Garcia

CIRCULATION

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright
DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Renee, Sue and Victor

Copyright 2010 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
radio: WindyCityQueercast.com
video: QueerTVNetwork.com

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,
5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL 60640 USA
(MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Windy City Times Deadline every Wednesday.
Nightspots Deadline Wednesday prior to street date.
Identity (BLACKlines and En La Vida): Now online only
Deadline The 10th of month prior.
OUT! Resource Guide ONLINE
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
www.WindyCityQueercast.com
www.QueerTVNetwork.com

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

Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by
Wayne
Karl

'SISTER' ACT

Profiles Theatre's in-your-face Kid Sister (with Allison Torem and Darrell W. Cox) is being reviewed this week. See page 20.

THEATER

'Story' time.
Page 21.



MOVIES

Reeling 2010: The end.
Page 22.

Photo by Steve Starr



SPORTS

In and Out(games).
Page 30.

Photo courtesy of David Hindley

SCOTTISH
PLAY SCOTT'Float'
takes on
religion,
sexuality

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Patricia Kane's world-premiere comic drama *Float* centers around five women constructing (and then deconstructing) a Christmas parade float in a fictional Midwestern small town. So it's odd that Kane would say, "I have no experience whatsoever" when it comes to building a float.

Instead, Kane uses the float-building situation to illuminate her small-town drama of exposed secrets involving religious conflicts, unspoken affairs and hidden sexuality for her third play written for About Face Theatre (the others being the twice-produced 1950s lesbian musical *Pulp* and a literary adaptation of Carol Anshaw's novel *Seven Moves*).

Kane personally knows what it's like to grow up in a small Illinois town (raised in Chatham, just south of Springfield), and how everyone can quickly find out about each other's business.

"[Chatham] is mostly a suburb now, but I remember growing up what a big deal it was when we reached the population of 3,000," Kane said in a telephone interview.

Float was developed last year as part of About Face's XYZ Festival, a revitalized initiative spearheaded by artistic director Bonnie Metzgar to showcase a plethora of works in development.

"XYZ really revealed what was needed," Kane said, noting that it was Metzgar's deadline that helped push her to complete the play. Based upon the readings, Kane felt the need to expand the play with a second act two days after the parade. "I just tried to really enliven this whole



Patricia Kane. Photo courtesy of Kane

town and community even more."

Even though Kane wrote the physical float-building into her script, she is still amazed at what director Leslie Danzig (of *500 Clown* fame) and her design team can do in terms of constructing an actual parade float on stage at Theater Wit every performance.

Deep into the preview process, Kane says she's still tweaking the dialogue here and there, but she knows she has to stop at some point "so the cast has time to let the words become a part of them." (Full disclosure: *Float* performer and About Face artistic associate Amy Matheny is an employee of Windy City Media Group, which publishes *Windy City Times*.)

As with *Pulp*, Kane said she wrote *Float* with two guiding principles: To write interesting roles for women of a certain age, and to also bring in a lesbian voice. Kane personally knows it can be an uphill battle for lesbians to be depicted in entertainment.

"Even though *Pulp* was a huge hit at every venue it has played, it still can't get a New York production and no one will publish it," Kane said, adding that she was told point-blank by the powers that be that there wasn't enough interest for lesbian dramas.

"I personally want to hear more of our stories [in movies, plays and books]," Kane said. "I feel that there's a whole realm that needs to be explored and what I'm trying to do is my tiny part to remedy that."

About Face Theatre's world premiere of Patricia Kane's *Float* continues in previews until Nov. 18 at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont. The gala opening night is 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19 (\$150 tickets), and regular performances continue at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sunday through Dec. 12. (There is no show on Nov. 25.) Tickets are \$25 (\$15 for students). Call 773-975-8150 or visit <http://www.aboutfacetheatre.com> for more information.

Lesbian from Down Under

Kane isn't the only woman out to make sure that more Sapphic stories get to see the light of day. Australian writer Louise Wadley and her partner/producer, Jay Rutovitz, are making the journey from Sydney to Chicago as one of five finalists receiving a staged reading for Pride Film and Plays' Great Gay Screenplay Contest Finale at the Center on Halsted.

"I want to have strong exciting lesbian heroines in the films I watch and it takes a lot of searching to find that even in the lesbian and gay media," Wadley e-mailed *Windy City Times*. "Any real depth of characterization is usually the first casualty in the lesbian movies I see. I think it reveals a lack of confidence in our storytelling. That's going to change but it takes time and trial and error."

Wadley describes her screenplay, *The Trouble with E*, as a "thriller, a road movie and a love story" involving a woman DJ who goes by the moniker of "E" as she stumbles upon a stolen stash of cash and must escape to the Outback to

the hoped-for safety of an ex-girlfriend.

Wadley is grateful that David Zak and John Nasca of Pride Films and Plays are putting on the Great Gay Screenplay Competition, since "it encourages us to tell our stories and we get a feel for how they play to an audience before we start filming, so the films we make will get better and better," Wadley said. "Our storytelling and the level of sophistication is a real mirror for who we are as lesbians and gay men, and it has sometimes been a rocky and uneven road."

This is the first time that Wadley and Rutovitz have ever visited Chicago and they're eager to take in the famed architecture and hopefully some gospel music as well. But more importantly, they're also hoping to drum up some more financial backers for the film which they hope to start shooting sometime next year. (Wadley and Rutovitz hold a pitching event at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 at the Center on Halsted.)

"What will the Australian story sound like in Chicago voices as they head off into the Outback? I'm dying to know!" wrote Wadley, hoping that her potential film could be as quintessentially Australian and universal as other film favorites like *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* and *Muriel's Wedding*.

"The Trouble with E—she is who she is, a product of her Aussie environment but she is also a girl who struggles to reach past the superficial, to use her gifts, to really reach for the stars and be brave enough to be herself."

The Great Gay Screenplay Contest Finale takes place at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. Louise Wadley's *The Trouble with E* is read along with Tom Hietter's *Detasseling* as part of Program A at 5 p.m. Nov. 20. Program B consists of Chris French's *Bethlehem*, Chris Mason Jonson and Kate Stayman-London's *Skirt* and Gary Polston's *The Queen of Hearts*, which is performed 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21. Tickets for each program are \$10, while a weekend-pass is available for \$15. Call 800-838-3006 or visit <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com> for more information.



Departure Lounge. Photo by Jay Kennedy

THEATER REVIEW

Departure Lounge

Composer/librettist: Douglas Irvine
At: Bailiwick Chicago at
 Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted
Phone: 312-988-9000; \$35-\$45
Runs through: Dec. 12

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There's no denying that the new British musical Departure Lounge is muddled mess. But at least it's a well-intentioned mess that is sure to entertain (especially die-hard Anglophiles) in this slick American debut production by the forces of the recently reborn Bailiwick Chicago.

Composer and librettist Douglas Irvine definitely displays loads of talent in this musical that focuses on four British 18-year-old lads who all took in a booze-fueled week in Spain. Stuck in the air terminal for their return flight, friendships are in danger of fraying as they all debate about what exactly happened on this inebriated holiday. All the while, the guys are also stressing about their upcoming exam results that will affect where (and if) they go to college.

Irvine uses his four-guy configuration to pen some very catchy boy band-type tunes with plenty of wry commentary (all sung expertly by Devin Archer, Dan Beno, Jay W. Cullen and Erik Kaiko). But Irvine ultimately aims at too many targets.

There's crumbling friendships within the British class system, casually codified homophobic justifications for "That's so gay" putdowns, lingering British notions of Imperial superiority, and self-aware celebrations of cheap tourist

packages that coddle and cater to British tourists. And throughout, there are plenty of jabs at the discount Irish airline Ryanair (the show ends with a joke that will go over the heads of anyone unfamiliar with Ryanair's penny-pinching penalties).

While Irvine's choppy structure can sometimes be fun (especially in the argumentative flashbacks and fantasy numbers as staged energetically, if often busily, by director/chorographer Tom Mullen), it all blurs into a back-and-forth whiplash.

Another problem is that Departure Lounge's characters are so initially unsympathetic (they're analogous to obnoxious and loud American frat boys). And in the case of the closeted gay one, he's dramatically unconvincing.

Women also don't come off too well, with the bombshell Sophie (a spot-on Andrea Larson, with looks and dialect) emerging little more than an air-headed Aussie bedroom conquest. Perhaps if Irvine had collaborated with book writer, the show might have coalesced more competently with a consistent tone and more believable character developments.

Even through Departure Lounge's imperfections, Bailiwick Chicago lavishes lots of glossy attention on the show. Stretching from the sleek terminal production design to the very talented vocals and comic timing of the ensemble, Bailiwick Chicago puts on an entertaining show with an attractive cast.

Douglas Irvine definitely deserves another chance to write a better musical. Just look at Departure Lounge as a learning experience containing some brilliant bits mixed amid some storytelling stinkers.

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

Andy Eninger wrote and will perform the piece, which is being directed by Jim Bennett. Tickets are free. See <http://www.gayco.com>.



Andy Eninger as Abe Lincoln at Lambda Legal's 2009 Bon Foster event. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

THEATER REVIEW

Kid Sister

Playwright: Will Kern
At: Profiles Theatre, 4147 N. Broadway
Phone: 773-549-1815; \$30-\$35
Runs through: Dec. 19

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Move over, Roderick and Madeline Usher! Stand back, Duke and Duchess of Malfi! Will Kern's "dime novel" introduces us to a brother and sister whose toxic progress teems with the kind of neo-Jacobean perversion and bloody butchery—not to mention a cross-gender twist—expected of the author whose Hellcab took us on a tour of urban underbellies for most of the 1990s.

Cassius Williams was 16 when his little sister was born, their mother's death and father's chronic neglect facilitating the infant Demi's coming to regard her brother as her parent/protector. Following a prison sentence engendered by a misguided samaritan impulse, Cassius returns home to discover that, in his absence, his now teenage sibling has immersed herself in a television-fueled fantasy of auditioning for American Idol and escaping to Hollywood. These ambitions are obstructed by several factors, the most immediate being her illegitimate daughter, its possessive sire, and a meek consort who dotes with doglike devotion on the baby. In fact, all of the men dote on the baby—affections that do not sit well with Demi, herself accustomed to being the center of attention.

Melodrama—and its modern counterpart, "dark comedy"—are genres founded on characters endowed with the power of responsible adults behaving like selfish children. Both Demi and biological daddy Kendall are inclined to throw tantrums when thwarted, spewing ugly threats that our society deems serious when directed by males at single moms—even when those vitu-



Darrell W. Cox and Allison Torem in Kid Sister. Photo by Wayne Karl

CRITICS' PICKS

Billy Elliot the Musical, Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre, through Nov. 28. Alas, low ticket sales are forcing this Chicago company to close early. It's a pity, since this multi-award-winning Elton John/Lee Hall musical carries an important message that should not only resonate with LGBT audiences, but anyone who has to overcome insurmountable odds to achieve a dream. SCM

Romeo and Juliet, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through Nov. 21. Classical and modern pieces blend perfectly in a physically gorgeous show in which the text drives the action instead of slowing it down to sound like poetry. Splendid wing-and-drop set. Stunning flesh. JA

The Seagull, Goodman Theatre, through Nov. 21. Robert Falls does no-frills direction, too. This freshly conceived classic has no floods, no body bags and only one fake rock, but nevertheless illustrates irrevocably the sheer power of actors wholly immersed in their roles. MSB

Sweet Bird of Youth, The Artistic Home, extended through Dec. 19. Dale Calandra's juicy production of Tennessee Williams' very entertaining 1959 drama is full of plusses. Kathy Scambiaterra's fading Hollywood starlet is a hoot, while Josh Odor's self-possessed arrogance (and gorgeous golden torso) makes for an especially lovely gigolo. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

perative matrons make no secret of their progeny's sole value as a source of covert income. While Kern may declare his intent to be merely a lurid account of white-trash amorality on the sweaty Florida gulf coast, he also comments on the sexist stereotypes that allow fundamentally good men to be exploited by vindictive women adept at manipulating cultural definitions to their own advantage.

Kid Sister's premiere at Profiles Theatre inevitably invites comparisons to its recent revival of Killer Joe, another kitchen-sink drama premised on American dreams gone hideously awry. Joe Jahraus has assembled a superlative cast led by company members Darrell W. Cox and Allison Torem as, respectively, the gentle Cassius and volatile Demi, augmented by Eric Burgher, Marc Singletary and Emily Vajda's likewise textured portrayals of stunted human beings reduced to desperate inhumanity by a universe bereft of moral guidance.

Khouri among award recipients

Out playwright Jamil Khouri is among the recipients of the 2010 3Arts Artist Awards, according to a press release.

This year, 3Arts doubled the total number of recipients and cash awards from the previous years, presenting nine winners with the third annual 3Arts Artist Awards and three winners with the inaugural 3Arts Teaching Artist Awards. Each artist will receive \$15,000 to use as he or she sees fit.

Khouri founded the Silk Road Theatre Project with partner Malik Gillani. The project's current production, Scorched, has been extended through Sunday, Nov. 21. See <http://www.srtp.org>.

'Getting Old' at Center Nov. 19

GayCo Productions will stage a reading of the solo performance piece "Getting Old's a Bitch (And So Am I)" Friday, Nov. 19, at 6:30 p.m. at

SPOTLIGHT



Muppet-inspired puppets helped to catapult the 2003 Broadway musical Avenue Q to become a worldwide adults-only blockbuster, so here's hoping that Von Orthal Puppets help bring fame to another street. **Berwyn Avenue** is Cynthia Von Orthal's world-premiere dark comedy that imagines working-class life in 1970s Chicago, as told by another group of adults-only puppets. Berwyn Avenue plays 8:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3:30 p.m. Sundays from Nov. 20 through Dec. 19 at the Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark. Tickets are \$15 and \$20 on opening night. Call 773-878-8337 or visit <http://www.berwynavenue.com>. Photo courtesy of the company.



THEATER REVIEW

The Piano Teacher

Playwright: Julia Cho

At: Next Theatre at the Noyes Arts Center, 927 Noyes, Evanston

Phone: 847-475-1875; \$30-\$40

Runs through: Dec. 8

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Julia Cho's play is set in the kind of prim, cozy, afghan-on-the-chair, quilt-on-the-sofa room occupied by the kind of sweet, smily, cookie-baking granny that immediately has us scrutinizing the furnishings for hints to where the bodies are buried. Our foreboding proves to be accurate—but whenever we start to anticipate the same old story (pedophilia), or the same old *old* story (domestic abuse), or even the same old old *old* story (nazis), our bogeyman's face suddenly changes to reveal a visage as provocatively sympathetic as it is horrifying.

Certainly, our cheerful hostess is no Hansel-and-Gretel witch. Herself a musical prodigy with a career sabotaged by an illness affecting her auditory skills, she chose to serve her muse through introducing others to its transcendent power. The escape afforded by the immersion necessary to playing piano is a blessing for this woman who asks to be called only "Mrs. K"—her surname, she assures us, being too complicated for us to pronounce. Oh, she knew when she married the now-deceased Mr. K that he was a damaged man, prone to nightmares stemming from boyhood events, but surely, the safety of their quiet American suburb will banish those memories.

Atrocities don't stop at first-hand witnesses, however. Cruelty, with its implication of dominance, exerts its own fascination (what Sunday-School pupil hasn't wondered just what it *would* feel like to be nailed to a cross?). For those



Manny Buckley and Mary Ann Thebus in *The Piano Teacher*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

not yet firmly grounded in their abhorrence of inhumanity, the cautionary tales of parents—particularly when recounted too vividly—can backfire in their intent. Playgoers striving to pinpoint the source of Mr. K's experiences will find it a futile exercise—at what time in history has somebody in the world NOT been engaged in slaughtering somebody else?

Mrs. K's confession requires Mary Ann Thebus, between confrontations with two former students brave enough to re-visit the scene of their turmoil, to soliloquize for over 90 minutes—itsself an impressive verbal feat, even without the subtextual shadings associated with Mrs. K's gradual loss of innocence, along with that of the children she would protect against the pain of a harsh universe. Cho may linger a bit in her disclosures—her characters have a tendency to preface their significant speeches—but the light she shines on an oft-ignored phenomenon will haunt you forever after.



Davis Duffield (left) and Jack Noseworthy in *The Story of My Life*.

THEATER REVIEW

The Story of My Life

Playwright: Brian Hill and Neil Bartram

At: Chicago Muse at Victory Gardens

Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln

Tickets: 773-871-3000;

<http://www.victorygardens.org>; \$46-\$56

Runs through: Jan. 2

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

I grew up in the back of the village bookstore where my mother worked. That's where I went if I had nothing better to do after school or the weather was bad. In second grade I met my best friend, a recent arrival from a warm part of Texas. My first act of friendship was to rub his face in the snow. You'll understand the pertinence of these memories if you see *The Story of My Life*, which follows the trajectory of two best buddies from boyhood onwards. Thomas becomes a sophisticated success while Alvin, like George Bailey with whom he identifies, never leaves town.

The *Story of My Life* was developed at several regional theaters before failing on Broadway early in 2009, and understandably so: it's not a musical, but an intimate two-man opera which

demands audience focus and attention. The 399-seat Victory Gardens Theater is the perfect venue for this latest incarnation, for which the show's original Broadway director, the esteemed Richard Maltby, Jr., has created lively but uncomplicated staging.

The *Story of My Life* is an evocative piece for anyone who has known a deep and enduring friendship—not just from childhood—and participated in its evaporation for no conscious reasons. That would be all of us, I think. "Relationships thrive and dissolve and we never know why," Thomas comments. Even so, your taste for the work may depend on your ability to identify with Thomas or Alvin, and in that regard the work is lopsided: it's told from Thomas's perspective not Alvin's. As performed by Davis Duffield, Alvin has plenty of charming-but-quirky appeal, but the writing leaves Alvin's social inhibitions and deeper longings unexplored. Thomas is the dominant role musically as well, sung to perfection by boyishly handsome spinto tenor (to use an opera term) Jack Noseworthy. The show couldn't have finer performers, or a more graceful instrumental ensemble (lovely piano, reed and cello orchestrations) under Valerie Maze's baton.

The *Story of My Life* appears to be an extremely personal work for the co-authors, so much so that sometimes it's matter-of-fact, eschewing richly imagistic lyrics or musical set pieces in favor of a plain-spoken character. It's chamber music rather than musical comedy (which is what the show is, broadly speaking), with much of the score being conversation set to music, contemporary recitative if you will. I found personal connections within the work (re-read my opening paragraph), but those looking for dazzle will be disappointed; it's not that kind of critter. The book and score have sweet moments, funny moments and several beautiful melodies ("The Butterfly" for one), but this is an introspective work, not one of grand passions. And now the newest Babar the Elephant awaits my attention.



FROM OUR SLIGHTLY DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY TO YOURS:

AN EASY PRESENT NO ONE WILL REGIFT.

2010/11 STEPPENWOLF PASS

The Pass is the easiest gift to give, and the most flexible way to experience our season. A plastic, wallet-sized card in holiday wrapping, the pass includes three seat credits to be used for ANY of our exciting plays in the subscription series. Tickets subject to availability.

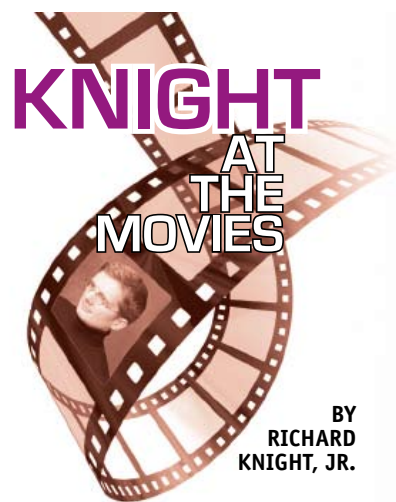
ORDER ONLINE AT STEPPENWOLF.ORG OR CALL 312-335-1650.

EDWARD ALBEE'S WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? DEC 2 - FEB 13 2010

SEX WITH STRANGERS JAN 20 - MAY 15 2011

THE HOT L BALTIMORE MAR 24 - MAY 29 2011

MIDDLETOWN JUNE 16 - AUG 14 2011



BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

The Next Three Days; film notes

Paul Haggis—the writer-director of the sobering *Crash* and *In the Valley of Elah* and the screenwriter of the last two James Bond flicks, *Casino Royale* and *Quantum of Solace*—now attempts to combine these two disparate film genres in **The Next Three Days**, an action thriller with an underlying philosophical bent. The two styles don't really match up, the picture is filled with laugh-out-loud moments that strain credibility and it's at least 30 minutes too long. But those things didn't stop me from writing on my pad at the fade-out, "nice date fare."

Haggis, as he has proven many times in the past, has a real flair for the melodramatic and he certainly puts that skill to good use in his adaptation of the 2007 French film *Pour Elle* (Anything for Her) by writer-director Fred Cavayé. (Enough of Cavayé's work remains that he's given a co-screening credit.) The plot follows the now-portly Russell Crowe as a college professor whose hot-tempered wife (played by Elizabeth Banks) is convicted of the murder of her boss during a fracas in an underground parking garage. The evidence against the wife is compelling and none of her appeals have worked. After seeing the couple's young son psychologically begin to pull away from his mother, who reacts by attempting suicide, and faced with years apart from his beloved, the husband decides the only way back to happiness is to break his wife out of the slammer and to create a new life for his family on the lam.

The husband's plan goes into effect after he meets and interviews a former criminal who broke out of jail repeatedly and wrote a best-seller about it (Liam Neeson, in a cameo). The husband also utilizes the Internet in his quest (conveniently finding YouTube videos that in-

struct him on how to make pass keys, etc.). Finally, he needs fake passports and IDs and, to find them, heads to the bad side of Pittsburgh (where the film takes place and was shot) and, eventually, locates someone who can help him.

After much soul-searching and scheming, Haggis finally stages the breakout. But it's not enough that the wife is freed; now the husband has to retrieve the kid and get them across the border. Throughout at least the last half of the movie suspense mixes with the aforesaid unbeliability, topped by this last sequence that finds Haggis ramping up the action as the movie goes into a variation on *The Fugitive*. Along the way, the husband makes so many bumbling mistakes it's a wonder he ever gets to first base with his plan (blundering almost as badly as Janet Leigh in *Psycho*).

Haggis throws together a chain of events that, to be kind, are not remotely plausible, while Crowe and Banks couldn't be more mismatched onscreen. But both actors—along with a nicely chosen supporting cast (that includes Brian Dennehy and the deaf actor Ty Giordano, who played the gay son in *The Family Stone*)—give it their all. So if one is willing to suspend disbelief (as the actors must have when they got a look at the script) and make a leap of faith, the patently false *The Next Three Days* is also, surprisingly, nicely enjoyable.

Film notes:

—Sparkle Neely Sparkle! This is your final reminder of the Saturday, Nov. 20, Camp Midnight presentation of 1967's **Valley of the Dolls**, the wretchedly fabulous showbiz camp classic with star Patty Duke in person at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport. David Cerda, artistic director of Hell in a Handbag Productions and Dick O'Day, my alter ego, will host the event, which will begin with a 1 p.m. pre-show featuring a costume parade, *Valley of the Dolls* sing-along at the Music Box organ, prizes, interactive screening of an archival print of the film and a post-screening discussion with Duke. VIP tickets for the event are sold out but regular seats are still available. Proceeds will partially benefit the Queer Film Society; see <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com>.

—Pride Films and Plays, the locally based non-profit organization created by its Executive Director David Zak, is presenting staged readings of the five finalists in the group's **Great Gay Screenplay Contest**. The readings of the screenplays—all which feature LGBT themes and/or characters—will take place at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, on Saturday, Nov. 20 at 5 p.m. (*The Trouble with e* and *Detasseling*) and on Sunday, Nov. 21, at 3 p.m. (*Bethlehem*, *Skirt* and *The Queen of Hearts*). The finalists were judged by Billy Corgan, Anthony Rapp, Bruce Vilanch and Billy Masters, among others. An audience-award favorite, voted on by attendees, will be announced with the judge's

selection at the conclusion of the Nov. 21 reading. The event is being sponsored by Pride Films and Plays, Lampkin Music Group, the Queer Film Society and Center on Halsted. See <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>.

—**Call for entries:** LGBT filmmaker John Scagliotti—who created PBS's gay TV series *In the Life* and produced the documentary *Before Stonewall*—is looking for entries from queer filmmakers for Cineslam, an LGBT film-shorts festival held each June in Vermont. Preceding that, eight emerging LGBT filmmakers will have their

movies shown during the second annual Pride of the Ocean Film Festival Cruise (sailing from Boston to Bermuda May 27-June 3, 2011). In addition, the selected filmmakers will be complimentary guests of the festival cruise and will be invited to participate in Cineslam. Submission requirements for the short film fest are at <http://www.cineslam.com>. Cruise details are at <http://www.prideoftheocean.com>.

Check out my archived reviews at <http://www.windycitytimes.com> or <http://www.knightatthemovies.com>. Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.

DVD REVIEW

Salt looks at alien-like Earth

REVIEW BY TRACY BAIM

If you are ever feeling too crowded out by city life, or even rural life, just take a journey to Lake Eyre in the very remote corners of South Australia. The film *Salt* documents the annual trek of one man to this part of the world.

These alien-like landscapes would make a great backdrop for any sci-fi film, but might just drive the cast and crew crazy in their isolation. However, that's just the kind of crazy that attracts photographer Murray Fredericks, who takes an annual trip to the area. It's a vacation from his life and family in Sydney, but it seems more a journey to the center of his soul.

This documentary is minimalist by necessity: All you really need is the visual to understand the incredible beauty that inspires Fredericks. The film includes some of his gorgeous photos, time-lapse sequences, and video diary excerpts.

Salt refers to the actual substance of salt, which is everywhere, including in the equipment. The weather is also an obstacle facing anyone making a journey to this beautiful, flat surface. But wow, the payoff seems worth it. The views are grand, including of the star-filled sky above.

PBS Distribution recently released this award-winning documentary, *Salt*, on DVD and



Blu-ray. See <http://www.shopPBS.org>.

The film has received a number of prestigious awards including the 2009 "Distinguished Documentary Short of the Year" from the International Documentary Association; the 2009 "Special Jury Mention" at the AFI/Discovery Channel Silverdocs Documentary; the 2009 "Best Short Documentary" at the Film Critic's Circle Australia; and the 2009 "Best Short Film" at the Melbourne International Film Festival, among many others.

As the promotional material for the film states: "Fredericks looks into the abyss and finds that, in the midst of nothingness, there is everything."



Elizabeth Banks and Russell Crowe in *The Next Three Days*. Photo by Phil Caruso

Reeling closes



The LGBT film festival known as Reeling ended its 29th round-up of movies Nov. 13 with a screening of *Undertow* (*Contracorriente*) and a closing-night reception at Instituto Cervantes. Reeling 2010 presented 54 programs (ranging from experimental shorts to feature films) over a span of 10 days. Photos by Steve Starr



Bill and Dan Savage at the Chicago Humanities Festival. Photo by Helen Adamopoulos

CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL

Dan and Bill Savage discuss sex ed, perversity—and funnel cake

BY HELEN ADAMOPOULOS

Microwave a melon. Perverse is normal. The full extent of clitoral tissue in a woman resembles a massive funnel cake with a nose. And anal sex is not a first-date activity. These are all bits of wisdom sex advice columnist Dan Savage offered to a packed auditorium at the Francis W. Parker School in Lincoln Park Nov. 12. Savage—who's made a name for himself across the nation with his column, "Savage Love"—bantered with his brother, Bill Savage, and advised his audience at the Chicago Humanities Festival event.

Bill Savage, a senior lecturer in English at Northwestern University, served as the moderator by asking his brother questions. The first query: How would Dan Savage teach sex edu-

cation in America? Savage responded that he would emphasize consent and communicating your desires to your partners.

"I actually don't think we'll ever have decent sex ed in America," Dan Savage said. "That will never be taught."

He also talked about the Internet as an educational tool when it comes to sex. He said the Web helps people discover their kinks and find others who like the same things. However, he acknowledged that Internet porn can create unrealistic expectations. His brother agreed.

"Learning about sex through pornography is like learning how to run a cigar factory by watching Carmen," Bill Savage said.

In addition to sex ed, Dan Savage discussed same-sex marriage. He said the issue is reaching the same tipping point that racial integration once did, in that it's becoming less acceptable to openly express bigotry and argue against it.

"We have to learn to ignore the bullshit in the Bible about homosexuality—the same way we learned to ignore the bullshit in the Bible about slavery, about shrimp, about polyester," he said.

In addition to answering his brother's questions, Dan Savage also responded to inquiries from the audience. Several questions involved the columnist's It Gets Better Project, a collection of videos he solicited encouraging bullied LGBT teens not to give up on life. He said the best part of it is hearing from parents whose children were able to come out to them through watching the videos.

"That has been tremendously rewarding to hear those stories," he said.

Many of the questions had to do with personal problems. He assured one woman that it was normal for her to enjoy masturbating. He suggested that a man who was interested in getting pegged by his wife shouldn't jump into full-on anal sex right away. One running theme in his advice was telling people to state their desires and concerns directly to their partners.

"People should feel comfortable communicating their turn-ons and kinks," he said.

After the event, Maggie Malam—who traveled from Minneapolis to see Dan Savage—said she was going to pass his advice on to the men in her life.

"Everything I know, I learned from Dan Savage," Malam said.

Chicago Humanities Festival Associate Artistic Director Matti Bunzl said the festival staff mem-

bers were very fortunate to get the Savages to take part in the event.

"I'm a huge fan of Dan Savage," Bunzl said. "It's a dream to have Dan in the festival."

To read Savage's column and find out more about the Chicago Humanities Festival, visit <http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/SavageLove> and <http://www.chicagohumanities.org>.

Ricky business



Ricky Martin flew the red eye in to Chicago Nov. 12 from his previous night's appearance at the Latin Grammys to sign copies of his new book, *Me* (or "Yo" for the Spanish version), at the Borders bookstore in Lincoln Park.

It was a long day for everyone as 650 people purchased the memoir, some arriving as early as 3 a.m. that morning. The line stretched around the bookshelves with folks young and old. One gay Latino fan cried as he related how much Martin's emergence from the closet meant to him personally. The book describes this spiritual journey and the process of coming out for the Puerto Rican sensation.

With a new album on the way, Ricky shows no sign of slowing down his *vida loca*! Photos and text by Jerry Nunn

Theatre and Interpretation Center at Northwestern University presents 30th Anniversary Season

the secret garden

\$10 ALL-AGES TICKETS TO SATURDAY MATINEES
Mention code KEY. Subject to availability, not valid with other offers.

Book and Lyrics by
Marsha Norman

Music by
Lucy Simon

based on the novel by
Frances Hodgson Burnett

Directed by
Rives Collins

November 12-21, 2010

Cahn Auditorium
600 Emerson Street, Evanston

TICKETS:
(847) 491-7282
www.tic.northwestern.edu

NOW PLAYING AT THE ROYAL GEORGE!

"The show's a high-flier... The ensemble nails the singing and director Tom Mullen's bright, hip choreography!"
-New City

"★★★★ ... Irvine's guitar-driven pop score is full of pleasant melodies and exultant four-part harmonies!"
-Time Out Chicago

"Catch it before it departs... Grab a friend and see this show!"
-BroadwayWorld.com

Departure Lounge →

A New Musical
by Dougal Irvine

Through Dec. 12

(312) 988-9000 or BaillwickChicago.com

BOOKS

Patti LuPone: Broadway legend reflects in her memoir

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Legendary Broadway diva Patti LuPone makes it look effortless. The two-time Tony Award winner originated Evita, Norma Desmond and Fantine, and has made many other iconic stage roles her own—most recently Mama Rose in “Gypsy.” She has also conquered theater and television; had memorable roles in movies; and now adds “author” to her list of creative accomplishments. But as Patti LuPone: A Memoir—her recently released, no-holds-barred autobiography—reveals, her remarkable career achievements (and many facets of her life) have not come easily to this singing, whirling dervish of energy and passion.

Taking a break from rehearsals for her return to Broadway in the eagerly awaited musical adaptation of gay Spanish film auteur Pedro Almodovar’s beloved Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown (opening Nov. 4), the down-to-earth LuPone laughed continually, dished like your best gal pal and didn’t hesitate to offer strong opinions on a variety of subjects.

Windy City Times: What a roller-coaster ride your life has been!

Patti LuPone: [Laughs] Yup!

WCT: One of the main themes in your memoir is that many of your greatest triumphs have only been achieved after an intense struggle. [LuPone laughs.] Has anything come easily?

PL: No, no. I discovered very early on in my life that I was dealt the hard hand. Just in life, you know? It must be karmic payback. [Laughs] It’s what I have to learn to move on to the next level and, of course, because theatre and show business encompasses a great majority of my life it’s going to filter into that. It’s taken me a long time to learn anything—in school, in love life, to cook from a recipe—anything.

WCT: Has it gotten somewhat easier with age and experience?

PL: Yes—somewhat. All of a sudden I’m being called a legend and people are going, “It’s an honor to talk to you” and I’m going, “What the hell is going on?” and as my press agent reminds me, “You’re 60.” So yeah, now it’s easier—people are listening to me when I say something [laughs] as opposed to having to battle for it. I’m older and “I’m Still Here.”

WCT: Have you recorded that? Is that in your repertoire?

PL: No—I’m too young for that.

WCT: Another 15 years.

PL: At least! [Laughs]

WCT: I was also astonished to read about vocal difficulties with the Evita songs because it just sounds effortless and they are so thrilling—so much so that for decades my best friend Victor and I have listened to other singers and have said with triumph to each other, “She’s no Patti LuPone!”

PL: I don’t play it but if I happen to hear, for example, “Don’t Cry For Me Argentina” on the radio I’ll go, “This doesn’t sound bad” and that was the week—when we recorded, that I had no voice; it was the last night of the seventh week in Los Angeles when we recorded that. I lost my voice after “Buenos Aries” and had to leave after the first act. It doesn’t sound like it, but I muscled and willed my voice.

WCT: Just curious: Were you ever considered for one of the many editions of the movie?

PL: When Hollywood Pictures had it they called up my agent and wanted me to play Evita’s mother [giggles] and I remember singing [croons], “They really brightened up your out of town engagement.” I said, “I don’t think so...” and they didn’t know who Hal Prince was! That’s like that Judy Garland-Mark Canton story. When they wanted to do musicals again and somebody put on “The Trolley Song” from Meet Me in St.



Louis and the guy said, “Nice song. Who’s the girl singer?”

WCT: Sounds like you dodged a bullet there.

PL: I guess.

WCT: Speaking of dodging bullets, has Andrew Lloyd Webber ever apologized?

PL: No, no, no, no. I haven’t spoken to him since he left for the L.A. rehearsal [of “Sunset Boulevard”] that September [in 1993]. He left after bitching about the Frank Rich review [in the New York Times] and I never heard from him again.

WCT: Well ... his loss. Your version of “I Dreamed A Dream,” the original from Les Miz, is still, in my estimation the greatest but I’m curious: What do you think of Susan Boyle, who became an overnight sensation with the song?

PL: Well she put me back on the charts in London so God bless her. But poor Susan Boyle, what can you say? This woman is not and will never be ready for show business, and it’s cruel what happened to her. She’s got a lovely voice but as everybody knows—it ain’t talent alone. It is tenacity. It is a thick skin. You’re combating an army just trying to survive things that happen in the business of show, do you know what I mean?

WCT: Sure.

PL: And I think it’s taken its toll on her.

WCT: With so many signature songs, when is Ryan Murphy going to come to his senses and do the Patti LuPone “Glee” episode?

PL: Ah, don’t ask me darling. Probably never because I think it’s too pop-oriented. But, who knows?

WCT: Gay men have obviously been a huge influence in your career—on and off stage. What’s the best thing about that?

PL: I guess it’s their discerning taste and their support and their acceptance. You want that kind of fan; you want that kind of rabid audience.

WCT: We will come out when it’s 50 below, even if we end up saying, “She was no Patti LuPone.”

PL: [Delighted] Thank you.

WCT: I love that in the book you included so much about your long association with the Ravinia Festival here on the North Shore. I was thrilled to be one of thousands out there in the dark the night you first performed Mama Rose in Gypsy.

PL: Wow—what a night that was.

WCT: What has the association with Ravinia meant to you?

PL: It’s a place that has been my summer theatrical home for a very long time. I love it. Welz

Kaufman [the CEO of Ravinia] has been instrumental in shaping my craft by casting me and allowing me to play these roles I never would have played. That’s very important—you don’t learn unless you do. There have been people that have kept me off the stage and Welz wants me on the stage.

WCT: I know that Rose was a dream role—is there another?

PL: I would have loved to have played Desirée [in A Little Night Music]—I did it at Ravinia and there’s a lot of roles that I did there I never got to play elsewhere—Ruth in Wonderful Town, Ado Annie in Oklahoma, Nellie Forbush in South Pacific.

WCT: How ironic that “Night Music” is back on Broadway but you’re busy creating another new role for the stage—your wacky character for Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown.

PL: That, of course, has been my life! [Laughs]

WCT: Are you pleased with this new show?

PL: It’s a very technical show and I’m focusing on getting all that down. I don’t want to curse it by telling you what I think of it but I’m very happy.

WCT: Is this one coming a little more easily?

Kate Bornstein: Trans author on family, esteem

BY KATE SOSIN



Kate Bornstein.

Long before the mainstream media began publicizing the epidemic queer teen suicides, Kate Bornstein was saving lives. She did it in 1994 when she published Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us, and again in 2006 when she published Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks, and Other Outlaws. Bornstein’s work is perhaps the most widely cited and best-known in gender studies. But what is most remarkable and relatable about Bornstein is her often hilarious, sometimes painful, frankness in talking about how her own life informs her material.

She spoke candidly about her strategies for staying alive, her feelings about Transgender Day of Remembrance (Nov. 20) and her own struggles to reconcile fame with a fluctuating self-esteem.

Windy City Times: You wrote Hello Cruel World four years ago, well before the media recently picked up on the epidemic of queer teen suicides. Why did you write the book when you did?

Kate Bornstein: The short answer is [that] we teach what we most need to learn. I mean, I’m a mess. And I wrote it in part for me. I believe in like, alternate time continuums. I think writing this book is now helping my younger self.

WCT: Some of the alternatives to suicide that you write about include self-harm, breaking the law and, my favorite, moisturizing. How did you come up with this list?

KB: There was an old beat poet and his name Tuli Kupferberg. ... He sold on the streets a book called “1001 ways to live without working.” Complete anarchist. So I started joking. I was, like, “Ha ha. I’m going to make a list of 101 things to do rather than killing yourself!” I just wrote things down that I thought were better than suicide. And I started sharing it with people I thought I could trust ... and one day Crystal Yackaki ... [said], “You should make a book.” She later became my editor.

WCT: Do you have a favorite thing on that list at the moment?

KB: Do I have a favorite thing on the list? Moisturizing would be the one. Yeah, that’s the one I really need.

WCT: That’s my favorite, too. I wanted to ask you about the “It Gets Better” project. I saw your “It Gets Better Video.” And I

PL: Yes—I’m not the lead and the director and the playwright and the musical director appreciate me! Nobody has to humiliate me or keep me under their thumb. They appreciate my contribution. That’s such a big difference—when people appreciate who you are and what you might have to offer and not consider it a threat. I think it has a lot to do with the fact that I’m a woman.

WCT: And also maybe because your talent is so overwhelming—not unlike Patti LaBelle’s. She wrote about this same thing in her autobiography—she has such a large gift that she’s constantly being asked to rein it in when other talented people are around.

PL: Isn’t that interesting? Many people mistake me for Patti LaBelle, too. And that is the truth! [Laughs]

WCT: You two should do a duet. That’s something left to conquer.

PL: I just want to keep being relevant. I want to keep being hired.

WCT: Well, thank you for the gift that you’ve given to the world with your beautiful talent.

PL: Thank you—I really appreciate it.

WCT: You’re welcome. Take care, Patti LaBelle! [Laughs]

PL: [Laughing hysterically] Oh, God. Thank you back.

was noticing a lot of these videos ask teens to wait for things to improve. What do you say to teens who can’t afford to wait until things get better?

KB: I would tell them to run away from home. Get out of there. Do whatever you need to do to be you. If you have to live on the streets for a while, live on the streets. Do whatever you need to do to go on living.

WCT: You yourself are still dealing with many of the personal repercussions of coming out as a trans. Your daughter, as a Scientist, rejects transness; your mother had a hard time dealing with your transition. But in the trans community, you’re a bit of a rock star. Do you have a hard time reconciling fame in the community and your own personal reality?

KB: [Expletive deleted] yes! I feel like I am kind of useless. Like, I really, I haven’t done enough. I don’t deserve, you know, an hour of watching TV. ... Meeting me is like finding out your favorite TV actress or character or whoever has a screwed-up life and they’re really in it. Like I said, I’m really, really a mess. I understand the place I hold in my own kind of subculture community. I get that. But I’m [screwed] up.

WCT: Kate, do you have plans for Transgender Day of Remembrance this year?

KB: What day is that?

WCT: Nov. 20

KB: Let me see here... Oh, that day I am not speaking. I’ll be home. I’ll probably be on my Twitter account that day. ... Transgender Day of Remembrance is problematic because it’s so concerned with death and despair. We should be celebrating. We should be celebrating because those who are gone whether by murder or their own hand are not here to.

WCT: What would you rather do to celebrate Trans Day of Remembrance?

KB: If I could, I would rent us all a big nightclub. We’d all have an orgy, and there would be a fashion show and we would be our queer fabulous selves!



Even though it has been just over a year since **Adam Lambert** serenaded his way into the public's hearts as the wildly popular contestant on *American Idol*, an episode of *E! True Hollywood Story* will be dedicated to the openly gay star.

The Indianapolis-born Glambert shocked viewers with his over-the-top performance of "For Your Entertainment" at The American Music Awards. A comeback followed when his next single "Whatdya Want from Me" cracked the top 10, then "If I Had You" topped Logo's Click List.

The episode of *E! True Hollywood Story* will premiere Sunday, Nov. 21. Lambert has an acoustic album due out shortly.

He has charm, personality and handsome looks to spare. Now **Robbie Williams** has a double disc retrospective *In and out of Consciousness: Greatest Hits 1990-2010*. His smug charisma seems to be inherited from Sean Connery's James Bond and Frankie Goes to Hollywood's Holly Johnson. I was living overseas when Williams left the boy band Take That. The outcry was so profound that there were crisis hotlines to console those in despair over his departure. Now, he is reuniting with Take That, who scored a hit stateside with "Back to Good" in 1995.

A 39-track collection might seem a bit much, considering Williams' chart success has eluded America. This set includes his duet with Kylie Minogue ("Kids"), a pairing with Nicole Kidman ("Somethin' Stupid"), the video-bar hit "Rock DJ," his effort with the Pet Shop Boys "She's Madonna" and "Angels," of which Jessica Simpson did an uninspired cover. By remaking George Michael's "Freedom," Williams displays he too needs credibility after being in a sugary pop group. My favorite here is "Millennium," just one of the many moments where Williams shows off his knack at word play. The new single "Shame" is with Take That member Gary Barlow. The accompanying video is hilarious, as the lads sort out their problems in song and end up on a wilderness getaway, not too unlike a scene from *Brokeback Mountain*.

In 2005, Williams won a libel case over publications which cited that he is a closeted homosexual. The sum was donated to LGBT charities. He has been in public relationships with women, but it seems like he would turn to his gay fan base to blow a kiss to keep them wanting more. Just check out the video "Do What U Like." Now,

Williams and his wife want to start having children and the British pop star said on 2Day FM's Kyle and Jackie O Show that he hopes he will have a gay kid. In and out of Consciousness: Greatest Hits 1990-2010 is out now.

On his latest, *Olympia*, **Bryan Ferry** remains a cool, suave, seductive man. The martini in his hand is virtually visible as heard on "Alphaville." Flashbacks to Roxy Music's "Avalon" are undeniable when listening to "Me Oh My," "No Face, No Name, No Number" or "BF Bass (Ode to Olympia)." The Groove Armada

collaboration "Shameless" is a standout, as it is more upbeat and more experimental in its song structure. *Olympia* has A-list guests with Dave Stewart, Nile Rogers, Jake Shears and Brian Eno among the many contributors. Even supermodel Kate Moss poses for the album's cover and sleeve.

Roxy Music is reuniting for a European tour. Need "More Than This?" Check out M People's drum n bass take on "Avalon" from the overlooked album *Fresco*. Also Rollo and Sister Bliss of Faithless remixed "Love Is the Drug" in 1996. Ferry's *Olympia* is out now.

With the holidays approaching and seasonal parties looming, it is time to spice up those playlists to add a newfound incentive to workouts. The **New Dance Mix USA** mixed by Louie DeVito offers popular songs by Lady Gaga, Mariah Carey, Ke\$ha and Train remixed to fit in with dance radio staples. This double disc set has plenty off goodies, including Wynter Gordon's "Dirty Talk" and Alexia Jordan's heart-warming anthem "Happiness." Even alternative darlings Yeah Yeah Yeahs show up with the A-Trak Remix of "Heads Will Roll." Dennis Ferrer steals the spotlight with "Hey Hey," which has the catchy, repetitive refrain "I heard you say." But do we really need a 2010 version of "My Humps" by Black Eyed Peas or the overplayed "Whoop! (There It Is)?" Yet, hearing the new takes on "Lick It" and "Gypsy Woman" brought a smile to my face. The *New Dance Mix USA* is out now.

On **Party Groove: Pride 10**, New York's DJ Max Rodriguez mixes together a fantastic collection of favorites modernized with a high energy twist. Debby Holiday joins John Lepage and LHB to remake Sarah Washington's tea-party classic "Heaven." Holiday nails the uplifting chorus flawlessly. Chicago powerhouse vocalist Suzanne Palmer redoes "Fame" with Bill Bennett. Other hits from back in the day that are covered here are Erasure's "(A Little) Respect," M People's "Movin' on Up," Dolly Parton's "9 to 5" and Fleetwood Mac's "Gypsy."

Party Groove: Pride 10 is just one of those fun dance compilations where you know most of the material, but it is tailored for today. *POPular Volume 6* and *Party Groove: Gay Days Volume 7* are other Centaur releases that also would make ideal gym buddies.

Nelly Furtado releasing hits

Multi-platinum-selling and Grammy-winning singer Nelly Furtado will celebrate her first 10 years of recording with her first greatest hits compilation, *The Best Of Nelly Furtado*, out on Geffen Records. The album features chart-topping hits, collaborations and three previously unreleased recordings, and will be available in standard and double-disc deluxe editions.

Among the hits are "I'm Like a Bird," "Say It Right" and "Promiscuous." She takes singles from the albums *Whoa, Nelly!*, *Folklore*, *Loose* and *Mi Plan*.

Of the previously unreleased recordings, "Night Is Young," the album's first single, was co-produced by Salaam Remi and Staybent Krunk-A-Delic, and co-written by Furtado.



Nelly Furtado.

CULTURE CLUB

Float

A New Play by Patricia Kane

Love, About Face Theatre

Nov 11 - Dec 12
@ Theater Wit
(1229 W. Belmont)

Tell a Little Lie for Love.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
by OSCAR WILDE

773.404.7336
remybumppo.org

Get tickets for Wilde's best-loved comedy!



Bailiwick Chicago in association with Andy Barnes, Joseph Smith & Hilary A. Williams presents

Departure Lounge
A New Musical by Dougal Irvine

Directed by Tom Mullen
Musical Direction by Kevin Mayes

Box Office 312.988.9000 or Ticketmaster.com 800.982.2787
Now Playing through Dec. 12
Thursdays - Sundays

Royal George Theatre
1641 N Halsted

www.BailiwickChicago.com



Victoria, British Columbia. Photos by Amy Matheny

TRAVEL: CANADA

Victoria, B.C.: Where east meets west

BY AMY MATHENY

In early September, my partner and I visited Vancouver to explore British Columbia. While there I insisted that we travel to the elegant city of Victoria to retreat from the hustle and bustle of urban life to be embraced by the breathtaking beauty of the Pacific Coast.

Victoria is a quaint town with only 82,000 people, but don't let that fool you. There is an abundance of art, culture, shopping, architecture, food and more to enjoy. And it's all within walking distance. No wonder Victoria was named Canada's fittest city and the cycling capital of Canada as well. Victoria is a perfect getaway or romantic honeymoon destination for the LGBT community.

Rooted in rich British heritage, Victoria is influenced by many outdoor activities, luxury resorts and Asian traditions. There are many contrasts to the town and yet there is a sublime harmony and ease that makes it one of the most charming locations I have ever visited. Plan to stay longer than you think when you come. Your pace slows down (it's island time here) and there is much to see and do!

To make the trip, people either come up from Seattle or down from Vancouver. I recommend **Harbour Air Seaplanes** as a quick easy way to fly to Victoria from Vancouver. In fewer than 30 minutes, you have gorgeous views, and you don't lose any precious time on the island. Plus, it is North America's first carbon-neutral airline. (See <http://www.harbour-air.com>.) As an alternative, ride the ferries over if you have plenty of

time to relax.

As you land, grab lunch at **One Fish, Blue Fish** (1006 Wharf, on Broughton Street Pier) for amazing fish and chips right on the water's edge. Locals come down to this hidden spot for a quick lunch. Enjoy Pacific halibut, wild salmon, albacore tuna, Fanny Bay oysters and more.

We stayed at the tranquil **Inn at Laurel Point** (680 Montreal) where east meets west with its spacious modern rooms, Japanese gardens and displays of Japanese art and kimonos. Aura, the award-winning hotel restaurant run by Canadian Chef of the Year Brad Horen, showcases delicious options for breakfast, lunch and fine dining. Try the tempura prawns and savory soups of the day. Complimentary Wi-fi provides convenience if you must stay connected with the real world. And boys, don't miss gorgeous Paolo or Jason at Check In. The motto for the hotel is "Stay Different" and they embrace the LGBT community with flair. See <http://www.laurelpoint.com>.

Take a short walk along the Inner Harbour to enjoy the local and First Nation artisans selling pottery, crafts and art along with street performers and musicians. Then find yourself in downtown Victoria. Stop by Rogers Soda Shoppe and Chocolates for ice cream or world class chocolates that have been a staple in Victoria since 1885. Then saunter over to Bastion Square and the local street market of food, jewelry and more.

In the downtown area, be sure to explore two areas, **Johnson Street** and **Chinatown**.

—Johnson Street and "LoJo" (Lower Johnson) Shopping: Johnson Street is really the boutique area of downtown. Most store owners are who you will meet behind the registers and stocking the shelves. There is an emphasis on local, the stores truly showcase their merchandise, and all are great resources for the town. Here are few to check out!

—Still Life (551 Johnson): This boutique for guys and gals boasts easy-to-wear fashion such

as Stella McCartney plus snazzy footwear from Tretorn and other accessories for men and women.

—Smoking Lily (569a Johnson): This 4' x 11' space is Canada's smallest retail store. Even though there are other locations in Vancouver and other cities across Canada, this location is the flagship store where it all began and truly is something to see. Clothes created locally with global appeal and institution since 1996. www.smokinglily.com

—Cusp (102-561 Johnson): Stop in this chic shop and meet owners Alyssa and Nicole to get not only stylish suggestions to update your wardrobe, but also tips on where to eat and shop while in Victoria. They are happy to be tour guides as you try on their amazing selection of shoes, locally made jewelry, purses, and clothing. It was voted Victoria's #1 boutique this year.

Chinatown

Victoria boasts the oldest and smallest Chinatown in North America and the narrowest street in Canada. Once home to opium dens and gambling halls, the area still echos of an earlier time gone by. Fantan Alley which runs directly through Chinatown is a must see. On some parts of this alley street it is so narrow you cannot walk side by side with another person. Duck into some of the shops along the alley or around Chinatown, people watch, and enjoy delicious food.

—Whirled Arts (105-3 Fantan) This tucked away shop features local artists and world-wide treasures 7 days a week with Tibetan prayer shawls, handmade paper, jewelry, yoga wear and more.

—Silk Road Aromatherapy & Tea Company (1624 Government) Stop into this inspired shop and enjoy aromatherapy products and an all-natural line of incredible skin and body care products with an award-winning in-store spa. Then continue on to their extensive selection of teas (green, black and herbal), plus the first tea tasting bar in North America. Ask Owner Daniela Cubelic, a Tea Master, to sample teas. Plus serve yourself to create how much tea or bath salts you want to buy according to differently sized containers and create your own labels. Luckily they have a website to replenish your favorite teas after your visit. See <http://www.silkroad-tea.com>.

Victoria's most quintessential tourist stops are the **Butchart Gardens** and **afternoon tea at the Empress Hotel**. Normally anything that "tourists" do, I avoid. But these are really exceptional experiences not to be missed on any visit to Victoria. Truly the best the town has to offer.

The Butchart Gardens

Take a 20-minute drive out of downtown Victoria and be transported to 55 acres of awe-

inspiring beauty year-round with the Butchart Gardens. Victoria is one of the mildest climates in Canada and also one of the driest, so these gardens can truly be enjoyed 12 months out of the year. The Sunken Garden will make you gasp as it is revealed and the traditional Rose Garden feel straight out of England. Just steps away be transported to the east with a lush magical Japanese garden where peeking through a hedge provides a secret view to the Pacific. <http://www.butchartgardens.com>



Afternoon Tea at the Empress Hotel

Since 1908 the Empress Hotel (721 Government) has been serving tea to visitors and locals in its grand turn-of-the-century foyer. Our server, Yosif, had been serving tea there for 30 years. The signature Tea at the Empress blend is the main pour and handles milk quite nicely, although there is a handful of other blends. It is a "must-do" while visiting! Enjoy fresh fruit; scones; sandwiches of curried chicken, carrot and ginger and egg salad; and pastries such as lemon curd, rose petal shortbread, green-tea cheesecake while overlooking the water.

Listen to Windy City Queercast #385, which showcases Victoria; visit <http://www.windy-cityqueercast.com>. Resources for any travel to Victoria can be found at <http://www.tourismvictoria.com> and <http://www.gayvictoria.ca>.

Also, Tourism Vancouver wants to bring you and five of your friends to Vancouver with its "Take A Party of 5 to Vancouver Pride 2011 Sweepstakes." Enter to win at <http://www.tourismvancouver.com/five>. It is free to enter through Dec. 31. And then you can plan your own trip over to Victoria as it is Not-To-Be-Missed! Hope you win or plan your own trip soon.



Sunken Garden at Butchart Gardens.

CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOUNTANTS

Accounting, Consulting and Training
for Small Developing Businesses

LARRY LITTLE, C.P.A.
Licensed by the State of Illinois
larry@actgroup.to



- ✓ Start-Up Business Assistance
- ✓ QuickBooks Setup and Consulting
- ✓ Non-Profit Audits/Consulting
- ✓ Business Tax Preparation

773 743-2196
FAX: 773 743-0292

6242 N. Clark
www.ACTGroup.to

ADVERTISE HERE

ADVERTISE HERE: Want to advertise your product, service, etc. to thousands of readers? Place an ad in the Windy City Times! We offer affordable rates, convenient service, and as a bonus, your ad runs in our online section for free. To place an ad, contact Terri at 773-871-7610 ex 101, terri@windycitymediagroup.com, or go to our website www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

ANTIQUES

ZURKO ANTIQUE EVENTS

ANTIQUE * FLEA * MARKET

Sat., Nov. 20th - 8am-3pm/\$5
Early Buyers - 6am-8am/\$10
Dupage County Fairgrounds
Wheaton (County Farm & Manchester)

* NEW Vendors WELCOME! *

ANNUAL ANTIQUE MARKET & SALE

November 27 & 28

Sat. 11am - 5pm • Sun. 9am - 3pm
DuPage Expo - St. Charles, IL

ZURKO • 715-526-9769
www.zurkopromotions.com

CLEANING SERVICES

CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES: We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com (4/27/11-52)

CONTRACTORS

Shannon Contractors: WE SPECIALIZE IN ALL YOUR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDING REQUIREMENTS. From new construction, remodeling, all carpentry, porches, decks, patios, electrical, masonry, tuck pointing, concrete work, drywall, kitchen & bath remodeling, brick washing & sealing and painting. Licensed, insured and bonded. Call **Brendan Coyle** 312-307-6515, coylies@yahoo.com (11/17/10-12)

COUNSELING

Counseling and Clinical Hypnotherapy: Providing help to individuals and couples in our community since 1987. I specialize in relationship issues, spiritual issues, childhood trauma, and recurrent patterns that inhibit potential. **Starla R. Sholl, LCSW, PC, 773.878.5809, www.starlasholl.com (2/23/11-26)**

FIREWOOD

WISCONSIN'S FINEST: Seasoned dry oak, fruitwood, white birch, etc. Guaranteed to burn. Fast delivery or pick-up. 1/4, 1/2 or full facecord. 2175 S. Canalport. **www.GoodwoodFirewood.com; 773-975-0251 (1/5/11-13)**

HEALTHCARE

NEW YOU COSTA RICA. We offer USA quality Medical & Dental in Costa Rica for a lot less (lipo anyone?). Please request a free quote today: **www.NewYouCostaRica.com 1-888-660-8060 or info@NewYouCostaRica.com (2/11/11-52)**

INTERPRETER

FOR YOUR AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE/ENGLISH INTERPRETING NEEDS: To consult with you or your company with your ADA needs. **Diana Thorpe CI/CT/NIC Master, Nationally Certified Interpreter, 773-401-1339, or e-mail thorpe2001@aol.com [P-TB]**

MOVERS

WE ARE AN EXPERT, FULL-SERVICE MOVING COMPANY with over a decade of excellence serving our community. We pride ourselves in offering top-quality, efficient, low-cost, damage-free moves. Small to large trucks, fully equipped with modern tools, supplies of the trade. Rates for guaranteed professional staff: 2-man crew \$65/hr.; 3-man crew \$85/hr.; 4-man crew \$105/hr. (plus low, one-time travel charge.) Call **773-777-1110 or www.chicagocrescentmovers.com. (3/23/11-26)**

SERVICES AVAILABLE

BODY ART ENTERTAINER. Having a private party/other event? Let us entertain your guests by applying temporary European Body-Art designs ANYWHERE they'd like on their bodies!!! Lowest rates in Chicagoland. Visit **www.chicagoairbrushtattooartists.com or email us at chicagoairbrushtattoos@gmail.com (12/8/10-6)**

VACATION RENTALS

MICHIGAN WINE COUNTRY GETAWAY Peaceful Lake Area Property Nestled in the Michigan Wine Country. Wine Tastings, Antiquing and more. 90 Minutes from Chicago. Year Round Availability. Relaxing, Romantic, Fun! **www.clearlakecottage.info (1/26/11-12)**

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

CONDOS

4838 Magnolia. FHA APPROVED! Bright one bedroom with great layout in courtyard building. Pretty block near restaurants, bars, red line, Metra. Hardwood floors, Central A/C, In unit laundry, pristine condition. Storage. \$171,900. Low tax/assms. **www.getrealtync.com. 773-704-0123 (11/10/10-4)**

4615 N. Beacon -1S, 3 BEDROOM/2BATH DUPLEX. Newly rehabbed, granite, stainless, in-unit laundry, 1 parking space included. **Chad Duda-Prudential 773-398-4097 (11/10/10-4)**

MULTI-UNIT BUILDINGS

EDGEWATER GREYSTONE TWO FLAT ON AN OVERSIZED LOT with back and side yard. Includes all new windows and separate CFA/CA, in unit laundry. Owners unit duplexes down to a large family room, second kitchen, bath and third bedroom. Close to lake, shopping, transportation and Andersonville. **Outstanding opportunity! \$649,000.00 Call Joe at 773-835-1333. Lakeside Property Consultants, Agent Owned. (11/17/10-12)**

FOR RENT

THREE+ BEDROOMS

OWNERS UNIT IN A 3 FLAT IN BOYSTOWN, STEPS FROM HALSTED. Large, bright, first floor, 7 room apt. with formal dining room and 3 bedrooms. Updated kitchen with dishwasher and microwave. Hardwood floors throughout. New light fixtures. ADT alarm system ready. Laundry facilities on premises. Walkout porch. Available 11-01-10 at \$1,500.00/month. Call Mary at 847-749-5031. (11/3/10-4)

DUPLEX FOR RENT. Multiple BR / 1.5 bath, new carpet/marble/wood floors, new appliances, tenant controlled heat, over 2,000 sq.ft. Free laundry. \$1000/mo. Kolmar and Irving Park. **773.481.2901. (11/24/10-4)**

FREE!
Instant Access
to Chicago and
the Nation's
Top Gay &
Lesbian Realtors.

Choose Your Perfect Agent Online:
www.GayRealEstate.com
Toll Free:
1.888.420.MOVE (6683)

Chad Duda

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE
773.398.4097
chadduda@gmail.com

An independently owned and operated member of Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.



Do psychics take vacations?

There is no place that makes my spirit soar higher than beautiful Hawaii. There is something truly magical about the energy there. My partner, Marie, and I were playing the role of typical tourists one day—some surfing and some window shopping—when I saw a little store and felt drawn to go in. It was your run-of-the-mill convenience store. As I walked around, I suddenly felt light-headed and nauseated—it's the feeling I get when someone has cancer.

The store owner was a sweet Asian woman in her early 40s. As I "tuned" into her vibration I saw a flash of her future. She was losing her hair, and her aura was pale and yellow. I asked my guides where the cancer was; they directed me to her breasts. "Which one?" I asked. "The right one," they replied. The words "early detection" flashed through my mind, and I knew it ran in her family.

Thank God for Marie. When I told her, she said, "You have to tell her." I said, "I know, but I'm afraid." She paused for a moment and then replied, "Ask her for her permission, and it will be okay."

When I walked back into the store, the woman smiled and started to talk to me. I

managed to utter the words, "Can I ask you something outside?" She followed me outside, and I explained to her that I am intuitive, and I received a message for her today. I asked if she would like to hear it. With a big smile and excitement in her voice, she responded with, "Sure." I asked if she had been to a doctor lately. "Yes, just last month. Everything checked out," she said. I began to argue with my guides, "I can't believe you guys are actually making me ask her." Well, um, how long has it been since you had a breast exam?"

I had her full attention now. I told her that I knew it was in her right breast, and that the good news is that it was early detection. She paused and replied, "I went to a doctor about six months ago, and they found a lump in my right breast. They said it was nothing and to follow up on it in next year's exam."

I got huge goose bumps up and down my right arm, which is my affirmation sign. I told her she needed to go right away and get it checked out. She then turned to me and said, "You know, it's funny you said early detection. My sister was just cleared from ovarian cancer; they detected it early and were able to help her."

It's striking how frightening it can be to connect with a stranger, even for someone who believes that we are all connected. I don't know why I was chosen to cross paths with this woman half a world away from my home and deliver a message so personal. But this woman's response taught me that it's better to take the risk and offer what we have to someone than to give into our fear and stay silent.

Delphina, a Chicago-based psychic medium, is a columnist for Windy City Times. See Spiritguiding.com or email questions to spiritguiding@gmail.com.

**Mulryan
& York**
Attorneys at Law

4001 N. Wolcott
Chicago, IL 60613
773-248-8887
www.mulryanandYork.com

calendar

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY TIMES



Wed., Nov. 17

Mix & Mingle Networking Event Elegant and educational evening of networking, wine, cheese, bread and advice from the experts on pairings and gifts for the Holiday season. Register online. 6:30 p.m., Pastoral, 2945 N. Broadway, <http://www.glchamber.org>

Gerber/Hart Library tribute to Mountain Moving Coffeehouse Two nights of performances by poets, singers, and writers (concludes Thursday, Nov. 18). Tonight: Stacy Fox, Marty McConnell, Ellen Rosner, and Sissy Van Dyke. Also members of the Mountain Moving Coffeehouse; 7 p.m., Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W Granville Ave, <http://www.gerberhart.org>

Amy & Freddy Live at Rehab Join that dynamic duo, Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen for a fun-filled evening at Rehab. You're guaranteed great laughs, swell music, and tasty drinkie-pooohs! 9 p.m., Rehab Lounge, 3641 N. Halsted, <http://www.amyfreddy.com>

Thursday, Nov. 18

Holiday Food Drive for Vital Bridges In honor of Vital Bridges' 22nd anniversary, donate to this annual food drive. Bring in your donation of boxed meals, canned goods, non-perishable items or paper products. 9am, The Ram, 3511 N. Halsted, <http://www.rambooks.net>

Free Confidential HIV Testing Asian Human Services and The Banyan Tree Project is conducting free HIV testing Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Appointments are encouraged; walk-ins welcomed. We are located at 4753 N. Broadway, Suite 700. 773-293-8430, <http://www.ahschicago.org>

HE'S A STARR' Friday, Nov. 19

Author/celebrity photographer Steve Starr will have a book-signing for STARRLIGHT at the Drake Hotel, 140 E. Walton.

Photo by Steven A. Richards



[org/community.health.htm](http://community.health.htm)

Social Justice Awards Dinner honors Saks family Esther Saks and her four daughters, Ruth, Beth, Jane and Naomi, are the 2010 recipients of the Rabbi Robert J. Marx Social Justice Award from the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs. Jane M. Saks (Executive Director, Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media) is a feminist activist, cultural advocate, writer and educator who challenges and champions issues of gender, sexuality, human rights, race and power within the worlds of arts and culture, politics and civil rights, academia and philanthropy. Register to attend online. 5:30 p.m., 312-663-0960 ext. 115., Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel, 163 E. Walton, <http://www.jcua.org>

Women Like Me Are you currently or previously married, but think that you might be lesbian, bisexual, or gay? If so, joins us for Women Like Me, an ongoing women's discussion and support group. In an open discussion format, we'll address topics

unique to women who have previously identifies as straight, such as: Coming out to family, friends, and at work; 6 p.m., 773.388.3319, 4025 N. Sheridan, Chicago, http://howardbrown.org/uploadedfiles/services_and_programs/older_adult_services/women%20like%20me%20flyer.pdf

CULT w/ Lady Miss Kier and The Chaotic Good Celebrate Berlin's 27th anniversary with Lady Miss Kier and The Chaotic Good at STARDUST Thursday. Resident DJs Teen Witch and Baby Bamboo. Photos by A/S/L Multimedia. 10:30 p.m., Berlin, 954 W Belmont, <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Friday, Nov. 19

STARRLIGHT Tea at the Palm Court Book signing tea event with author and celebrity photographer Steve Starr. The newly renovated Palm Court will be the setting for an afternoon tea featuring Starr's newest book, STARRLIGHT: Glamorous Latin Movie Stars of Early Hollywood: Maria Montez, Rita Hayworth, Lupe Velez, Carmen Miranda, and Dolores Del Rio. Tea \$30 per adult; \$25 with the purchase of STARRLIGHT (priced at \$30) Info: Shaun.Rajah@hilton.com; 1 p.m., 312-932-4619, Drake Hotel, 140 E. Walton

Resilience: BEHIV's Art Therapy Art Show Featuring works from people who understand the value of Art Therapy as a tool in helping people lead productive lives. Please remember, BEHIV supports this life-changing program almost exclusively through art sales and tickets to the reception. Your support will raise much-needed funds to sustain Art Therapy. 6 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, <http://www.behiv.org>

Getting Old's a B*tch (And So Am I) Free staged reading of a solo piece performed by GayCo Ensemble member Andy Eninger, a collection of characters drawn from real life whose bittersweet stories add up to a meditation on aging in a community that 'never gets old' (or so it thinks). 6:30 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, <http://www.gayco.com>

Connect: A LGBT Spiritual Experience Coexist An Interfaith Dialogue Honoring LGBT Spirituality; 7:30 p.m., 773-248-5683, Bodhi Spiritual Center, <http://www.bodhispiritualcenter.org>

Amy & Lloyd Acoustic Open Mic Amy Armstrong & Lloyd Young have put together an open mic like no other—an acoustic collaboration of local musicians coming together to jam. But there's more! Your hosts Amy & Lloyd have put together books of music, hundreds of songs for you to choose from and sing. Lloyd plays the guitar and Amy plays the drums. Don't miss out! Come sing with the diva. 9

p.m., (773-325-2233, Rehab Lounge, 3641 N. Halsted

A Night Out for the LGBT Community P&J Productions Presents A Night Out every Friday with special guests. Hosted by your one & only MC Kal! We have DJ XL (from StarGaze) spinning the hottest in House, R&B, Hip-Hop, Chi-Town Stepping! We party from 9 p.m. to 3am and our shows are at 12-1 a.m. Temptations Nightclub, 10235 W. Grand <http://www.facebook.com/pjproductions>

Saturday, Nov. 20

Valley of the Dolls with PATTY DUKE!!! Camp Midnight invites you to a one-of-a-kind screening event. Academy Award winner Patty Duke, star of the infamous 1967 film, will be present for the evening. Camp Midnight kicks off the evening with a wacky, fun- filled prime-time pre-show featuring the actors of Hell in a Handbag Productions as your favorite Valley girls! There will also be a costume parade, Valley of the Dolls sing-a-long at the Music Box organ and more. 7 p.m., Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport, <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com>

Paula Cole Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Paula Cole brings a smooth sophistication to pop music, creating catchy melodies within a full and beautiful sound. Cole captured America's heart with her hits "I Don't Want to Wait" and "Where Have All the Cowboys Gone" in the late '90s. 7 p.m., Metropolis Performing Arts Center, 111 W. Campbell, <http://www.metropolisarts.com>

Piano man Mark Farris Live at 3160 Join Chicago's favorite piano man, Mark Farris tonight at 3160 for cocktails, show tunes, your favorite requests and lots of fun around the piano. 9 p.m., 3160, 3160 N. Clark

9 to 12 Bowling Bowling is the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9 p.m. to midnight. 9 p.m., River Rand Bowl—Des Plaines

Sunday, Nov. 21

Queer Dharma Chicago Queer Dharma meets every Sunday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Shambhala Meditation center for sitting meditation, discussion & socializing. Free meditation instruction. www.queerdharmachicago@googlegroups.com. 6:30 p.m., (773) 230-3886, Shambhala Meditation Center, 7331 N. Sheridan, <http://chicago.shambhala.org/programs.php?cid=170>

Urban Village Church service LGBT welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church are eclectic and experiential, practical and intelligent, relevant and, hopefully, inspiring. Music ranges from traditional and contemporary songs to U2 and jazz. You will be welcomed generously, wherever you are on your journey. You will be challenged to live out your faith Monday-Saturday: in your relationships, your work, in the world that needs you to make it a better place. 10:15 a.m., Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan, <http://www.newchicagochurch.com/>

Statues: Berlin's 27th Anniversary Party Celebrate Berlin's 27th anniversary with DJs Greg Haus, Larissa and Chester. 11 p.m., Berlin, 954 W. Belmont, <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Monday, Nov. 22

Mary Trew swearing-in ceremony Trew will be sworn in as a Cook County judge. Reception follows at Petterino's, Randolph and Dearborn; 3 p.m., The State of Illinois Building, 160 N. LaSalle

Otis Mack's 50th birthday celebration Star-studded show and dance party featuring some of the nation's top divas, Vishus, Superman, Elite, Rediculous, Ms Dohzee, a champagne toast and lavish buffet Hosted by The Heavy Diva and Mz Ruff n Stuff, Club House, House of Tut and the City of Chicago. \$10. 10 p.m., 773-640-0446, Re-



CITIZEN JANE

Thursday, Nov. 18

Jane Saks (above) and her family will be honored with the Rabbi Robert J. Marx Social Justice Award at the Knickerbocker Hotel, 163 E. Walton.

public, 1520 N. Fremont

Tuesday, Nov. 23

Qweirdo! Showcase of Chicago's top gay comedians, queer stand-up, sketch, music and improv to benefit Howard Brown Health Center, \$10. 8 p.m., iO, Upstairs in the Del Close Theatre, 3541 N. Clark, <http://www.chicago.ioimprov.com>

Roscoe's Drag Race with Frida Lay Chicago's only amateur drag contest has been a hit at Roscoe's since its premier in 2000. 11 p.m., 773-281-3355, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N. Halsted, <http://www.roscoes.com>

Wed., Nov. 24

You're the Star Karaoke with Honey West Take your place in the spotlight! There's not a bad seat in the house. 10 p.m., (773)281-3355, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N. Halsted St, <http://www.roscoes.com>

Northern Lights dance party and queer performance. DJ Erik Roldan and guests, performances curated by Nicole Garneau and the Northern Lights go-go gothic dancers. 9 p.m., Parlour on Clark, 6341 N. Clark, <http://www.parlouronclark.com>

Friday, Nov. 26

Chicago Human Rhythm Project's Global VI Celebrate the culmination of Chicago Human Rhythm Project's 20th Anniversary Season with Global Rhythms 6, four unique concerts featuring earth-shaking percussive arts ensembles from around Chicago, the nation and the world! 8 p.m., 312-456-6527, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph, <http://www.harristheaterchicago.org/calendar/performance?id=2817&mos=7>

Tuesday, Nov. 30

Patti Smith 'Godmother of Punk' Columbia College Chicago's Conversations in the Arts: Fine and Performing Arts. Patti Smith has been in the music and art scene since the early 1970s. In 2008, Smith was the subject of an award-winning documentary called Patti Smith: Dream of Life. Earlier this year, she released a memoir, Just Kids, describing her life during the beginning of her career in New York. 7 p.m., Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash, <http://www.colum.edu/conversations>

Thursday, Dec. 2

9th Annual World of Chocolate The AIDS Foundation of Chicago hosts the ninth annual World of Chocolate. 6 p.m., Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan, <http://www.aidschicago.org>

Friday, Dec. 3

Mo'Nique, With Terisa Griffin & Rahsaan Patterson An HIV/AIDS benefit for the entire Black Community: gay, straight or Bi. 7 p.m., Regal Theatre, 1645 E. 79th, <http://www.chicagoregal.com>

Get
calendar
online



WindyCityMediaGroup.com
ChicagoPride.com

HOT AND COLE

Saturday, Nov. 20

Singer Paula Cole ("Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?") will entertain at the Metropolis Performing Arts Center, 111 W. Campbell.

BILLY MASTERS

"Honestly? That would be the coolest thing ever! If you're going to have a kiss like that on TV it might as well be on the biggest show on television. Go big or go home."—Darren Criss talks about how he'd feel about kissing Chris Colfer on Glee. Go big or go home? How big, exactly, are we talking?

The American people should not have the right to vote. I'm not talking about the recent mid-term elections. I'm talking about Dancing with the Stars (DWTS). Now, I have nothing against Bristol Palin—aside from the ludicrous term "teen activist." Take her wacky mom out of the equation and she seems like a perfectly nice girl who's obviously working hard each week. But come on America—enough is enough. I refuse to believe that even Republicans are willing to keep voting for someone who is obviously not qualified. Wait, let me rethink that one...

I recently told you that Israel's "DWTS" includes a lesbian celebrity paired with a female pro. That story got so much press, the domestic version of the show is considering a similar move. Gay-friendly Carrie Ann Inaba said, "I fully support that and I think America is ready for that. Our country is much more accepting of same-sex couples and it would be great for the country to reflect that. I don't cast the show, but I think it would be great and I'd show up in my rainbow colors and fully support it." Bruno would probably wear a rainbow thong, but then again he'd probably do that on a regular week. The producers had a chance with Lance Bass a couple years back, but an insider claims "two men would be less accepted than two gorgeous ladies"—which, I sadly concede, is probably the truth. I'd certainly have enjoyed watching Lance and Derek do the samba, but I suspect Middle America would not. But, as we all know, everybody loves a lesbian (which I believe was a song

are archived so you can see what you missed. Or you can enjoy it all again. Or you can suck my dick—I don't give a shit. Fuck you!" Well, isn't that special. Zito is a 24-year-old graduate of Lamar University. He was open about his "previous employment" and the producers had no problem with that—as long as the adult content was scrubbed from the Internet. Apparently nobody checked with moi since I've got oodles and oodles of material. About seven inches of it. All on BillyMasters.com.

I don't know who originally came up with the idea of holding a White Party in Miami over Thanksgiving weekend, but he needs to be punished. As if it's not hard enough to look good in a white ensemble, it's nearly impossible to do so days after a holiday where the main objective is to eat as much as possible. This explains why I've never attended—until now. When Care Resources (the people behind the *soirée*) announced that 2010 would be the last time the party would take place at the fabled Vizcaya mansion, I put it on my itinerary. With the assistance of my SoBe beau Dan Renzi, I wrote up a story for my Boston paper, Bay Windows—it can also be found on my website. If you can't attend (details at WhiteParty.org), you can be sure to read our recap on BillyMasters.com.

Our favorite elf, Leslie Jordan, has put together a special holiday show and is taking it on the road. "Deck Them Halls Y'all!" will hit San Diego, Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Atlanta and Los Angeles—specific details can be found on his website, TheLeslieJordan.com. Unlike most of Leslie's shows, which are autobiographical, this one will feature a variety of characters sharing their holiday memories—both positive and poignant. I'm told there will be songs, dance and costumes—"Honey, it is a dog and pony show!" Wow, a real pony? Probably not, but I'll still go to the Dec. 5 show at the Broward Center for



Leslie Jordan loves putting on a show.

in the '70s). I hear the show would love to snag Portia DeGeneres—a move that would likely bring in a record number of straight male viewers. Ryan Seacrest was chatting with DeGeneres and asked if she'd accept or pass on the offer: "I'm not going to pass! Let me think about it. I used to be a ballet dancer. It's not completely a pass. You never know!"

The next installment of The Real World is currently filming in Las Vegas. The roommates will be housed at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in what is called "the ultimate party loft." So far, it doesn't sound that different from when the show was in Vegas in 2002. Back then, the cast lived at the Palms Casino and Resort complete with a hot tub that resembled a petri dish! Anyhoo, this new cast will include Dustin Zito, who has worked under the name "Spencer" for FratPad.com, an online porn site that features (again, in their own words) "fratmen and straight frat boys in sizzling hot chat and webcam shows." In other words, they have sex with each other, but in a straight, manly kinda way. As one of the models on the site explains, "All our shows

the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale. See ya there.

Once the holidays are over, we'll still have something to celebrate. Like the fact that Harvey Fierstein will join the Broadway cast of La Cage aux Folles! He may have written the book for the hit musical 25 years ago, but this will mark his first time appearing in the show (playing Albin). His limited run will start Feb. 15—only two days after the birthday of yours truly. Hmmm ... I might have to plan a special Big Apple Birthday!

When visions of Harvey Fierstein are dancing in my head, it's definitely time to end yet another column. First Leslie as an elf and now this? It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas and it's not even Thanksgiving yet! But we never take a holiday from dishing over at www.BillyMasters.com. If you've got a question, go ahead and write me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I winch myself into a pair of white jeans (which could take a while)! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Holiday Weekends are Sidetrack Weekends

Join us for one of the biggest nights of the year...

THANKSGIVING EVE

WEDNESDAY Open @ 3pm

No Cover

Adrenaline UP at 8pm with a custom video blend of Sidetrack favorites.

THANKSGIVING THURSDAY

Open at 8pm

A special **Laugh Track Holiday Show**

8:30-9:30 with Bradley Thomas, Mo Welch and Cameron Esposito
Then it's **COMEDY VIDEO NIGHT** 'til 2am

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Open at 3pm

BEHIV PUB CRAWL FROM 5PM:

12 BARS OF CHRISTMAS

SHOW TUNES 5 'til 9pm then the Best Of SIDETRACK 'til 2am



3349 N. Halsted
SidetrackChicago.com



gobble
gobble
chuckle
chuckle

12 Bars of Christmas Pub Crawl

Friday Nov. 26th, 2010

5pm - 11pm \$10.00 Bus Pass

Benefits BEHIV



Better Existence with HIV

Sponsors

ABSOLUT VODKA
The Absolut Products



STEAMWORKS

SIDETRACK





AsiaPacific Outgames competitors.

AsiaPacific Outgames approaching

BY ROSS FORMAN

The next major LGBT sporting event with multiple disciplines is the 2nd AsiaPacific Outgames, set for March 12-19, 2011, in Wellington, New Zealand—and about 2,500 are expected, with 18 sports, a human-rights conference and at least 20 arts/cultural events.

“The Gay Games and World Outgames are like the Olympics—wonderfully huge events in huge cities. The regional Outgames are more intimate,” said David Hindley, co-chair of the Asia-Pacific Outgames. “We still have a wide choice of events, but everything is more compact. Our venues are closer together; some arts and cultural events are more intimate. The world sporting events are great for people with the incomes to attend them, but having regional events allows access to a much wider section of our communities, because travel costs are lower.”

There have been successful continental Outgames in North America and AsiaPacific. The 1st AsiaPacific Outgames, for example, was held in Melbourne, Australia, and attracted more than 1,800 participants and coincided with Melbourne’s LGBTI Midsumma Festival, an arts and cultural event.

Most of the participants at the Wellington Outgames will be Kiwis and Aussies (New Zealanders and Australians), but Hindley said they expect participants from more than 15 Asian and Pacific countries, and they already have people registered from the U.S., Canada and Germany, among other countries. There also are confirmed participants from Auckland, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane in Australia, as well as Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa, and other countries.

Hindley said the male-female breakdown of Kiwis will be about equal. “We have a very strong women’s community here, a strong lesbian input into planning the event,” he said, noting that, a couple of years ago in New Zealand, the Prime Minister was a woman, the Leader of the Parliamentary Opposition party was a woman, and the chief executive of the largest company was a woman.

“For people coming from overseas, there will be slightly more men than women.”

The top sports at the Wellington Outgames likely will be ten pin bowling, swimming and running, with volleyball being the biggest team sport. Diving likely will be the most popular sporting event for spectators, Hindley said.

“In terms of total numbers, the biggest events will be our opening ceremony—which takes place in our national museum, a spectacular building on the Wellington waterfront—and our closing night party.”

Hindley acknowledged that participants from the U.S. at the Wellington Outgames will be “a small percentage.”

But that likely will include U.S. ambassador to New Zealand, David Huebner, who is openly gay man, “and is very supportive of the Outgames,” Hindley said. “He has suggested that he may host a special welcome event here just for American participants.”

Hindley, 49, is a technical publisher for books and websites for architects and builders. He is the Wellington Outgames’ co-chair along with Virginia Hopkins-Burns, and he may participate in running and swimming events.

“Many Kiwis have strong links to people in the USA—we have attended Gay Games in San Francisco, New York and Chicago, for example, and made good friends there, so we will be keen to welcome Americans to Wellington in 2011. We respect that North America has its own regional Outgames in Vancouver much later in 2011, and Kiwis will be there, too.

“Wellington is a very compact city on the edge of a beautiful harbour. It is very easy to get around; it is gay-friendly; the food and wine is wonderful; the cultural events are great, such as opera and jazz, but we will be adding some uniquely Kiwi aspects to the Outgames to make each person feel individually welcomed. We will provide an authentic Maori welcome; Maori are the indigenous people in New Zealand, and many other events especially designed to allow international visitors to meet the locals.

“We also want to break down the walls between different parts of the event. So if you want to compete in ten pin bowling or swimming during the morning, for example, then listen to the stories of one of our amazing conference speakers later in the day, we’d like to make that possible.”

Hindley confirmed that several members of the AsiaPacific Outgames organizing team competed at the recent Gay Games in Cologne, Germany.



David Hindley.

“The city council is very generous in its support of the Outgames,” Hindley said. “Gay couples and groups enjoy restaurants and bars across the city, and it is illegal to discriminate against gays and lesbians under New Zealand law. There is a gay swim group, a gay running group (Wellington Frontrunners), a gay business group (Rainbow Wellington), and more.”

And a member of Parliament for Wellington is a gay man, Hindley said.

“Our biggest goal for the event is to ensure that every single person who attends has a fantastic time,” Hindley said. “That means making sure that people feel welcome; we even will have people [welcoming] at the airport, making sure people have easy access to information, but most of all providing a uniquely Kiwi experience—an informal, relaxed and intimate experience where you get to meet people, make new friends, and enjoy something that you can’t find in any other country.

“We will judge our success on the feedback and response we get from participants. The organizing team and our volunteers will be out

there and visible. We want to show you our great little city; we want to make sure that you meet some locals, that you get to hear the incredible stories of some of the conference speakers. We want to see you on the dance floor.”

Here’s more about David Hindley:

—**Favorite spectator sport:** Diving and danc-
esport

—**Favorite participant sport:** Triathlon

—**Favorite athlete:** Matthew Mitcham

—**Favorite team:** All Blacks, New Zealand’s national rugby team

—**Job duties and responsibilities for the AsiaPacific Outgames:** “I was part of the small group which made the bid for the 2nd AsiaPacific Outgames over two years ago. As co-chair, I steer the executive committee, with a particular responsibility in marketing. I also [act as a liaison] with VIPs, including the mayor of Wellington; local members of parliament; business and community leaders; and our patron, His Excellency Sir Anand Satyanand, GNZM, QSO, the governor-general of New Zealand.”

TPAN opening registration for Ride for AIDS

BY ROSS FORMAN

In recognition of World AIDS Day (Wed., Dec. 1), the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) will open registration for the 2011 Ride for AIDS Chicago that day.

Early registration is \$50 until Jan. 30; the registration fee jumps to \$85 after that.

The two-day, 200-mile bicycling ride benefits HIV/AIDS charities in Chicago, and the 2010 event raised more than \$300,000.

The 2011 Ride should be TPAN’s most successful ever, as organizers also announced that a structured training program will be implemented.

“One of the most significant changes to the 2011 Ride will be the structured training for all riders,” said Richard Cordova, TPAN project manager. “This program will allow anyone—couch potato to seasoned rider—to train at a level that works for them.”

The TPAN training program will begin in January with indoor cycling classes at Andersonville’s Cheetah Gym. As the weather starts to warm up next spring, TPAN will move the training outdoors and divide the group based on everyone’s fitness level.

The weekly training rides will progress participants in completing the Ride for AIDS Chicago, a double century ride.

The 2010 Ride featured about 200 Riders and 64 Crew.

TPAN registration goals for 2011 are 350 and 100, respectively.

“With our dedicated Community Partner Program, we’re expecting to increase participation in 2011,” Cordova said.

“For those that want to be part of the ride, but aren’t able to ride a bike for 200 miles, [being part of the] crew is the answer. Since the ride has a goal of returning 100 percent of the money raised back to the beneficiaries, it is through the tireless work of the crew during the training rides and on the weekend of the event, that we are able to make that commitment. Crew members not only complete their own fundraising, but are also responsible with providing support, such as water [and] snacks, in addition to route support and safety throughout the weekend.

“Without the crew, the event could not happen.”

The 2010 ride raised \$300,000, with almost 100 percent of the money raised going back to the beneficiaries.

“The fundraising special event standard is returning [about] 50 percent to the organization, so we think that this is something that



Richard Cordova.

sets us apart from the rest of the charity fundraising events,” Cordova said. “We realize how important is it to people that the money they raised goes back to providing actual services to people living with HIV/AIDS and we help honor that commitment.”

Cordova, 32, a Lakeview resident, has completed three of the rides, six marathons and three half-marathons. He also ran the annual Hot Chocolate 15K Nov. 6.

This year, Cordova was the captain of Richard’s Riders, the most successful fundraising team in the ride’s history. With 25 riders in 2010, Richard’s Riders raised \$39,340, which was “more than we could have ever imagined,” he said.

The team will be back in 2011 with even loftier fundraising goals: \$50,000. “We’re going to need everyone’s help to make this a reality,” Cordova said.

“This ride, even though it is heading into its 10th year, is still grassroots activism at its finest,” he added. “Knowing you are part of something so special that makes a difference in the lives of people living with this disease is priceless. It’s a tough economy out there, but knowing that you are asking people for money that directly funds agencies that provide direct service to people who are living with HIV/AIDS is something that just can not be matched.”

TPAN has several other incentives to encourage registration for the 2011 Ride in December: One is that the first 50 riders to register will get a free month of membership at Cheetah Gym. In addition to the free indoor-cycling classes, people who register will get a discounted membership during the training season and can join without an initiation fee.

FORWARD from page 6

sponsible for matters like financial mismanagement and there have been many calls, including in this paper (see Tracy Baim's editorial on page 18) to have the entire HBHC board replaced. In hiring the 34-year-old Edwards, who was a partner in the prestigious law firm of Kirkland & Ellis, the board has indicated that it wants fresh blood but that may not be enough to satisfy the public.

Windy City Times noted that the annual financial report for 2008 was missing from the website, and Edwards said he working to rectify the matter. In the meantime, he made available a board roster for that year and others. Combined with the online Form 990 it appears that, for the most part, the board is largely intact and even the old board chair under whom the mismanagement occurred, Stephen Phelps, is still around. Phelps was, in fact, a former partner of Michael Cook, who became president and CEO

in 2006, when the mismanagement supposedly began. Phelps joined the board in 2008 and is still on it. A look at the center's 2008 Form 990 also revealed that Cook received a salary of \$247,690 as well as a bonus of \$25,000, listed as a "discretionary bonus by decision of the board of directors," indicating that the board understood his work at the time to be worthy of extra commendation. His compensation the previous year was \$175,000.

At the recent press conference this month, Mark Andrews was the only board member present. Edwards told WCT that there would be seven new board members. This would raise the number of board numbers to more than 20, which seems like a large entity, even for such an organization this size. Edwards also added, in response to a query in an e-mail that "At our October board meeting, I asked the board to consider replacing any board members who should move on or are prepared to do so, as soon as possible. As you know, the decision is

ultimately the board's."

In light of the many events being advertised as benefits for Howard Brown, WCT asked Edwards if there was any structure to ensure that the funds gathered at these did indeed reach the center. According to him, they have asked all organizers of such events to work directly with HBHC: "We can publicly announce and promote the event, have someone from Howard Brown there to address any concerns. We are going to be putting a "Lifeline Wall" on our website that will allow people to see who has given as part of individual or organization, for people to see that their money did actually get to Howard Brown. But we can't do a lot more, except to ask people to work directly with us so we can keep track of the event and keep track of every dollar."

Eventually, what final steps the board will take—and which are most feasible for an organization in flux—will become evident in the following months. In the meantime, the com-

munity continues to both echo its support and its disenchantment with an organization that has literally been a lifeline for thousands over the years. However, as calls for accountability spread, with a faltering economy and the fact that most people are pressed for money, there is also a growing sense of frustration with the structure of the larger LGBT-non-profit world. Along with the call for greater individual and organizational responsibility, several people are also asking: what responsibility does the larger community take in ensuring that this does not happen, beyond calls for cuts and sackings? In the next segment, we will look at more of the financial aspects of this issue; further steps, like the possibility of a "strategic alliance" with the Center on Halsted; and community members' perspectives on the effects of HBHC's problems and possible long-term solutions.

CONNEXIONS MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



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. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

Tel: 312.985.5938 | Fax: 312.985.5985
rkoenig@clarkhill.com | clarkhill.com

CLARK HILL

ARIZONA ILLINOIS MICHIGAN WASHINGTON DC



The Law Offices of
Alexander Weaver
312-588-5005
email: violaw@rcn.com
**A Full Service
Law Firm
for the Community
since 1988**

410 S. Michigan Ave.,
Suite 628, Chicago



**You're a
neighbor,
not a
number.**

Linda Kuczka, Agent
954 W Webster
Chicago, IL 60614
Bus: 773-975-9111
linda@lindakuczka.com

Total average savings of \$489*
Getting to know you helps me find all the auto discounts you deserve. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7.



State Farm

*Average annual household savings based on national 2009 survey of new policyholders who reported savings by switching to State Farm. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL

P090119 06/09

Tsamis Law Firm, P.C. ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Car Accident/Injury
Employment
Criminal
Small Business



312.827.7973

btsamis@tsamislaw.com
www.tsamislaw.com

Always On Your Side

iloilo Famous comedic actor Jim Bennett on iloilo,
"iloilo custom framing turned my old family painting into a beautiful masterpiece. It takes a lot of talent to make that old family look beautiful!"
CUSTOM FRAMING
Framing Chicago's art since 1991
All work done on premise.
1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962



Susan O'Dell, PhD
Down to earth, change oriented therapy

I see individuals, couples, children & families for crisis and ongoing work.

I also offer wellness support for persons living with chronic illness, including cancer and HIV-AIDS, their partners and families.

773.262.7010

1422 W. THOME AVENUE, CHICAGO IL 60660

Have faith.



Be true to yourself and find spiritual growth in an affirming atmosphere. AGLOChicago is a recognized Catholic ministry that offers an accepting place to worship and experience the best of our shared faith in Chicago's gay and lesbian community.

Join us for Mass every Sunday at 7p.m.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
708 W. Belmont Ave.



Archdiocesan Gay & Lesbian Outreach
www.aglochicago.org/faith



Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/AGLOChicago



Chicago's most-trusted LGBT news source...
in the palm of your hands.

DOWNLOAD THE

WINDY CITY TIMES
iPhone app

Find it at the iTunes store

HOUSE OF BLUES®

329 N. DEARBORN • CHICAGO • 312.923.2000

INDIGO GIRLS



HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

WITH FULL BAND & SPECIAL GUESTS
SHAWN MULLINS • CHELY WRIGHT

DECEMBER 7TH

93XRT
Snug Hugs for Kids
Holiday Concert

TICKETS ON SALE NOW 17+

HOUSE OF BLUES GOSPEL BRUNCH FEED YOUR SOUL



LIVE GOSPEL MUSIC

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
SOUTHERN STYLE BUFFET

SUNDAYS

2 Seatings at
10am & 12:30pm

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY
312.923.2000

BUY
TICKETS
AT **LIVENATION.COM**

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE HOUSE OF BLUES BOX OFFICE
HOUSEOFBLUES.COM • CHARGE BY PHONE: 800-745-3000

All dates, acts and ticket prices subject to change without notice. Ticket prices subject to applicable fees.

LIVE NATION
4 Pack SPECIAL
TICKETS PACKAGES
AVAILABLE
BUY IT AT LIVENATION.COM

freecreditscore.com

citi
Special Access
for Cardmembers