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SEE WHERE KELLY
CASSIDY AND
OTHER STATE
REPS STAND ON
MARRIAGE

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OWNER
CONFIRMS THAT
HUNTERS
IS CLOSING—
AND REOPENING
AS SOMETHING
ELSE

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TALKING WITH
MUSICIAN
SONIA

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LESBIAN FILM
DIRECTOR KY
DICKENS ON
HER MOVIE,
'SOLE
SURVIVOR'

WINDY CITY TIMES

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THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN,
BI AND TRANS COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

SEPT. 18, 2013

VOL 28, NO. 50



Ex-treasurer comes out, eyes judgeship

BY KATE SOSIN

When it comes to city government, Judy Rice has seemingly done it all. She served as treasurer for the City of Chicago under Mayor Richard Daley, was the first female commissioner of both the Chicago Department of Transportation and the Chicago Department of Water, worked as director of the Department of Revenue and practiced law as assistant corporation council, among other things.

But this fall, Rice is adding two firsts to her resume. She is running for judge in the Cook County Circuit Court 7th Subcircuit, and she is coming out as a lesbian.

Rice has long been active in the city's LGBT community. She co-chaired the 2006 Gay Games Champions program. She has attended numerous community events, including galas for Equality Illinois, Center on Halsted and the Lesbian Community Care Project. She is currently the senior vice president and head of community

affairs & economic development for BMO Harris Bank.

Windy City Times caught up with Rice to talk about her bid for the bench, her history in Chicago's LGBT community and why, after more than three decades in the community, she is coming out now.

Windy City Times: So why are you pursuing the bench? Why this race?

Judy Rice: I have been a lifelong Chicagoan, and I really love the city, love its people. I feel that public service is something that I've been called to do. I've had a great time working for BMO Harris Bank ... but what I have missed is public service. The decisions that judges have to make are very important. I feel like that I would like to use the skills that I have, legal, community and personal, to bring that to the bench.

WCT: How long have you been in the subcircuit?

JR: I moved into the subcircuit in July, into the West

Turn to page 7



Judy Rice. Photo courtesy of Rice

GETTING DRAMATIC

Our annual Fall Theater & Dance Preview includes such treats as (L-R) Joan Allen in *The Wheel at Steppenwolf* (photo by Michael Brosilow), Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (photo by Cheryl Mann), *The Mountaintop* (photo by Joe Mazza), and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre's production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* (photo by Michael Brosilow). Coverage begins on page 13.

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this week in

WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS

Christine Quinn loses; column
Russia alters truce; AFL-CIO
Hunters closing; Cecil memorial
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State reps and marriage equality
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Photos on cover (left, from top): Publicity photo of Ky Dickens; photo of state Rep. Kelly Cassidy from General Assembly website; photo of Mark Hunter from Hunter; publicity photo of SONiA



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RIOT, PLEASE

Vern Hester came back from Riot Fest and an Empire of the Sun show with plenty to say.

*Photo of Blondie at Riot Fest
by Vern Hester*



'RISK'-Y BEHAVIOR
Openly gay comedian Kevin Allison talks about his upcoming Chicago show, "Risk! Live."



Drag personality Coco Peru talks about her show at Center on Halsted and RuPaul's Drag Race.

Photo by Peter Palladino

Howard Brown Health Center held its annual Garden of Eve event.

Photo by Ed Negron

FEST FORWARD

The Lakeview East Festival of the Arts took place this past weekend.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Find out the latest about Lily Tomlin, Dan Bucatinsky and Chaz Bono.

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Quinn loses mayoral bid

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Lesbian city official and mayoral hopeful Christine Quinn fell far short Sept. 10 of her goal to win at least a runoff spot in the New York City mayoral race's Democratic primary.

Despite having the endorsement of the New York Times and the New York Daily News, Quinn came in third out of nine Democratic primary candidates and, with only 15 percent of the vote, was not able to force frontrunner Bill de Blasio into a run-off contest. De Blasio ended the night with 40.2 percent of the Democratic primary vote, just more than the 40 percent needed to avoid a run-off. But there were still a significant number of ballots—including paper ballots—to be counted, so it is not yet sure that he has secured the Democratic nomination.

If De Blasio fails to finish with 40 percent of the vote, he will be thrown into a run-off Oct. 1 against former comptroller Bill Thompson Jr., who took second with 26 percent of the vote.

Quinn's campaign was an important one to the LGBT community. If successful, she would have become both the first lesbian mayor of the nation's largest city. But exit poll results reported by the New York Times indicated Quinn, who serves as speaker of New York's 50-member city council, came in second even in the heavily gay sections of the city, such as the West Village, Chelsea, and lesbian favored Park Slope.

Overall, throughout the city, the Times' exit polls showed that 45 percent of voters who identified as "gay, lesbian, or bisexual" supported De Blasio, 39 percent supported Quinn, nine percent supported Thompson, and seven percent supported other candidates. (LGB people comprised nine percent of those responding to exit polls.)

Quinn had led by as much as 24 points shortly after she entered the race and led by nine points as recently as Aug. 2. Some news media suggested Quinn lost points with voters because she supported incumbent Mayor Michael Bloomberg in overturning New York City's term limits for mayor. Others say she didn't do enough to oppose the city's controversial "stop-and-frisk" policy. There were also news stories from time to time, including in the Times, portraying Quinn as unleashing a fierce temper on colleagues and having "threatened, repeatedly, to slice off the private parts of those who cross her."

But many prominent members of the LGBT community did back Quinn. Gay City News reported that, going into the weekend before Tuesday's primary, Quinn staged a rally for her campaign at the historic Stonewall Inn. Taking the stage to endorse and rally support for her were openly gay former State Senator Tom Duane, DOMA plaintiff Edie Windsor, and actor Cheyenne Jackson.

Gay City News also endorsed Quinn, saying that, while the top five Democrats were "all advocates" for LGBT equality, Quinn would bring "unique and disciplined skills" to the job.

De Blasio, the likely Democratic nominee, has a strong record on LGBT issues. As a member of the mayoral administration of David Dinkins, de Blasio helped usher in a domestic partner registry. As a city council member, he co-sponsored a bill to end discrimination based on gender identity. In his campaign, he promised to fund programs for LGBT youth and seniors, push for federal immigration reform to help same-sex couples, and "lead an aggressive campaign" to ensure LGBT people have health insurance.

The Democratic nominee will face the winner of the Republican primary, Joe Lhota, head of the city's transit system, in November.

Registered Democratic voters outnumber Republicans six to one in New York City.

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Former New York City mayoral candidate Christine Quinn. Photo by Erica Demarest

LGBTs on NYC council

Although lesbian Christine Quinn didn't win her mayoral race in New York City, the city added three out city council members, according to Advocate.com.

Corey Johnson, who is gay, defeated lesbian civil-rights attorney Yetta Kurland in District 3. Carlos Menchaca unseated incumbent Sara Gonzalez to become Brooklyn's first openly gay councilmember as well as the city's first Mexican-American one (in District 38). Lastly, the Bronx's Ritchie Torres beat five other candidates in District 15.

RBC Wealth event Sept. 25 at Center

RBC Wealth Management, Windy City Times, Center on Halsted and the Chicago Are Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce are hosting "Navigating Your Business Through a Sea of Change" Wed., Sept. 25, at the Center.

A reception will take place at 5:30 p.m.; RBC's James Elvord will provide the introduction at 6:15 p.m. Justin Nelson, president and co-founder of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, will deliver the keynote address at 6:30 p.m.

RSVP to Elvord at 312-559-1738 or james.elvord@rbc.com.

Celebrate Bisexuality Day' at Center Sept. 22

Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago (BQAC), Center on Halsted and the Legacy Project will host a "Celebrate Bisexuality Day" event on Sunday, Sept. 22, 5-9 p.m., on the rooftop patio at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

A \$10 donation is requested to support bisexual programming at Center on Halsted. Food is included and a cash bar will be available.

Columnist/speaker Lady A will emcee. Performers will include Daina Surrealism & Hypnagogic Telegram, Miss Oh My Bi Goodness!, Cyra K. Polizzi, Barrie Cole and Darren Wiggins. For more info, visit www.CenterOnHalsted.org or email biprogramming@centeronhalsted.org.

A Queer Agenda

BY ANDRÉ PÉREZ



A Fierce World Is Possible

On this anniversary of 9/11, Americans find ourselves still embroiled in conflict in the Middle East. We are still meandering down a path to "recovery" from a recession induced by profiteers and speculation. Midwestern states compete to have lower corporate standards as a means of economic stimulus. Chicagoans witness our bottom-ranking education sinking further and being sold off to the highest bidder.

The future feels more perilous even as our present is more policed. Sometimes our city feels broken beyond repair, but we can't acquiesce to that feeling. Angela Davis recently framed Chicago's headline-grabbing violence as, "an inability to imagine future possibility." She highlighted how when youth can't imagine surviving into adulthood, they are driven in desperation to destructive behaviors. She reiterated how hopelessness has cast a shadow over the very people whose effort we need to create solutions in our communities.

We cannot fall prey to nihilism, perpetuating the notion that we live in a post-apocalyptic society or a war zone city. Chicago is everything it once was. This powerfully segregated city is plagued by

"Community-funding is about building community, not just fundraising. We each help shape the world through how we commit our resources."

all the ills of the modern age, but is also home to people who fight every day to improve conditions and solve some of the most pressing issues confronting society.

I'm proud to be a leader in Project Fierce Chicago (PFC), an organization building upon Chicago's incredible legacy of community organizing. PFC is a grassroots initiative to purchase a home on the South or West side and convert it into a home for LGBTQ youth. With only 200 designated beds for the city's estimated 15,000 homeless youth, we need every bed we can get. We also need examples for how communities can create change in a regressive time.

PFC is piloting an innovative model for housing—one that draws on community resources to meet a need regardless of whether those in power step up to help or not. Our vision is about providing a key resource to help transform real people's lives, but it's also about reimagining possibility and inviting people (younger and older) to bring that possibility into a reality.

PFC is funded, not by state and federal grants, but by people. Our major financial sustenance comes from a collective of regular people who donate monthly. Community-funding is about building commu-

nity, not just fundraising. We each help shape the world through how we commit our resources.

PFC does not want to be another organization trapped in a system of competition with other under-funded agencies over diminishing resources. Money dedicated to homelessness has never been enough to meet the need. PFC is emerging in a scarcity-driven environment, where taking state grants necessarily means taking money from other populations. We need solutions that help us break out of the sum-zero non-profit politics, and help us work together to help more people get their needs met.

PFC is community-led. We are motivated by a sense of commonality, shared purpose and mutual aid. We want to build a community where people who have more access to connections and money leverage those resources to help create solutions with marginalized people. We are building a community that invests in one another's success and including LGBTQ homeless youth at every step of the way.

PFC plans to reclaim housing that already exists for people who need it. We live in a world where there are more bank-owned foreclosures than homeless people.

LGBTQ homeless young people are often coming from the very neighborhoods whose streets are desolate due to bank repossessions. We plan to create a safe space where young people can stay in their own communities.

PFC is developing a model that can be replicated across the country. Thousands of LGBTQ youth are on the streets in major cities from coast to coast. If we find creative ways to forge community alliances, capitalize on federal legislation, or navigate financial systems, then we can share those strategies with other communities. What if we built a national network of youth and youth advocates creating opportunities like PFC?

PFC is a new spin on an old idea. PFC is standing on the shoulders of the Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries in New York in the 1970s. We're in the tradition of San Franciscans who organized hospice care for their dying friends before we even knew what to call AIDS. We're inspired by the Black Panthers who brought free lunch to school children and the Young Lords who brought tuberculosis screening to the barrios. We can continue to weave a tradition of healing, resistance and solidarity into the fabric of our communities.

PFC is one of many responses to our modern dilemma building strength in the city right now. Chicago is not Chiraq. Chicago is not Rahm Emmanuel. Chicago is the Immigrant Youth Justice League. Chicago is Project NIA. Chicago is Freegeek. Chicago is La Casita. Chicago is Southsiders Together Organizing for Power. Chicago is us, so let's keep making this city a place of possibility.

André is the founder of the Trans Oral History Project, co-founder of Project Fierce Chicago, and a working board member of Orgullo en Accion. When André is not rabble-rousing, educating, or building community, you can hire him to photograph events and portraits by contacting him at andrealanperez@gmail.com.

Russia alters Olympic 'Truce'—but Cher doesn't

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The Russian Federation last week altered its initial draft of the United Nations' Olympic Truce to include provisions for "social inclusion without discrimination of any kind" at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi.

The Olympic Truce is a largely symbolic document pledging goodwill and harmony over the course of an Olympics. The New York Times reported Sept. 14, however, that U.N. officials spent many weeks having to persuade Russian officials to alter their initial draft of the document to incorporate more universal anti-discrimination language.

The initial draft only mentioned "people of different age, sex, physical capacity, religion, race and social status." But U.N. officials have been looking for assurances about the safety of LGBT athletes and pushed to make the language more inclusive, according to the Times.

Previous Olympic Truces did not include provisions for LGBT participants, but many activists have expressed concern for their safety following anti-LGBT laws that were signed into law by President Vladimir Putin this past summer.

A prominent Russian lawyer, Masha Best, chair of the Association of Russian Lawyers for Human Rights, has come out as bisexual and transgender. She told Europe's PinkNews Sept. 13, "So it isn't a matter of upbringing. It's nature. That's why I think the law against 'homosexual propaganda' is a law against children and one that targets certain social groups. It is a fascist law and nothing else."

Best's advice for trans Russians is to "come out. The sooner, the better. Don't be afraid of your parents. Too many trans people worry about



Russian attorney Masha Best. Facebook photo

how society sees them and think they're a problem for society."

Meanwhile, Cher told MacLean's magazine Sept. 8 that she refused to perform at Sochi because of the laws.

"I can't name names but my friend called who is a big oligarch over there, and asked me if I'd like to be an ambassador for the Olympics and open the show," Cher said. "I immediately said no. I want to know why all of this gay hate just exploded over there. He said the Russian people don't feel the way the government does."

AFL-CIO votes to include trans protection, ENDA support

BY MATT SIMONETTE

AFL-CIO last week amended its constitution in order to offer protections for trans persons and also resolved to work towards passage of the Employee Non-Discrimination Act.

The votes took place at the labor organization's 2013 Quadrennial convention in Los Angeles. AFL-CIO encompasses 57 unions and 12 million workers.

The amendment pertaining to trans protections was submitted by the Communications Workers of America. Mara Keisling, executive director for the National Center for Transgender Equality, told BuzzFeed that the vote was "very exciting. Labor has really been stepping up, and the AFL-CIO has been stepping up."

The amendment reads, "To encourage all workers without regard to race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability, (or) sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression to share equally in the full benefits of union organization."

Several unions within the Federation already offered similar protections, as did UNITE HERE and the SEIU.

"Statistics around the experiences of transgender workers tell a staggering story," said Donna Cartwright, secretary for DC-Baltimore Pride at Work, in a statement. "We applaud passage of the resolution that moves this country's workers forward in protecting all workers."

AFL-CIO also unanimously voted Sept. 11 in favor of a resolution submitted by the American Federation of Teachers reaffirming the union's support for ENDA.

"Without ENDA, the only protection many

LGBT workers have is their union contracts. Union workers can be fired only with just cause and often have access to grievance procedures and arbitration," the AFL-CIO resolution said. "The AFL-CIO will redouble our support for the passage of ENDA and continue this work until every worker—gay or straight, transgender or not—is treated with dignity and respect on the job."

"The fear of being discriminated against based on sexual orientation deters people from stepping up to serve our communities and reach for the stars," AFT President Randi Weingarten said in a statement.

A resolution that would have supported transgender-inclusive healthcare within the AFL-CIO failed to pass due to technical reasons, but will be re-introduced at a later meeting, according to Pride at Work.

Sasser fund created

AIDS United has created an endowment fund that honors the memory of the late AIDS activist/educator Sean Sasser, according to a press release. The fund "will be used to mobilize philanthropic and community support for programs improving health outcomes for gay men of color," the release stated.

The HIV-positive Sasser—who first came into the public eye in 1993 as the boyfriend of Pedro Zamora on MTV's *The Real World*—passed away Aug. 7 from mesothelioma, a rare lung cancer. A public memorial, at which AIDS United will make the official announcement of the fund, will take place Sept. 21 at National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

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E. PATRICK JOHNSON
Gathering Honey: Oral Histories of Black Southern Women Who Love Women
E. Patrick Johnson is the Carlos Montezuma Professor in the Department of Performance Studies and African American Studies, Northwestern University. As a follow-up to Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South—An Oral History, E. Patrick Johnson has begun working on a new oral history on black lesbians of the South, tentatively entitled, Honeypot: Black Southern Women Who Love Women—An Oral History. In his presentation, Johnson will discuss the challenges to conducting oral histories of black same-gender-loving women based not only on gender differences between his subjects and himself, but also the content of their stories. In addition, Johnson will share some of the women's stories through performance.

SUN., 11/3/13
Goldie Goldbloom
Working For Queer Acceptance: Finding Love Amongst the Religious Right

SAT., 12/7/13
Owen Daniel-McCarter
Constitutional Law as it Applies to Transgender Prisoners

SAT., 1/4/14
Hyacinth Piel
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SAT., 2/1/14
Beth Richie
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Hunters Chicago closing; will transform into PhoenixBar

BY ROSS FORMAN

Mark Hunter was driving to the grand opening of Hunters Chicago, a gay bar in northwest suburban Elk Grove Village, on that Friday in mid-October 1982, when his car broke down several blocks away. He had to walk to the bar for its opening.

Flash-forward 31 years, almost to the day, and Hunter is walking away from Hunters for good.

On Friday, Sept. 13, Hunter announced he had sold the long-standing video dance bar on Higgins Road, with 5,000 square feet inside and almost 2,000 more square feet outside on the patio.

Robert Brumbaugh, who also owns Progress Bar on Halsted Street in Lakeview, purchased Hunters, which is officially closing after business Sunday, Sept. 22. It will reportedly be closed for a week or longer for renovations/modifications, and then reopen as The PhoenixBar.

"I just felt it was time, time to move on. It's just a good time; I turn 60 years-old this year ... and am just planning for the future. I don't want to work forever," Hunter said Sept. 13, hours after announcing the sale.

He lives primarily in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and still owns Hunters Palm Springs in California.

Hunter and his partner, Patrick Volkert, have been together for about eight years.

"It's been a roller-coaster of emotions," Hunter said, fighting back tears. "Of course, I'm very emotionally tied to the bar, but I think it was the best decision for everyone involved—a good decision for the customers, for the employees, and for myself."

Hunter put the bar for sale in the spring and said he received multiple other offers, but "we felt [Brumbaugh's offer] was the perfect selection for everyone. And after a little negotiating here and there, things worked out.

"We did have other options [beside Brumbaugh's offer]; people who were interested in doing other things with the property, with some very good offers. But we decided that the best offer was from Robert, particularly because he wanted to keep it as a gay bar. I think it's important to have a gay bar in the northwest suburbs."

Brumbaugh tagged Hunters as "an iconic part of the community for over 30 years," and said that when he heard the bar was for sale, "I jumped at the opportunity and I'm delighted that PhoenixBar will continue to serve the gay community from this premier northwest suburban location."

He added, "As with ProgressBar in Boystown, our vision is the same: a place where everyone feels important, from employees to customers to the dignity of the community we serve."

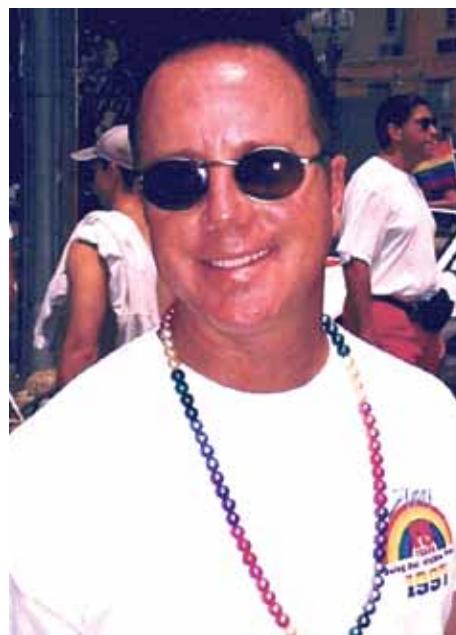
Brumbaugh said the "vast majority" of Hunter's employees will be staying on at the new bar.

"After a week or two of intense remodeling and refreshing of the space, we plan to reopen in early to mid-October with a new look and a renewed commitment to the community," he said. "With the help of ProgressBar's creator, David Sikora, and the new PhoenixBar general manager, Justin Romme, our team is incredibly energized to become the premier gay bar and nightclub in suburban Chicago. We wish all the best to Mark and Patrick, and thank them for the legacy that Hunters has delivered to the community. We can't wait to show them the new PhoenixBar."

Hunter said he doesn't expect the sale and closing of Hunters Chicago to truly hit him until the last day it is open.

"I consider it an honor [to have been open 31 years]; I consider myself to have been very privileged. I was given a huge gift," said Hunter, who opened the bar with his late wife, Marian, who passed away in 1995. "Marian was instrumental in opening the bar."

"I've had a wonderful life because of Hunters Chicago. Since the day the bar opened in 1982,



Mark Hunter. Photo courtesy of Hunter

and every day since, Hunters Chicago has been a huge success.

"It's been the home to a lot of wonderful people, and I'm thankful to everyone who has passed through the doors of Hunters Chicago, for all their support, loyalty, friendship and everything that they've given me. They truly are a wonderful group of people. ... I'm blessed."

Hunter said he never anticipated Hunters remaining open for 31 years, "not in my wildest dreams."

As for a favorite night, Hunter hesitated and then said, "That's a tough question; there were so many wonderful nights to remember. Every night is a special night; every day was a special day. ... definitely some good times."

As for the 20-25 Hunters staff, most will, reportedly, be retained.

Hunters' busiest day annually is Super Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving, which regularly drew more than 1,000 patrons.

Hunter said he has been invited to the PhoenixBar, and he does plan to visit. He is not sure yet if he will be able to attend the new bar's grand opening due to his work and travel schedule.

"I want to give a special 'thank you' to all of the employees who have ever worked at Hunters; we've had some really wonderful people [working] there and the current staff really is terrific, absolutely terrific," he said.

Hunter said that, within hours after the announcement that Hunters will close, he received messages from former employees who now live out of state, yet are planning to attend the final Hunters weekend celebration, highlighted by a bon voyage party Saturday, Sept. 21.

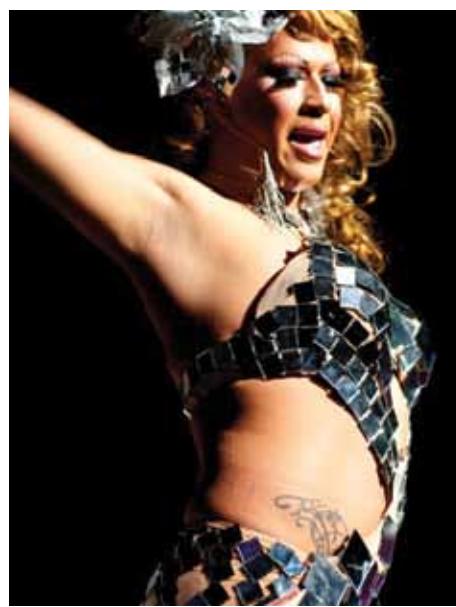


Photo from Hunters, 2011. By Kirk Williamson



Robert Cecil.

PASSAGES

Robert Cecil memorial Sept. 28 in Edgewater

Robert L. Cecil Jr., 52, of Chicago, formerly of Owensboro, Ky., passed away July 25 at his home, surrounded by family and friends.

He was born Aug. 7, 1960, to Robert L. Cecil and Vohnell Cecil Mullican. Robbie worked in the restaurant industry all of his life which allowed his love of people to shine. His love of life was contagious and was obvious to everyone who crossed his path. He was an avid reader, loved music and animals, and passionately dedicated his life to helping others.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert L. Cecil. Survivors include his mother, Vohnell Mullican; brothers Mike Cecil and Tim Cecil (Melody); sisters Becky Murphy, Vonda Morris (James) and Sandra Shacklett (Steve), all of Owensboro, and Jill Rumps (Jeremy) of Glen Ellyn, Ill.; 13 nieces and nephews; and three great-nieces and -nephews.

Mass was celebrated Aug. 3 in Kentucky. Over the past 12 years, living in Chicago's

Edgewater neighborhood, Robert touched many lives, passionately sharing his experience, strength and hope. His tireless devotion and committed service to the LGBTQ community in Chicago with such organizations as The Newtown Alano Club, 909 W. Belmont Ave., and The Rec (recovery) Room, 4138 N. Sheridan Rd., has helped a great many affected by HIV and addiction find recovery. Robert leaves behind a legacy with a reach and impact that is timeless and immeasurable.

Robert's friends and family invite those who knew and loved him to join them in a "celebration" of his life at a pre-dinner event Saturday, Sept. 28, 3-6 p.m., at Nookies Edgewater, 1100 W. Bryn Mawr Ave..

Please RSVP at 773-458-9331, robertcecilevent@gmail.com or on Facebook ("A Celebration of the Life of Robert Cecil," www.facebook.com/events/1402594286625246).

March on Springfield attendees can travel by bus

Organizers behind the Oct. 22 March on Springfield and their partners have announced the first of several privately organized buses available for people who want to travel to Springfield for the marriage-equality rally.

Details are on the March website at www.MarchOnSpringfield.org; visitors can then click "Travel."

Dozens of buses are being organized by churches, organizations, corporations and activists to help get people to Springfield from all over Illinois. Roundtrip travel on six (6) of those buses originating in Chicago can now be booked online at <http://www.marchonspringfield.org/transport.php>. These six buses will pick up people in Andersonville, Chatham, Lakeview, Pilsen and Rogers Park the morning of Oct. 22 and return them that evening. Roundtrip travel is available for about \$30, with discounts for low-income individuals. Pickup addresses and times are on the website.

More buses for the public will be announced in coming weeks from Chicago, its suburbs and other statewide locations, including some free travel for LGBTQ youth. Travel is also being coordinated by almost 50 "March Captains" throughout Illinois.

Equality Illinois names new field director

Equality Illinois has named Patricia Dillon as its new director of field operations.

Dillon has worked as an organizer with Planned Parenthood in North Carolina, and organized voters in southwest Ohio for President Obama's re-election campaign in 2012. She most recently she served as state coordinator for Organizing for Action in Michigan.

minibar's wedding contest is March on Springfield benefit

The Boystown nightspot minibar, 3339 N. Halsted St., is doing an innovative benefit for the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality, which is Tuesday, Oct. 22, in Springfield, Ill.

The bar is running the contest "Eat, Drink and be Married," offering a free wedding valued at \$20,000. The wedding will be held Saturday, Oct. 19, at minibar. It will feature food, decor, hair and makeup, event planning, photography, flowers and wedding cake with other desserts, all donated by area businesses: Vanité, e. melone, J prince Studio, RJP Designs, Sugar Hills Bakery and minibar.

Deadline is Oct. 1 to enter to win a complete free wedding.

Details on the essay contest are at <http://www.minibarchicago.com/#!benefit-for-march-on-springfield/c9jx>.

For March on Springfield details, see <http://www.marchonspringfield.org/>.

TREASURER from cover

Loop. That was important for me as well because this subcircuit has been very hard-hit by crime, by drugs, by other things that affect urban life. I wanted to be somewhere that I could make a difference with those things. My father [Fred Rice] was the commander of [the] police district for years where I am running. My mother [Thelma] was a Chicago Public Schools teacher. So even though I grew up on the South Side of Chicago, I have very strong ties to this community.

WCT: You have long been active in Chicago's LGBT community.

JR: Yes.

WCT: Can you talk about your involvement in the community?

JR: I think it is a very strong community. I've been very happy to be a part of it. We rally together on many issues. I first started going to the Pride Parade probably some 30 years ago. At that time, you saw just several thousand people outside. For me to see a million Chicagoans come out and rally behind this community. ... We've rallied around the ability to marry each other and to create our families with children and partners, and I think we have made some great strides in that across the country, and we're going to see it here in Illinois as well.

There are so many reasons why it's always been important for me to be involved in the community, and see the progress that we've made over the years.

WCT: So, you are running as an out candidate, is that correct?

JR: Yes, I am. It's a factor about me. There are many factors about me, the fact that I'm



Judy Rice (right) and partner Barb Heller at the Victory Fund brunch Sept. 8. Photo by Tracy Baim

African-American, that I'm female, that I'm a lesbian, that I'm an attorney, that I've been in business school. It's not something that is the primary focus of my role, but it's a factor about me, and at this point in my life, it's one that I'm open about. And so the answer to your question is, yes.

WCT: You have strong ties in the community. Did you feel pressure from the community to come out over the years?

JR: I think that people have always known who I am, the people who know me. I've never hidden who I am from people who know me. I wouldn't say it's any pressure. It's me feeling that it's important that we raise our hands at this point in time because people need to understand that LGBT are around them everywhere in the community. Maybe they're doctors, maybe they're lawyers, maybe they're sons, maybe they're daughters. So, the more than we can show that, the better it is going to be for our community.

WCT: Could you have imagined 30 years ago when you started attending Pride that it would be possible to run as an out candidate for judge?

JR: I could not imagine at all. I was a scared, young person to be out on the street and be physically identified. So, look at the change that we have had and that we've come to through the work of many people who are a lot more brave and a lot stronger than I ever have been.

WCT: Do you have a partner?

JR: I do. [Her name is Barb Heller.] She's a physician, and she is a great support for me, also. We've been together for 10 years, and we just enjoy our friends, enjoy the city, enjoy going to events together.

WCT: You, of course, worked under Mayor [Richard M.] Daley for a number of years. What do you think his legacy was for LGBT

people? Do you see yourself as part of that?

JR: I don't think my role was specific to LGBT issues, but I knew at all times that I had the support of the mayor as an individual. ... I think my proudest moment with him was when we were in a court judgment and he was asked to talk about the Boy Scouts and how did he feel about their position not to allow gay men to be scout leaders. And I thought that he would maybe waffle or say something to get off the subject. I was so proud when he said straightforward, "I think they're wrong." He said, "I don't think that they understand that a gay man is not a criminal and that child sexual abuse is a crime, and that are many types of men, even straight men, fall into that or could commit that type of crime."

That really brought what he had indicated to me on a personal level. It really brought home the depth of his support.

WCT: Beyond marriage rights, what do you see as deprivations under the law for LGBT people?

JR: I think it's important that we secure human and civil rights for every individual and for individuals in our community. People should not be afraid at their job of bringing their whole self to work. People should not feel threatened where they live. People should have access to appropriate healthcare. So these are all things that I think are civil rights, are justice issues that we have to work on in our community and other communities as well.

WCT: What issues do you think face transgender people in the courts?

JR: I think we see a lot of them. Everywhere that you go, you're asked to identify yourself. So one problem and one issue those would bring for individuals who are transitioning or have transitioned are in the workplace. Are they going to be accepted? Are they going to be able to be terminated from their jobs because they're transitioning? So those are the types of issues that we have to make sure people are safe, that they have their civil rights.

WCT: What is the bottom line for you? Why vote Judy Rice for judge?

JR: I think people get someone who knows the community, who knows the issues that we are going through in the community, who is fair, who will listen, who will try to make well-reasoned decisions on behalf of people who are a part of them, who will be open. Those are all the qualities that you want in a judge. I also feel that that diversity of my experience and the diversity of my career is important in helping to make those decisions.

More on Rice is available on her campaign website at www.judyriceforjudge.com.

Simone's Kids helps the needy in Uganda

BY ROSS FORMAN

Simone Puccinelli went to Africa for three weeks while in high school, visiting area schools and lending whatever support and assistance she could.

A few years later, while a sophomore in college, Puccinelli received an email about a struggling school for orphans in Africa. The school was going to have to close unless it could find financial support.



Simone Puccinelli.
Photo from Puccinelli

The school needed \$500, which would cover the rent.

"I read that email and just thought that I had to do something to help these kids, so they wouldn't go back out on the streets and not receive an education. That was the starting point," Puccinelli said by phone from her home in Cartersville, Ga.

Puccinelli soon formed her own non-profit charity—Simone's Kids, whose mission is to save children from the effects of poverty—and the needed funds were raised, and much more.

"In about six weeks, we had raised the [\$500] and then it just snowballed into an entire organization from there," Puccinelli said.

Simone's Kids raised about \$5,000 in 2010 alone—and has built two classrooms and laid the foundation for eight more classrooms, plus office space for administrators.

"It's really emotional work at times, working with the kids, some with HIV/AIDS, and/or

other major illnesses. Emotionally, it's taken a toll, but also is very rewarding," said Puccinelli, who is married to Michael, who she met while in college. "I feel good, successful in what we've done, what we've accomplished, especially [generating] more funds every year. I'm happy where the organization is at."

Puccinelli works hand in hand with the husband-wife duo Godfrey and Hope Kayire, the administrators of God's Hope Primary School, started by the couple to help the poor and orphaned children in their community of Uganda.

In 2011, Simone's Kids purchased three acres of land to build a new school, and a year later, Simone's Kids broke ground on their first building project.

Last December at the third annual Classroom for Christmas fundraiser, more than \$20,000 was raised to continue the building the school in Uganda.

Puccinelli has worked with about 400 youngsters in Uganda over the past few years, and she estimated that about 25 percent of them are infected with HIV/AIDS.

"They're normal kids who just like to have fun, like all other kids. I don't think a lot of them really even know what's wrong with them," she said. "[HIV/AIDS] is very hush-hush over there. It's sad."

Puccinelli befriended Henry late fall during one of her regular visits to Uganda, hooked by his sweet spirit and a gentle heart, she said. His bright smile and bubbly personality overshadowed his HIV-positive status. Henry died in March from AIDS.

"After learning of his passing I was overcome with a feeling that I have never felt before," Puccinelli wrote on her blog. "It seems unjustified for a six year old child to die of AIDS, a disease that was passed on to him as baby. He had done nothing wrong, but he was gone."

For more information on Simone's Kids, go to <http://simoneskids.com>.

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Illinois state reps on marriage: Yes, no and maybe

BY KATE SOSIN

Using data pulled from public statements, endorsements and inside sources, Windy City Times has put together a comprehensive list on lawmakers and how they might vote.

Following that list is an estimated tally of votes for the bill. We make no claims that lawmakers will vote according to this list, or that we have all the information on their stances. In some cases, it is very difficult to guess how a lawmaker might vote. In a few cases, this list has been informed by off-record statements from political insiders and LGBT advocates. In other cases, a lawmaker has been placed according to party lines.

The Illinois Unites coalition of LGBT and allied groups is keeping their lobbying efforts private, so their own targets for the fall veto session are not known. They also appear to be working all angles, including those who have said they are a "no" vote to push them to a yes by the fall veto session, which starts Tuesday, Oct. 22, the same day as the planned March on Springfield for Marriage Equality.

This should not be taken as a definitive list. Sources also indicate a number of votes in favor of equal marriage will be surprises, including Republican votes.

Not sure who your lawmakers are? The Illinois board of elections has an interactive map for that: www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx.

Also the Illinois Unites website: www.illinoiunites.org/.

For info on the March on Springfield, which is being organized by an independent group of activists, see: www.marchonspringfield.org/.

Dist. 1, Daniel Burke (D): Burke voted "yes" on the bill in committee and is a sponsor of the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-1117. Email: burkedj2@ilga.gov.

Dist. 2, Edward J. Acevedo (D): Acevedo voted for civil unions and was Equality Illinois endorsed in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-2855.

Dist. 3, Luis Arroyo (D): Arroyo voted for the bill in committee to help it get to the House floor, but has said he will vote against it on the House floor. He has spoken with several LGBT leaders, but his vote is firm, he told Windy City Times. Still, he remains a target for LGBT advocates who say they believe his "no" answer is not set in stone. Springfield office: (217) 782-0480. Email: RepDistrict3@gmail.com.

Dist. 4, Cynthia Soto (D): Soto is among the bill's sponsors, and she has been present at LGBT community events. Springfield office: (217) 782-0150. Email: 4repsoito@gmail.com.

Dist. 5, Ken Dunkin (D): Dunkin, chair of the House Black Caucus, is a sponsor of the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-4535. Email: ken@repkendunkin.com.

Dist. 6, Esther Golar (D): Golar was Equality Illinois endorsed and voted in favor of civil unions. Springfield office: (217) 782-5971. Email: esthergolar@sbcglobal.net.

Dist. 7, Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D): Welch was just sworn in. Equality Illinois endorsed him in 2012. District office: (708) 450-1000. Email: repwelch@emanuelchriswelch.com.

Dist. 8, La Shawn K. Ford (D): Ford has made his support for the bill public. He voted for civil unions and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-5962. Email: repford@lashawnford.com.

Dist. 9, Arthur Turner (D): The Sun-Times reported that Turner said he will vote in favor of the equal marriage. Turner voted "yes" on civil unions but was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-8116. Email: arthurt@ilga.gov.

Dist. 10, Derrick Smith (D): Smith is under federal indictment for alleged bribery. He returns

to office after this winter after his colleagues expelled him from office over the indictment, and voters then re-elected him. He was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-8077.

Dist. 11, Ann Williams (D): Williams is a supporter of LGBT rights and is a sponsor of the marriage equality bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-2458. Email: ann@repannwilliams.com.

Dist. 12, Sara Feigenholtz (D): Feigenholtz is a longtime supporter of LGBT people and a 2001 inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. She is a sponsor of the bill. District office: (773) 296-4141. Email: sara@staterpsara.com.

Dist. 13, Greg Harris (D): Harris, an openly gay lawmaker, is the chief sponsor of the bill. He has been a driving force behind LGBT policy in Illinois for years. Springfield office: (217) 782-3835.

Dist. 14, Kelly Cassidy (D): Cassidy is an out lesbian and a sponsor of the bill. Cassidy said that she has received hundreds of emails from constituents asking her vote in favor of equal marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-8088. Email: repcassidy@gmail.com.

Dist. 15, John D'Amico (D): D'Amico voted against civil unions in 2010, Equality Illinois did not endorse him in 2012. But insiders suggest that he continues to be a target for LGBT activists. Springfield office: (217) 782-8198. Email: johnd@ilga.gov.

Dist. 16, Lou Lang (D): Lang is a sponsor of the bill. He was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2002 for his support of LGBT people and AIDS funding. Springfield office: (217) 782-1252. Email: langli@ilga.gov.

Dist. 17, Laura Fine (D): Fine is among the bill's sponsors. District office: (847) 998-1717. Email: repfine@gmail.com.

Dist. 18, Robyn Gabel (D): Gabel is co-sponsoring the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-8052. Email: staterepgabel@robyngabel.com.

Dist. 19, Robert Martwick (D): Martwick is co-sponsoring the bill. District office: (773) 286-1115. Email: repmartwick@gmail.com.

Dist. 20, Michael McAuliffe (R): McAuliffe voted against civil unions in 2010 and has indicated he would do the same if marriage equality were brought to a vote. "I will not support the legalization of gay marriage in Illinois," he said in a Daily Herald candidate questionnaire. But sources indicate that McAuliffe may not be more open to a "yes" vote than others. Springfield office: (217) 782-8182.

Dist. 21, Silvana Tabares (D): This journalist-turned-lawmaker is new to office. She was not endorsed by Equality Illinois last year, and sources suggest her vote has been hard to pin down. Springfield office: (217) 782-7752. Email: rep.tabares@gmail.com.

Dist. 22, Michael Madigan (D): House Speaker Madigan has stated his support publicly, but LGBT advocates have criticized him for not mustering support for the bill and have asked that supporters contact Madigan and ask for his support. Springfield office: (217) 782-5350.

Dist. 23, Michael Zalewski (D): Zalewski was endorsed by Equality Illinois and voted in favor of civil unions. Springfield office: (217) 782-5280. Email: repzalewski@gmail.com.

Dist. 24, Elizabeth Hernandez (D): Hernandez voted "yes" on civil unions and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-8173. Email: repehernandez@yahoo.com.

Dist. 25, Barbara Flynn Currie (D): Barbara Flynn Currie is a sponsor on the bill. Equality Illinois endorsed her, and she voted for civil unions. Springfield office: (217) 782-8121.

Dist. 26, Christian Mitchell (D): Mitchell, who is new to office, was endorsed by Equality Illinois and scored 16 out of 17 on the Windy City Times candidate questionnaire. He is also sponsoring the bill. Springfield office: (217)

782-2023.

Dist. 27, Monique Davis (D): Davis voted for civil unions in 2010 and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. But she has publicly stated that she will oppose the bill. "I want to be an engineer, and we can't pass legislation for me to be an engineer because I just don't have what it takes to be equipped to be an engineer," she told the Chicago Sun-Times. "And two people of the same sex are not equipped to be in what a marriage is." Springfield office: (217) 782-0010.

Dist. 28, Robert Rita (D): Rita voted "yes" on the bill in committee. Springfield office: (217) 558-1000.

Dist. 29, Thaddeus Jones (D): Jones was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. When called, a staffer said Jones would not be available to answer the question about his stance on the bill. He took office in 2011. Springfield office: (217) 782-8087.

Dist. 30, Will Davis (D): Equality Illinois endorsed Davis in 2012, and he voted for civil unions. Springfield office: (217) 782-8197.

Dist. 31, Mary Flowers (D): Flowers backed civil unions in 2010, and was Equality Illinois endorsed. But the Chicago Sun-Times reported that Flowers said she will vote against the bill. Still, she remains a target for advocates who believe she could be moved to the "yes" column. Springfield office: (217) 782-4207. Email: maryflowers@ilga.gov.

Dist. 32, Andre Thapedi (D): Thapedi voted for civil unions, and Equality Illinois endorsed him. In September, however, the Chicago Sun-Times reported that when asked if he supports gay marriage, Thapedi said, "I am uncertain of the query." Springfield office: (217) 782-1702.

Dist. 33, Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (D): Evans took office in 2012 and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-8272. Email: reppevans33@gmail.com.

Dist. 34, Elgie Sims, Jr. (D): Sims has been in office since 2012 and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. The Chicago Sun-Times reported last February that Sims supports gay marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-6476. Email: Repsims34@gmail.com.

Dist. 35, Frances Ann Hurley (D): Hurley ran for office without an endorsement from Equality Illinois. The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Hurley said she "was leaning toward yes for gay marriage." District office: (773) 445-8128. Email: reprfranthurley@gmail.com.

Dist. 36, Kelly Burke (D): Burke took office in 2011. Equality Illinois did not endorse her. On a Chicago Sun-Times questionnaire, Burke dodged the question. "The citizens of the 36th District are worried about paying their mortgage, funding their children's education and making ends meet. I don't believe this issue is high on the radar of the citizens of my district," she said. Springfield office: (217) 782-0515. Email: kburke@kellyburkered36.org.

Dist. 37, Renee Kosel (R): Kosel was a "no" on civil unions, and she ran without an Equality Illinois endorsement. Kosel voted against the bill in committee. Springfield office: (217) 782-0424. Email: rkosel@ilga.gov.

Dist. 38, Al Riley (D): Riley voted for civil unions in 2010 and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 558-1007. Email: rep.riley38@sbcglobal.net.

Dist. 39, Maria Antonia Berrios (D): Berrios has stated that her vote is not up for grabs. She will vote yes on the bill, and she is pushing her colleagues to do the same. Springfield office: (217) 558-1032. Email: repberrios39@gmail.com.

Dist. 40, Jaime Andrade (D): This recent appointee replaces lesbian Rep. Deb Mell, who left the General Assembly to take her father's Aldermanic seat. Andrade, a former aide to the older Mell, told Windy City Times that he supports same-sex marriage and will work for its passage. Springfield office: (217) 782-8117. Email:

staterep40@gmail.com.

Dist. 41, Darlene Senger (R): Senger voted "no" on civil unions two years ago, but supporters hope that LGBT people and their allies will press her to vote yes, regardless. Springfield office: (217) 782-6507. Email: sengerstaterep@gmail.com.

Dist. 42, Jeanne Ives (R): Ives made her sentiments clear in a radio interview this year when called gay relationships "disordered." Ives has said she will vote against the bill. Springfield office: (217) 558-1037. Email: repjeanneives@gmail.com.

Dist. 43, Keith Farnham (D): Farnham voted for the bill in committee. Springfield office: (217) 782-8020. Email: krfarnham@gmail.com.

Dist. 44, Fred Crespo (D): Crespo backed civil unions in 2010 but was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. Crespo's skirted the question on his Daily Herald candidate questionnaire, stating, "I support civil rights for all people and oppose discrimination based on sexual orientation. However, when I talk to local voters, they are more concerned about the recent increases in property taxes, eliminating wasteful spending and creating jobs. That is where I feel I must direct my energy, attention and efforts." Springfield office: (217) 782-0347.

Dist. 45, Dennis Reboletti (R): Reboletti did not support civil unions and said he does not support same-sex marriage, according to the Daily Herald. But he is a target for LGBT organizers. Springfield office: (217) 782-4014.

Dist. 46, Deb Conroy (D): Conroy, who took office this year, wrote in her Daily Herald candidate questionnaire that, "I believe no one should be discriminated against due to their sexual orientation, just as no one should be discriminated against based on their race or gender. That is why I believe that same-sex couples should be granted the same legal rights as heterosexual couples, which are especially important for financial benefits and medical decisions." District Office: (630) 415-3520. Email: repdebconroy@gmail.com.

Dist. 47, Patti Bellock (R): Bellock was among a group of lawmakers that filed a court document against the marriage equality lawsuits. Bellock voted against civil unions. Springfield office: (217) 782-1448.

Dist. 48, Sandra Pihos (R): In a letter to a Windy City Times reader, Pihos said she would vote against the bill because the vast majority of her constituents are against the measure. Pihos voted against civil unions in 2010. Springfield office: (217) 782-8037. Email: sandrapihos48@gmail.com.

Dist. 49, Mike Fortner (R): Fortner voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-1653. Email: mike.fortner@sbcglobal.net.

Dist. 50, Kay Hatcher (R): Hatcher's stance may be hard to pin down. In 2012, she dodged the question on a Yorkville Patch questionnaire, stating, "My personal philosophy is strongly fiscally conservative and socially moderate. Every person has to weigh for themselves the importance of each issue and how it affects their family." That same year, she noted on her Daily Herald questionnaire that most of the constituents to contact her on the issue were opposed to the measure, but she did not state her own opinion. She did vote against civil unions. LGBT activists are after her vote. Springfield office: (217) 782-1486.

Dist. 51, Ed Sullivan, Jr. (R): Sullivan is among the bill's sponsors. Springfield office: (217) 782-3696. Email: ILhouse51@sbcglobal.net.

Dist. 52, David McSweeney (R): McSweeney was endorsed by Illinois Family Action, the political arm of anti-gay group the Illinois Family Institute. Springfield office: (217) 782-1517. Email: ilhouse52@gmail.com.

Dist. 53, David Harris (R): Harris stated his views on equal marriage in a Chicago Sun-Times candidate questionnaire. "Current state law prohibits marriage between individuals of the same sex," he said. "I support that law and I do not support same-sex marriage. I could consider supporting civil union legislation depending on how it is written and what it does." Springfield

office: (217) 782-3739. Email: repfarris@yahoo.com.

Dist. 54, Thomas Morrison (R): Morrison was among a group of lawmakers who introduced a bill reaffirming the state's ban on same-sex marriage in July. Springfield office: (217) 782-8026. Email: repmorrison54@gmail.com.

Dist. 55, Martin Moylan (D): Moylan was recently sworn into office. He was endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. He did not respond to a request to comment on the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-8007. Email: staterepmoylan@gmail.com.

Dist. 56, Michelle Mussman (D): Mussman stated on a Chicago Sun-Times questionnaire, "I would not support legislation permitting gay marriage. I would support legislation permitting civil unions." But a Windy City Times reader and 56th Dist. resident said she believes Mussman supports the bill now. Mussman has not returned requests for comment. Springfield office: (217) 782-3725. Email: staterepmussman@gmail.com.

Dist. 57, Elaine Nekritz (D): Nekritz backed civil unions and was endorsed by Equality Illinois, but she did not state her stance on marriage in candidate questionnaires. In photos after the House's failure to bring equal marriage for a vote in May, Nekritz is seen crying and hugging Christin Baker, former Rep. Deb Mell's wife. Springfield office: (217) 558-1004. Email: enekritz@repnekritz.org.

Dist. 58, Scott Drury (D): Drury backs equal marriage, according to his Daily Herald candidate questionnaire. "I am committed to marriage equality in Illinois and, thus, people of the same gender should be allowed to marry in Illinois," he wrote. Springfield office: (217) 782-0902. Email: repdrury@gmail.com.

Dist. 59, Carol Sente (D): On her website, Sente asks constituents to let her know what they think about a bill that would legalize gay marriage. In her Chicago Sun-Times candidate profile, she said, "I am a strong supporter of civil rights for all people and do not believe that discrimination based on sexual orientation should be tolerated." Springfield office: (217)

782-0499. Email: repente@gmail.com.

Dist. 60, Rita Mayfield (D): Mayfield's stance has frustrated LGBT organizers and sponsors of the bill, but she remains a target. She said she wants to vote "yes," on the bill but will not. She says that her district does not support the measure and that she will vote "present" so as not to betray the will of her constituents. Mayfield's best friend is reportedly gay. Springfield Office: (217) 558-1012.

Dist. 61, JoAnn Osmond (R): Osmond sponsored a bill that sought to reaffirm the state's ban on same-sex marriage last year. She voted against civil unions in 2010. Springfield office: (217) 782-8151.

Dist. 62, Sam Yingling (D): Yingling, who was just elected, is the fourth out gay representative to take office and a sponsor of the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-7320. Email: repsamyingling@gmail.com.

Dist. 63, Jack Franks (D): Franks voted for civil unions in 2010 but told the Daily Herald in an interview before that that he opposed same-sex marriage. He was also the target of a protest against the bill recently. According to Richard Small, a gay constituent, approximately 50-100 people demonstrated, urging him not to pass the bill. In 2012, he was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Insiders suggest he is a "yes" vote. Springfield office: (217) 782-1717. Email: jack@jackfranks.org.

Dist. 64, Barbara Wheeler (R): Wheeler believes marriage is a union between a man and a woman, she told the Daily Herald. Springfield office: (217) 782-1664. Email: Repwheeler64@gmail.com.

Dist. 65, Timothy Schmitz (R): Schmitz was endorsed by Illinois Family Action, the political arm of anti-gay organization the Illinois Family Institute. Springfield office: (217) 782-5457. Email: info@timschmitz.org.

Dist. 66, Michael Tryon (R): Tryon voted against the bill in committee. Springfield office: (217) 782-0432. Email: Mike@miketryon.com. Dist. 67, Charles Jefferson (D): Jefferson voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by

Equality Illinois in 2012. The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Jefferson said he plans to vote no on the bill. Still, LGBT advocates are targeting his district. Springfield office: (217) 782-3167. Email: staterepcchuck67@aol.com.

Dist. 68, John Cabello (R): Cabello, who took office in 2012, made headlines recently when he told voters at a Rockford Tea Party forum that he was against civil unions because they could lead to "other" things. "Now, and please bear with me," Cabello said. "Does this now say that somebody can get married to their dog?" Springfield office: (217) 782-0455.

Dist. 69, Joe Sosnowski (R): Sosnowski voted against the bill in committee. Springfield office: (217) 782-0548. Email: reposnowski@gmail.com.

Dist. 70, Robert Pritchard (R): Pritchard voted against civil unions and backed a bill reaffirming the ban on same-sex marriage last year. Springfield office: (217) 782-0425. Email: bob@pritchardstaterep.com.

Dist. 71, Mike Smiddy (D): Smiddy is a sponsor of the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-3992. Email: RepSmiddy@gmail.com.

Dist. 72, Patrick Verschoore (D): Verschoore voted "no" on civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-5970. Email: pverschoore@qconline.com.

Dist. 73, David Leitch (R): Leitch voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-8108. Email: repdavidleitch@gmail.com.

Dist. 74, Don Moffitt (R): KWQC news reported in December that Moffitt believes marriage should be between a man and a woman. Springfield office: (217) 782-8032. Email: moffitt@grics.net.

Dist. 75, John Anthony (R): Anthony took office in August, replacing Pam Roth, who had been recommended by Illinois Family Action, the political arm of Illinois Family Institute, an anti-gay organization. Anthony is the first Black GOP lawmaker in the General Assembly in three decades. He could not be reached to comment,

and his stance has not been made widely public. Springfield office: (217) 782-5997.

Dist. 76, Frank Mautino (D): Mautino voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-0140. Email: patti76th@ivnet.com.

Dist. 77, Kathleen Willis (D): Willis' stance is not widely known, but Equality Illinois endorsed her Republican challenger Skip Saviano over her last year. Springfield office: (217) 782-3374. Email: repwillis77@gmail.com.

Dist. 78, Camille Lilly (D): OakPark.com reported in January that Randy Hannig of Equality Illinois said Lilly would support the measure. Springfield office: (217) 782-6400. Email: statereplilly@yahoo.com.

Dist. 79, Katherine Cloonen (D): The Daily Journal reported in October that Cloonen was against gay marriage. District office: (815) 939-1983. Email: staterepcloonen79@att.net.

Dist. 80, Anthony DeLuca (D): DeLuca voted for civil unions and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. Still, his vote has been seen as uncertain, prompting opposing rallies outside his office both for and against the bill. In March 2011, Chicago Heights Patch reported that DeLuca said he would oppose an equal marriage bill. "There is not a bill on that, but my vote would be 'no,'" Patch quotes DeLuca saying. But LGBT activists are pushing for his vote. Springfield office: (217) 782-1719. Email: repdeluca@sbcglobal.net.

Dist. 81, Ron Sandack (R): Sandack supports equal marriage and is sponsoring the bill. "It's a question of freedom, fundamental fairness and respect," he told Windy City Times. Springfield office: (217) 782-6578. Email: repsandack@gmail.com.

Dist. 82, Jim Durkin (R): Durkin voted "no" on civil unions and told Lemont Patch in a candidate questionnaire that he opposes gay marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-0494. Email: repdurkin@hotmail.com.

Dist. 83, Linda Chapa LaVia (D): Chapa LaVia

Turn to page 10

Please join

Windy City Times, Center On Halsted, The Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and RBC Wealth Management for:

Navigating Your Business Through a Sea of Change

Keynote Speaker: **Justin G. Nelson**, President & Co-Founder
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

When: **Wednesday, September 25, 2013**
5:30-6:15 pm | Reception
6:15-6:30 pm | Introduction by **James Elvord**
First Vice President - Financial Advisor
6:30-7:30 pm | Keynote by **Justin Nelson**
7:30-7:45 pm | Q & A

Location: **Center On Halsted** | 3656 North Halsted | Chicago, IL

Please RSVP to James E. Elvord at (312) 559-1738 or james.elvord@rbc.com



RBC Wealth Management

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Justin Nelson is the co-founder and president of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Since its inception in 2002, the organization has grown to be the largest LGBT economic advocacy and business development organization in the world.

Prior to launching the NGLCC, Justin was the Director of Federal Affairs and External Relations for the American Academy in Washington, DC. Helping craft and implement the legislative agenda of one of the top medical associations, Justin spent five years fighting for patient & physician rights before Congress. Justin was on the forefront of some of the most contentious healthcare debates in congressional memory.

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**WINDY CITY
TIMES**

The Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IL REPS from page 9

voted against civil unions and ran unendorsed by Equality Illinois. She is believed to be undecided. Springfield office: (217) 558-1002. Email: chapa-laviali@ilga.gov.

Dist. 84, Stephanie A. Kifowit (D): Asked in Oswego Patch candidate questionnaire about same-sex marriage, Kifowit said she believes everyone should enjoy the same rights, but added, "I believe the intent behind Illinois' recently enacted civil unions law has done just that." She was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-8028. Email: stephanie.kifowit@att.net.

Dist. 85, Emily McAsey (D): McAsey stated in her Chicago Sun-Times candidate questionnaire that gay marriage did not appear to be a priority for voters and that her focus was on other things. Springfield Office: (217) 782-4179.

Dist. 86, Lawrence Walsh, Jr. (D): In January, Walsh told the Herald-News that his vote was up to constituents. So far, he said, he had received an equal number of calls for and against the measure. "But personally, I don't have a problem with (legalizing) it," he said. Springfield office: (217) 782-8090. Email: statereplarlywalshjr@gmail.com.

Dist. 87, Rich Brauer (R): Brauer voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-0053. Email: RBrauer@hrs.ilga.gov.

Dist. 88, Keith Sommer (R): Sommer sponsored an anti-gay "Defense of Marriage" bill in August. Springfield office: (217) 782-0221. Email: sommer@mtco.com.

Dist. 89, Jim Sacia (R): Sacia wrote on his website, "I will oppose same sex marriage." Springfield office: (217) 782-8186. Email: Jim.Sacia@aeroinc.net.

Dist. 90, Tom Demmer (R): Illinois Family Action, the political arm of anti-gay organization the Illinois Family Institute, endorsed Demmer in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-0535. Email: rep@tomdemmer.com.

Dist. 91, Michael Unes (R): Unes sponsored last summer's "Defense of Marriage" bill, intended to reaffirm the Illinois ban on same-sex marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-8152. Email: repunes@gmail.com.

Dist. 92, Jehan Gordon (D): Gordon voted "yes" on civil unions and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. Still, LGBT activists have targeted her district heavily. She is, however, rumored to be a "yes" vote. Springfield office: (217) 782-3186. Email: repjgordon@gmail.com.

Dist. 93, Norine Hammond (R): In 2012, Hammond was recommended for office by Illinois Family Action, the political arm of anti-gay organization the Illinois Family Institute. Springfield office: (217) 782-0416. Email: rephammond@macomb.com.

Dist. 94, Jil Tracy (R): Tracy sponsored a bill last summer that sought to reaffirm the state's ban on same-sex marriage with a constitutional amendment. Springfield office: (217) 782-8096. Email: jiltracy@jiltracy.com.

Dist. 95, Wayne Rosenthal (R): Rosenthal sponsored a bill last year that aimed to reaffirm the ban on gay marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-8071.

Dist. 96, Sue Scherer (D): According to the State Journal-Register, Scherer wants to give civil unions more time to "work through the system" before passing marriage. Springfield office: (217) 524-0353. Email: staterepsue@gmail.com.

Dist. 97, Tom Cross (R): Cross voted "no" on civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-1331.

Dist. 98, Natalie Manley (D): Manley's views on same-sex marriage have not been widely publicized, and she dodged the question on a Patch.com candidate questionnaire. Equality Illinois did not endorse her in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-3316. Email: repmanley@gmail.com.

Dist. 99, Raymond Poe (R): Poe voted against civil unions in 2010. "It's just a basic belief I have. I don't think we need them (civil unions). Everybody has the same rights. There's a lot of places where they get benefits," Poe is quoted

saying by the State Journal-Register. Springfield office: (217) 782-0044. Email: RPoe@hrs.ilga.gov.

Dist. 100, C.D. Davidsmeyer (R): Davidsmeyer took office in 2012. His position on same-sex marriage has not been widely publicized. Springfield office: (217) 243-6221. Email: repcddavidsmeyer@gmail.com.

Dist. 101, Bill Mitchell (R): In 2004, Mitchell introduced a bill that sought to limit the definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman in the Illinois constitution. Windy City Times reported at the time that Mitchell's bill "attempted to nullify existing laws, saying that 'civil union, domestic partnership, or other similar same-sex relationship shall not be valid or recognized in Illinois.'" Springfield office: (217) 782-8163. Email: repmitchell@earthlink.net.

Dist. 102, Adam Brown (R): Brown took office in 2011 and ran in 2012 without the endorsement of Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-8398.

Dist. 103, Naomi Jakobsson (D): Jakobsson is a co-sponsor marriage equality bill. Springfield office: (217) 558-1009. Email: naomijakobsson@gmail.com.

Dist. 104, Chad Hays (R): Hays' position has not been widely publicized. On his website he writes, "Chad is Pro-Life as well as a strong supporter of family values." Springfield office: (217) 782-4811.

Dist. 105, Dan Brady (R): Brady voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield Office: (217) 782-1118. Email: dan@rep-danbrady.com.

Dist. 106, Josh Harms (R): The Pontiac Daily Leader reported in mid-January that Harms believes marriage should be between a man and a woman. Springfield office: (217) 558-1039. Email: staterepharms@gmail.com.

Dist. 107, John Cavaletto (R): In 2006, the Mt. Vernon Register-News reported that Cavaletto said, "I am strongly opposed to gay rights for homosexuals and I support a Constitutional Amendment to ban gay marriage." That same report notes that Cavaletto has a gay uncle. Cavaletto opposed civil unions in 2010 and backed an anti-gay "Defense of Marriage" bill in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-0066.

Dist. 108, Charles Meier (R): The Belleville News-Democratic reported this fall that Meier is against same-sex marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-6401. Email: repcmeier@gmail.com.

Dist. 109, David Reis (R): Reis was among a group of lawmakers to file a court document against two lawsuits that seek marriage equality in Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-2087.

Dist. 110, Brad Halbrook (R): Halbrook's stance on marriage has not been widely publicized. He has conservative stances on abortion and gun control. Springfield office: (217) 558-1040. Email: staterephalbrook@gmail.com.

Dist. 111, Daniel Beiser (D): Beiser voted against civil unions in 2010 and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. WBGZ radio reported in January that Beiser did not support the marriage bill but did support a statewide referendum on the measure. Springfield office: (217) 782-5996.

Dist. 112, Dwight Kay (R): Kay was among a group of lawmakers to sponsor a bill re-affirming the state's ban on same-sex marriage last year, after 25 LGBT couples sued Cook County for the right to marry. Springfield office: (217) 782-8018. Email: dwightkay112@gmail.com.

Dist. 113, Jay Hoffman (D): Hoffman voted for civil unions but was not endorsed by Equality Illinois two years later. The Belleville News-Democrat reported last October that Hoffman backed civil unions but opposed same-sex marriage. District office: (618) 394-2211. Email: repjayhoffman@gmail.com

Dist. 114, Eddie Lee Jackson, Sr. (D): Jackson voted against the bill in committee, making him the only Democrat to do so. Jackson voted "yes" on civil unions but was not endorsed by Equality Illinois last year. His district has been targeted by organizers. Springfield office: (217) 782-5951.

Dist. 115, Mike Bost (R): Bost voted against the bill in committee. He told KFVS News that he will oppose gay marriage. "We see many prob-

lems that can occur even with the civil unions that we've already dealt with. I'm afraid that gay marriage would step that up a bit," said Bost. "It's a bill that will be out there. Each one of us will vote our own conscience. I didn't vote for civil unions and I won't be voting for gay marriages." Springfield Office: (217) 782-0387. Email: rep.bost@hotmail.com.

Dist. 116, Jerry Costello, II (D): NBC Chicago reported in October that Costello was against same-sex marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-1018. Email: staterepcostello@gmail.com.

Dist. 117, John Bradley (D): Bradley vowed to oppose gay marriage in a statement to KFVS News. "I am not going to be supportive of it," he said. "I didn't support civil unions. And I don't intend to support the gay marriage proposal. But I am sure this is going to be an ongoing battle for the State of Illinois." Springfield office: (217) 782-1051. Email: repjohnbradley@mychoice.net.

Dist. 118, Brandon Phelps (D): Phelps is against same-sex marriage. Two years ago, he co-sponsored a constitutional amendment to limit marriage to a man and a woman. "This constitutional amendment will reinforce the values and beliefs that I feel encompass the sacred institution of marriage, and will help keep it strictly between one man and one woman here in the state of Illinois," he said in a statement on his website. Springfield office: (217) 782-5131. Email: bphelps118@gmail.com.

Predictions

Yes- 34

1. Daniel Burke (D-1st)
2. Ken Dunkin (D-5th)
3. Cynthia Soto (D-4th)
4. La Shawn K. Ford (D-8th)
5. Ann Williams (D-11th)
6. Sara Feigenholtz (D-12th)
7. Greg Harris (D-13th)
8. Kelly Cassidy (D-14th)
9. Lou Lang (D-16th)
10. Laura Fine (D-17th)
11. Robyn Gabel (D-18th)
12. Robert Martwick (D-19th)
13. Michael Madigan (D-22nd)
14. Elizabeth Hernandez (D-24th)
15. Barbara Flynn Currie (D-25th)
16. Christian Mitchell (D-26th)
17. Robert Rita (D-28th)
18. Elgie Sims, Jr. (D-34th)
19. Maria Antonia Berrios (D-39th)
20. Jaime Andrade (D-40th)
21. Keith Farnham (D-43rd)
22. Ed Sullivan, Jr. (R-51st)
23. Scott Drury (D-58th)
24. Carol Sente (D-59th)
25. Sam Yingling (D-62nd)
26. Mike Smiddy (D-71st)
27. Camille Lilly (D-78th)
28. Ron Sandack (R-81st)
29. Naomi Jakobsson (D-103rd)
30. Deb Conroy (D-46th)
31. Natalie Manley (D-98th)
32. Elaine Nekritz (D-57th)
33. Kathleen Willis (D-77th)
34. Arthur Turner (D-9th)

Likely Yes- 18

1. Edward J. Acevedo (D-2nd)
 2. Esther Golar (D-6th)
 3. Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D-7th)
 4. Derrick Smith (D-10th)
 5. Michael Zalewski (D-23rd)
 6. Will Davis (D-30th)
 7. Andre. Thapedi (D-32nd)
 8. Frances Ann Hurley (D-35th)
 9. Kelly Burke (D-36th)
 10. Al Riley (D-38th)
 11. Martin Moylan (D- 55th)
 12. Michelle Mussman (D-56th)
 13. Stephanie Kifowit (D-84th)
 14. Emily McAsey (D-85th)
 15. Lawrence Walsh, Jr. (D-86th)
 16. Linda Chapa LaVia (D-83rd)
 17. Jehan Gordon (D-92nd)
 18. Jack Franks (D-63rd)
- Yes or likely total: 52

No- 41

1. Monique Davis (D-27th)
2. Renee Kosel (R-37th)
3. Jeanne Ives (R-42nd)
4. Patti Bellock (R-47th)
5. Sandra Pihos (R-48th)
6. Mike Fortner (R-49th)
7. David McSweeney (R-52nd)
8. Brandon Phelps (D-118th)
9. Thomas Morrison (R-54th)
10. JoAnn Osmond (R-61st)
11. Barbara Wheeler (R-64th)
12. Timothy Schmitz (R-65th)
13. Michael Tryon (R-66th)
14. Charles Jefferson (R-67th)
15. John Cabello (R-68th)
16. Joe Sosnowski (R-69th)
17. Robert Pritchard (R-70th)
18. Patrick Verschoore (D-72nd)
19. David Leitch (R-73rd)
20. Don Moffitt (R-74th)
21. John Bradley (D-117th)
22. Frank Mautino (D-76th)
23. Katherine Cloonen (D-79th)
24. Jim Durkin (R-82nd)
25. Rich Brauer (R-87th)
26. Keith Sommer (R-88th)
27. Jim Sacia (R-89th)
28. Tom Demmer (R-90th)
29. Michael Unes (R-91st)
30. Norine Hammond (R-93rd)
31. Jill Tracy (R-94th)
32. Wayne Rosenthal (R-95th)
33. Tom Cross (R-97th)
34. Raymond Poe (R-99th)
35. Bill Mitchell (R-101st)
36. Josh Harms (R-106th)
37. John Cavaletto (R-107th)
38. Charles Meier (R-108th)
39. David Reis (R-109th)
40. Mike Bost (R-115th)
41. Jerry Costello, II (D-116th)

Likely No -9

1. Darlene Senger (R-41st)
 2. David Harris (R-53rd)
 3. Adam Brown (R-102nd)
 4. Chad Hays (R-104th)
 5. Dan Brady (R-105th)
 6. Brad Halbrook (R-110th)
 7. Daniel Beiser (D-111th)
 8. Dwight Kay (R-112th)
 9. Jay Hoffman (D-113th)
- No or likely no: 50

Target List- 16

1. Silvana Tabares (D-21st)
2. Thaddeus Jones (D-29th)
3. Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (D-33rd)
4. Fred Crespo (D-44th)
5. Kay Hatcher (R-50th)
6. Rita Mayfield (D-60th)
7. Anthony DeLuca (D-80th)
8. John Anthony (R-75th)
9. Sue Scherer (D-96th)
10. C.D. Davidsmeyer (R-100th)
11. Mary Flowers (D-31st)
12. Luis Arroyo (D-3rd)
13. John D'Amico (D-15th)
14. Dennis Reboletti (R-45th)
15. Eddie Lee Jackson, Sr. (D-114th)
16. Michael McAuliffe (R-20th)

Contributing to roll call: Casey Cameron
See related story Veto session looms at www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Veto-session-looms-as-marriage-organizers-push-for-last-votes/44317.html.

Correction

The cover story of the Sept. 11 issue should have started, "Zero. That is the number of on-record "yes" votes for marriage equality added since May 31.

"But LGBT leaders say that support for the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, SB10, is growing and they intend to see a vote on the bill during this fall's veto session."

Windy City Times regrets the error.

**Sept. 21-22
12-9 p.m.
City-Made Fest**

**Wed., Sept. 25
7:30 p.m.
Karen Joy Fowler
and Gail Tsukiyama,
introduced by
Jane Hamilton**



GAY in the LIFE Wanda B

BY ROSS FORMAN

Age
48
Neighborhood
South Side
Job
Security officer, CTA; her career in security has spanned 27 years
Relationship status
Civil union to wife Stephanie Green; been together 20 years
Children
Son Stephon, 24, in the U.S. Marine Corps.
Favorite movie
The Mack
Favorite TV show
The Haves and the Have Nots
Favorite professional sports team
Chicago White Sox
Hobbies
Listening to blues; sports
Favorite pig-out food
Pepe's Tacos
Little-known fact
"I'm a sweet eater, especially chocolate turtles."

Sept. 18, 2013

Wanda B still laughs at the moment about five years ago when she was driving a CTA bus and an elderly lady refused to get on—she thought Wanda B (as she goes by) had stolen the bus since she is short and young-looking.

Wanda B can, and has, driven those articulated buses along Lake Shore Drive, which was "quite an experience," she said.

Mostly though, her CTA world is working in an office.

"It's a very interesting job, especially since I get to see and talk to so many people, so many different types of people," said Wanda B, admittedly a "people-person."

Wanda B also serves as the founder and president for Stud 4 Life, a social club with a purpose that she launched about a year ago. Stud stands for Solidarity, Trustworthiness, Understanding and Dependability, and the group does social events and has adopted Clara's House as its service mission, working with women and children.

The group, she said, "represents something positive and also gives back to the neighborhood."

Most members are age 50-plus and filled with "different personalities," she said.

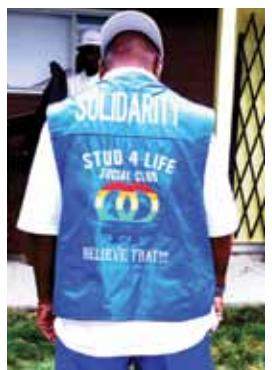
"My goal is to start Stud 4 Life in other cities, all over the world, if I can," Wanda B said. "I get the satisfaction of knowing that people open up a lot more, begin to love themselves more. We help one another."

"I would like for us to continue to grow, mentor younger studs to try to teach them about our lifestyle, help them get good jobs. If we all get together as one, we will become more unified."

Wanda B came out as a stud (and as a lesbian) at age 13 while living in Chicago's Madden Park Housing Projects, she said. She was an admitted tomboy and had difficult times being who she was, and it truly was a learning experience.

"My mom raised five kids alone," she said. "I saw homelessness, though we [were] fine. My mom, Dorothy Green, was strict. I adopted the shelter [Clara's House] because I saw a lot of homelessness; I started a mentoring [program for] younger studs, to try to guide them."

She started Stud 4 Life with seven members, and the group has grown to 15.



Wanda B (front and back). Photos by Tracy Baim



Left: Wanda B (front, third from left) with her Stud 4 Life members. Photo by Tracy Baim



Right: Stephanie Green, Wanda B's wife of 20 years. Photo courtesy of Takala Welch



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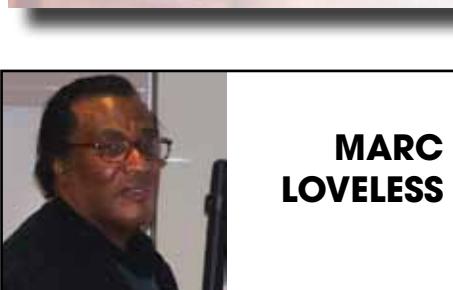
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VIEWPOINTS



**MARC
LOVELESS**

For marriage equality and beyond

This has been a summer of great call and response. I will recall this as a time when civil-rights advocates and social-justice activists of today have been tried physically and our resolve tested. Our belief in liberties acquired by our forebears were both affirmed and challenged.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruling against part of the 1965 Voting Rights act was a betrayal of equality. Our response as heirs of the civil-rights movement was to do what we know to do best and take to streets to let our outrage be known.

Then the same Supreme Court delivered two compelling decisions that in effect provide room for marriage equality in our laws. In celebration we took to the streets to further articulate our joy and still state our concerns.

Then in Florida a jury of the peers of the killer of Trayvon Martin freed George Zimmerman. The call was to again take it to not only the streets but value our heritage, and further affirm our history at the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs & Justice.

As we conclude this session of street heat and marching we have yet one more bridge to cross, and that is the March on Springfield for Marriage

Equality, Oct. 22 in Illinois. This is a march that will call for equality for same-gender couples in Illinois, but it will also nurture the flames of determination. This is not just a call of and for lesbians and gays. We as African-Americans and Black people seek no compromise of the equal protection and due process our country promises.

Civil unions are not enough because they are separate and unequal. Domestic partners are not enough because Jim Crow wasn't enough. Going back in any closet and live non-assuming lives isn't enough because de facto segregation and economic redlining were wrong and not enough. America has never tried and never practiced full affirmative action.

This March on Springfield is bigger than any "gay" agenda, this march calls on the State of Illinois to be true to its motto as a place of "State Sovereignty, National Union." If we fail on this we cannot heal workers' rights and pension reform, we cannot deliver on education, we cannot stop violence, we cannot protect the environment nor support stabilization of our communities if we cannot embrace the compassion of equal protection and due process, because that is the core of human dignity.

When we go to Springfield Oct. 22 we are going not only that day but on the next days to come. We intend to call on the legislature to call Senate Bill 10 and give it the vote it deserves and that is legislative process. What we need to be planning for is how we keep this coalition together. With 500 or 5,000 people, what we need to assure is that the March on Springfield will be the place where the difference that happens will be seen. That we are not just a call for civil rights, but that we place ourselves as a part of social justice everywhere.

That means we need to eradicate racism in the LGBT community in services and opportunities.

That means as we pool together to get to the march we are going to hold tight together after the march for parity of power and consideration of African-American same-gender-loving Black LGBT communities, institutions, services, public policy, economics and political empowerment. After the march we must willing to have uncomfortable conversations in welcoming places.

As African-Americans we are rooted where we are and no matter how well we flourish we are never foreign from our roots. When Black people live in the full benefit of our African-American truth, the path to community stability is less inhibited. We have got to make this march essential. What we lend to the march will be realized with interest that we can take back to enhance our communities.

This has been a summer of marches. Some days we marched it was so hot and others it seemed night came too early, but regardless of the circumstances we marched because we know we can't stand still. We can't behave as if nothing has happened and we can't be satisfied because this ain't freedom. Simon Nkoli, an openly gay leader of the South African Anti-Apartheid Movement and member of the African National Congress (ANC) once said, "I am oppressed because I am a Black man, and I am oppressed because I am gay. So when I fight for my freedom I must fight against both oppressions."

We must bring to scale the full capacity of freedom. Prioritizing going to Springfield is affirming that we are of the people that have made change. On Oct. 22, we will live out the words of Bayard Rustin to take action to prove our belief.

Marc Loveless is executive director of the Coalition for Justice and Respect (CJR) and the Coalition for Justice and Respect Foundation (CJRF).

WINDY CITY TIMES

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PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis
BUSINESS MANAGER Ripley Caine
DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA Jean Albright
ART DIRECTOR Kirk Williamson
Klinsky, Amy Matherly, Kirk Williamson, Chris Cheuvront
PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT Scott Duff
NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863
SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Erica Demarest, Matt Simonette, Kate Sosin
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(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com or Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com

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ASK LAMBDA LEGAL Back to school

Q: My family and I just moved, and I just started at a new school. I'm hoping that I can be open about being gay there, but I'm not sure how to find out. What should I do?

A: Starting at a new school isn't easy for anybody, especially if you have concerns about how your teachers and fellow students will react to you being gay. The good news is that LGBT students across the country in grades K-12 have many rights that protect them from bullying, harassment and discrimination while in school. So while you get ready to meet new people and settle in, rest a little easier knowing the law is on your side.

Did you know more and more jurisdictions are adopting laws that prohibit and penalize bullying, and almost every state has anti-bullying laws on the books? These laws are important because unfortunately, more than 60 percent of LGBTQ students report feeling unsafe at school, and nearly 40 percent have been physically harassed, with 18.3 percent having been assaulted. Thankfully, you don't need to be "out" or even LGBTQ to be protected under the law. By guaranteeing "equal protection of the laws" to all people, the Constitution also protects students who are perceived to be LGBTQ, as well as students who associate with LGBTQ people.

In public schools, LGBTQ students have the right to voice their support for LGBTQ equality and wear T-shirts or distribute leaflets express-

ing LGBTQ-positive statements without censorship, and hold meetings for LGBTQ-related groups on the same terms as other student organizations. The rules can be very different for private schools, but you still have certain federal and state laws on your side.

If you'd like to get specific information on where your school stands with LGBTQ issues, look in your school's student handbook. Check for written policies regarding LGBTQ students and a clear policy for how students and staff should report and respond to incidents of harassment or discrimination. You can also try and find teachers or other school employees who openly show support. Maybe it's through an "LGBTQ Safe Zone" sticker in an office or classroom, or participation in student-sponsored events like GLSEN's Day of Silence—chances are, there are friendly and supportive teachers at your school.

Does your school already have a gay-straight alliance (GSA)? There are more than 4,000 GSAs in schools nationwide, and it's good to know that GSAs can't be discriminated against or held to different standards than other student clubs—it's the law. The Gay-Straight Alliance Network offers a national directory of statewide organizations that work with GSAs and other resources for starting a GSA: <http://www.gsanetwork.org/national-directory>.

Students have the right to be safe and supported at school! Our Know Your Rights Toolkit for LGBT teens and young adults can be found here: <http://www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/youth>.

If you have questions about your rights at school, contact our Legal Help Desk at <http://www.lambdalegal.org/help/> or by calling 1-866-542-8336.

Hayley Gorenberg is deputy legal director for Lambda Legal.

Letters to the editor

Calling out the cardinal

To the editor:

Now we are informed by the all-wise Catholic archbishop of Chicago, Francis George, that same sex marriage is "irrational." Men and women are "simply different," opined the prelate, rising to new heights of insight. "It means something to be a man that's different from what it means to be a woman, and vice versa. And to deny that obvious fact is something that just puzzles me..."

This is clearly a failed effort to dazzle with brilliance, so it may be a desperate attempt to baffle with bullsh*t.

Francis, no one is denying that men and women are different. We hold only that people of the same sex love each other, and wish our relationships to be recognized by the state. No self-respecting LGBT person will come to you in search of a blessing. Now, will you please butt out.

Bob Schwartz
Chicago

Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo
courtesy of
Karen
Dunham

GROFF SCREEN

Out actor Jonathan Groff stars in the movie C.O.G. See page 26.

BOOKS

Nico Lang's 'Dimension.'
Page 25

*Photo of Nico Lang
by Cara Pagels*



THEATER

Reaching the 'Top.'
Page 14

*Photo from The Mountaintop
by joe mazza-brave lux inc.*



FILTH

Barr none.
Page 33

Photo by Mario Perez



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Landau steers 'The Wheel' for Steppenwolf

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Out director Tina Landau has no qualms if Steppenwolf Theatre audiences are only buying tickets to see the American premiere of *The Wheel* by British playwright Zinnie Harris because it marks the return of Tony Award-winning and Academy Award-nominated actress Joan Allen.

"I think it's a wonderful thing and I think everyone should come see her because she's extraordinary," said Landau in a recent telephone interview.

Like Landau, Allen (*Burn This*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *The Contender*) is a member of the esteemed Steppenwolf Theatre Ensemble, officially joining in 1977 not long after Steppenwolf was originally founded. Yet Allen hasn't appeared in a full-length play at Steppenwolf since *Earthly Possessions* in 1991.

Although Allen and Landau knew each other generally, they two realized that they really wanted to work with each other when they participated in recent New York play readings.

"[Landau] was just so excited to be at this reading, you know, on this play that we decided not to do," Allen said in a Steppenwolf promotional video. "I just thought that this is a person I would like to be my boss."

It was ultimately Steppenwolf artistic director Martha Lavey who pushed Landau to direct *The Wheel*, which Harris originally wrote for the National Theatre of Scotland. Yet Landau initially passed on the play.

"It scared me. It was big and I didn't quite get it stylistically," Landau said, ultimately falling in love with *The Wheel* on a second read-through. "It contains both the panoramic large-scale canvas as well as the very intimate and personalized

one. There is something about the piece that is very theatrical and grows out of magical realism and has a real connectedness and traffics in metaphoric imagery."

In *The Wheel*, Allen plays the 19th-century Spanish peasant Beatriz, who becomes the unintentional guardian of a young girl when soldiers overrun the house. Beatriz is determined to reunite the girl with her exiled father, but their journey becomes ever more complicated as they pass through a plethora of war zones and different time periods.

"It's not so much about refugees, it's really about how one struggles to and how important it is to keep our sense of humanity and compassion and tenderness and openness and vulnerability and child-like wonder alive in a landscape that grows increasingly violent and cruel," Landau said. She also noted that fans of playwright Bertolt Brecht might see strands from his plays *Mother Courage and her Children*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *The Good Person of Szechwan* in *The Wheel*.

Landau has also been shocked by the unexpected relevance *The Wheel* has had in light of the current Syrian civil war and the images that have been broadcast back from that bloody conflict.

"There's a sequence that I won't give away near the end of the play that we designed four months ago, but I'm turning on the news and it's like, 'Oh my gosh, that's what we have on our stage,'" Landau said. "It's been really startling that the play has been hitting home to realize that this is a story that is also going on right now."

Starring alongside Allen in *The Wheel* are fellow Steppenwolf Ensemble members Robert Breuler,



Out director Tina Landau in rehearsal for the American premiere of *The Wheel* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago. Photo by Thomas Weitz

Tim Hopper, Ora Jones and Yassen Peyankov, who are all part of a company of 17 actors. Some are college-aged, and Landau said they are thrilled to be working at Steppenwolf and learning from artists like Allen.

"One of the other actors in the cast came up to me in the middle of the second week and said, 'You know, I was watching Joan yesterday in her scene work,' and she said, 'For the first time I thought to myself, 'Oh, that's what they mean by Steppenwolf,'" Landau said, trying to counter the simplistic "kitchen-sink violence" perceptions that many people apply in terms of defining a Steppenwolf acting style. "What you realize what it's about is an openness and spontaneity and fearlessness in the acting."

Landau says that she is extremely grateful to have a leading actress like Allen who is also a leader in terms of building an ensemble of actors and musicians to be like storytellers "with many heads."

"I've never seen Joan on stage—only on film," Landau said when asked what it was like to direct Allen.

"I wasn't nervous about it, but I had no idea what she would be like, and she has far, far exceeded my expectations in terms of how brave and open and playful she is in rehearsal and onstage," Landau said. "She just seems like a kind of force in its element at the moment."

The *Wheel* continues in previews through Friday, Sept. 20, at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, 1650 N. Halsted St. Regular performances run through Sunday, Nov. 10, and are at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday with 3 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday (7:30 p.m. Sunday performances end Oct. 20 and 2 p.m. Wednesday matinees begin Oct. 23). Tickets are \$20-\$82. Call 312-335-1650 or visit www.steppenwolf.org for more information.



The Crownless King. Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

The Crownless King

Playwright: Nathan Allen and Chris Mathews
At: House Theatre of Chicago
at the Chopin, 1543 W. Division St.
Tickets: 773-769-3832;
www.thehousetheatre.com; \$20-\$40
Runs through: Oct. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Playwrights should think twice before attempting to write long-form myth, whether copycat *Celt a la Lord of the Rings*, Wagnerian cycles aspiring to the weightiness of *Angels in America*, or a week-long Dungeons and Dragons marathon. Not only do the nebulous boundaries of the High Fantasy literary genre encourage tangential excess, but unlike prose, which allows the reader to review expository detail at leisure, live performance propels the action past us only once, escalating the importance of conciseness in imparting information.

Nathan Allen and Chris Mathews have opted to structure their story around a war waged between—why not?—storytellers: Hap the Golden, in physical appearance recalling an Old West patent-medicine peddler, and Irek Obsidian, currently occupying the body of a vaguely European dragon. Their followers include marauders of the land and sea, pastoral semi-deities both botanical and zoological, and, unsurprisingly, a small upstart tribe determined to—gasp!—compose their own story. Since we are told that they dwell in a land called “New Plymouth,” where a long-lost orphan is named “Virginia” and a rebel named “July” expresses a desire for independence, we might take these as clues to the direction our authors plan to explore.

Then again, we might be altogether wrong, too. When our narrative encompasses moral ambiguity, political strategy, filial obligations, growing pains, thwarted romance, action-adventure spectacle, pantheistic anthropomorphism and much invoking of “the greater good,” the slightest hint of pattern recognition becomes as good a road map as any. What is needed for the third part of this projected trilogy—Crownless King constituting its second chapter—are study guides (*CliffsNotes*, playbill synopses, scripts/DVDs for purchase) providing theatergoers the necessary continuity to see its dramatic arc as its creators presumably did.

In the meantime, this House production sum-

mons up all of its muscular magic to keep us entertained, even if we are yet unsure how the many scenes of operatic oratory, stifled passion and/or thrilling combat connect up. Kay Kron’s charismatic fox-girl and John Henry Roberts’ brooding outlaw continue to draw our attention, while the introduction of Blake Montgomery’s masked pirate captain and Brenda Barrie’s wily monarch lend further intrigue to the travails of star-crossed young lovers and squabbling patriarchs. If the conclusion of this epic yarn next year doesn’t include a few marathon three-part all-day performances, we can still hold out for an old-school ink-on-paper published edition.

CRITICS' PICKS

The Book of Mormon, Bank of America Theatre, through Oct. 6. Time is running out to catch this wildly acclaimed hit 2011 Broadway musical that not only takes pot-shots at some of the weirder aspects of Mormonism, but also celebrates the importance of faith to rally people behind a larger cause. SCM.

Double Trouble, Porchlight Music Theatre at Stage 773, through Oct. 6. The two Walton brothers’ homage to the MGM musicals of the 1930s delivers so much razzle-dazzle, we barely notice that all the roles are played by the likewise fraternal duo of Adrian and Alexander Aguilar. MSB

Hank Williams: Lonesome Highway, American Blues Theater at Greenhouse Theater, through Oct. 6. Before it became “country” music, it was Southern white blues and, over his tragically short life, Hank Williams brought it up from its roots to share it with America. MSB

Next to Normal, Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, through Oct. 6. This potent musical drama takes an unsentimental look at mental illness and its impact on a seemingly-normal suburban family. An eclectic easy-rock score and dazzling performances sell the unexpected subject matter. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

The Mountaintop

Playwright: Katori Hall
At: Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave.
Tickets: 773-753-4472 or
www.courttheatre.org; \$45-\$65
Runs through: Oct. 13

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

In *The Mountaintop*, playwright Katori Hall insistently shows that civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was also a flesh-and-blood human being with many fears and faults. So it might be a bit of shock to hear King demanding cigarettes and urinating in a motel bathroom in the first few minutes of the play.

People who see King as an untouchable martyr on a pedestal might take offense, but Hall’s *The Mountaintop* is truly a celebration of the momentous accomplishments of this 20th-century civil-rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner. The Court Theatre’s awe-inspiring Chicago premiere of *The Mountaintop* brings Hall’s 2010 Olivier Award-winning play vividly to life, and emphasizes the inspirational impact of King’s life for generations to come.

Hall’s two-character play takes its name from King’s last public speech, and is set in his Memphis motel room the rainy night before he was assassinated April 4, 1968. King (David Alan Anderson), is stressing about a composing a new speech, and is disappointed by the relatively dismal turnout for his appearance that night. In comes the young chamber maid Camae (Lisa Beasley) with coffee, clearly awed to be in King’s company and both pleased and put off by his flirtatious compliments.

Yet Camae turns out to be more than she

seems, and the course of *The Mountaintop* completely changes in tone and style to allow Hall’s King to reflect on his mortality and legacy. While some may find this plot twist to be slightly hokey, it allows *The Mountaintop* to take on an extra gravitas in pointing out that everyday people can strive to achieve greatness.

Director Ron OJ Parson has cast *The Mountaintop* marvelously, since both Anderson as King and Beasley as Camae bring out both the seriousness and playfulness of Hall’s text, and their rapport with each other (and the audience) is wonderful.

Anderson gets across King’s world-weariness and paranoia, along with a playfulness that’s very endearing. Beasley also shows a great emotional range as she both encourages and stands up to King, especially when her purpose for this visit is revealed.

Parson and his cast do have some struggles navigating one or two abrupt emotional shifts, but that’s also a scripting issue on Hall’s part.

The Mountaintop at Court Theatre is also a wonder, production-wise. Set designer Scott Davis, lighting designer Sarah Hughey and sound designer Victoria Delorio all have a field day in their design work, constantly finding surprising ways to wow the audience as the play progresses to its epic ending.

In light of the recent 50th-anniversary celebrations of the 1963 March on Washington when King delivered his iconic “I Have a Dream” speech, the Court Theatre’s production of *The Mountaintop* couldn’t be more timely or significant. But more importantly, *The Mountaintop* stresses how flesh and blood human beings can work to make an impact on society, no matter how limited the time that they’re allotted. It’s an important message to share, and *The Mountaintop* trumpets it with plenty of theatricality and emotion to spare.

THEATER REVIEW

The Rubinstein Kiss

Playwright: James Phillips
At: Coriolis Theater Company,
Greenhouse Theater, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: 1-773-404-7336;
www.greenhousetheater.tix.com; \$20
Runs through: Sept. 29

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

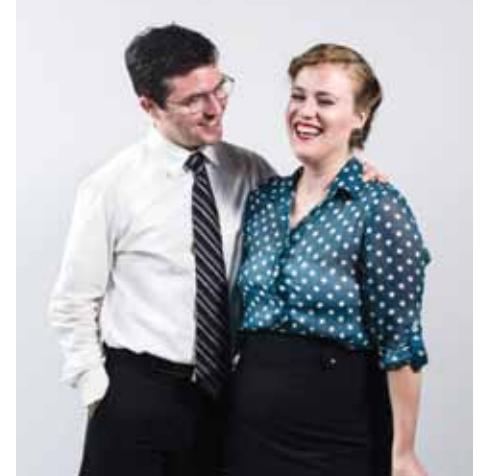
The Coriolis Theater Company and its production of *The Rubinstein Kiss* are populated with recent theater graduates from Columbia College Chicago, Northwestern, UIC and several institutions beyond Chicago, most of whom are not yet in their late twenties.

Everyone onstage displays signs of talent and technique, and the company itself demonstrates seriousness of purpose and ambition in the selection of *The Rubinstein Kiss*, but even so the reach of this youthful troupe exceeds its grasp.

This award-winning 2005 British play, in its regional premiere, is inspired by the infamous Julius and Ethel Rosenberg spy case. Convicted of passing atomic bomb secrets to the Soviet Union, the Rosenbergs were executed in 1953. Julius was, indeed, a Soviet spy but Ethel was not although she may have known something was going on. Either way, the two were railroaded into a death sentence at the height of the post-World War II Red Scare.

Phillips is less interested in the details of the case than in the political and personal passions of the individuals, which is one reason he’s fictionalized the Rosenbergs as Jakob and Esther Rubinstein. At the heart of the work is the personal commitment they have to each other, and how that commitment and their early deaths (the Rosenbergs were under 35 when electrocuted) play forward in the lives of the next generation in the 1970s.

The heirs to infamy are represented by the Rubinsteinsons’ son (the Rosenbergs had two young sons) and the daughter of Esther’s brother, whose testimony condemns the couple (Ethel



The Rubinstein Kiss. Photo from Coriolis Theater Company

Rosenberg’s brother testified against them).

Phillips’ play is a complex mix of personal and political issues and director Julia Rohed and cast can’t quite bring full value, or full life, to them. They grasp the ideas clearly enough, but don’t fully invest in the passions of the characters. Playing in a small studio theater, it’s as if they feel the need to pull their emotional punches and scale back the performances. The result at moments is bland. Also the actors are not old enough—do not look old enough—to be playing several of the characters.

The play’s multiple scenes also are a stumbling block. On a small platform stage, without any type of stage machinery, the actors themselves must execute the scene changes. There are at least a dozen of them and they take up to two minutes each, slowing the show and adding over 20 minutes to the running time which approached three hours at the performance I saw. Costumes and furnishings (minimal) otherwise had a proper period feel.

Coriolis may have bitten off more than it can chew, but an interesting attempt on an ambitious play always is preferable to easy success.

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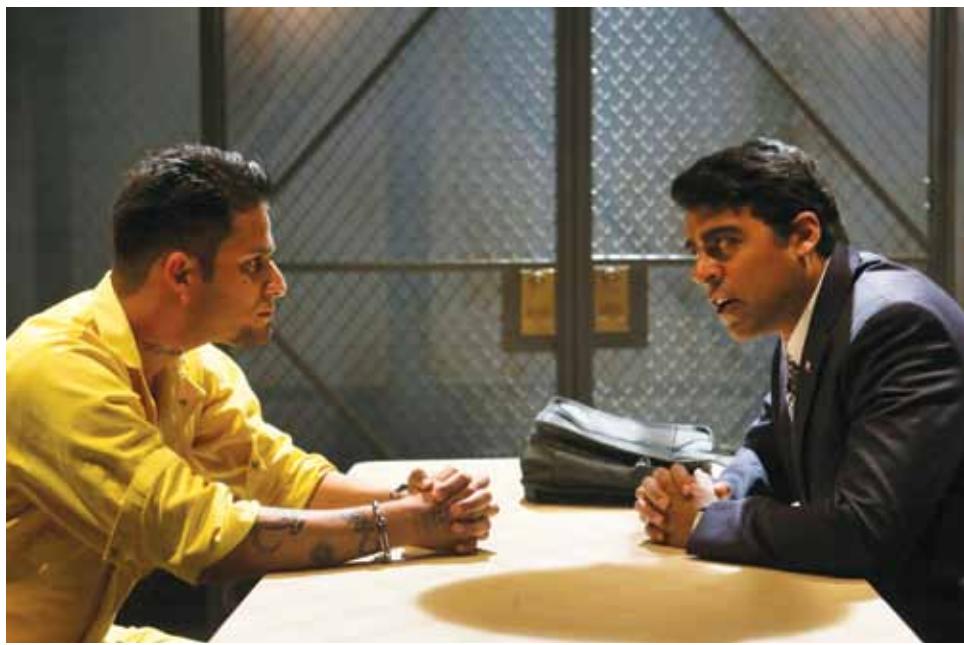
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White Tie Ball. Photo by Charles Osgood

THEATER REVIEW

White Tie Ball

Playwright: Martín Zimmerman
At: Teatro Vista at the Biograph,
 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: 773-871-3000;
www.victorygardens.org; \$25-\$30
Runs through: Oct. 13

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Once upon a time, in the Tucson barrio, there were two brothers—the older one dark-featured like his Latina mother, the younger one, fair-complexioned like his Anglo father. In present-day Arizona, a readily identifiable “Hispanic” can attend law school, run for political office and become state’s attorney general, but a vato

rubio seeking companionship in the streets is likely to end up serving prison time before leaving his teens. This is where Edward Moreno and Beto Robinson—the former having jettisoned his runaway sire’s Eurocentric surname—find themselves at the beginning of Martín Zimmerman’s look at the hard choices faced by those who would rise above their origins.

At first, the picture looks sunny for los hermanos Morenos (a name, ironically, meaning “swarthy”). Edward has a wife and daughter, along with prospects viewed favorably by his superiors after campaigns owing much of their success to his own kin’s tale of rehabilitation. Beto is initially suspicious of his estranged sibling’s largesse, but accepts the fresh start promised by a job, an apartment and inclusion in a stable family. Then one of Beto’s former homeys appeals to him for help, leading the uneasy ex-con

SPOTLIGHT



Showtune fans of Chicago’s Sidetrack bar will have to resist the urge to toss napkins in the air at the climax of the song “Don’t Cry for Me Argentina” when Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice’s musical *Evita* returns to the Windy City starting Wed., Sept. 18. This new national tour is based upon the 2006 London and 2012 Broadway revivals, which were directed by Michael Grandage with choreography by Rob Ashford. *Evita* continues through Sunday, Oct. 6, at the Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays (also Sept. 22), 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays (also Sept. 19, Sept. 25 and Oct. 2). Tickets are \$27-\$90; call 800-775-2000 or visit www.broadwayinchicago.com. Photo by Richard Termine

to witness an incident endangering the fates of everyone involved. From that moment forward, the question of color takes a back seat to the question of what each of the men is willing to sacrifice in pursuit of his future.

It would be easy to reduce these conflicts to telenovela stereotype, but Zimmerman’s biography reveals that he has, himself, walked in his characters’ shoes. The choices that gradually narrow their courses, both physically and spiritually, are as minuscule—a few hours’ delay before the disclosure of facts with the power to circumvent all the unhappiness and injustice at the outset, for example—and as personal as in classical tragedy. If the author’s intent was to

draw parallels between the stratagems employed in government circles and those of gangs, the social context never eclipses the individual decisions rendered within the restricted options afforded by even the most enlightened societies.

This is heavy existential cargo for only four actors, but Teatro Vista director Edward Torres never allows his cast to coast on comic-book Macchiavellia. From Gabriel Ruiz and Nate Santana’s doomed survivors to Jan Radcliff’s savvy mentor and Marvin Quijada’s despairing martyr, they command our sympathy over the play’s 90-minute running time right up to an abrupt—and provocatively unresolved—ending guaranteed to spark post-show discussions.

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Pictured: Rae Gray and Tim Chiou. Photo by Sean Williams.
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FALL THEATER PREVIEW

Mature themes dominate fall theater season

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Like it or not, the so-called Baby Boom generation has numbers on its side, and with the vanguard of the burgeoning post-World War II population replenishment now entering their golden years comes a renewed artistic interest in the AARP set. Previously characterized either as scolding authority figures or bumbling comic relief, the preponderance of mid-life theatergoers has led to an abundance of upcoming productions featuring over-50s in fully realized, psychologically complex roles.

Some of these announce their target audience in their very titles: **Old Jews Telling Jokes**—specifically, Gene Weygandt, Renee Mathews and Tim Kazurinsky, among others—at the Royal George (Oct. 4-Nov. 24, 312-988-9000), for example, or Tommy Lee Johnston's **Geezers** next year at Redtwist. More often, though, the elders—some played by actors of comparable age, and some by performers much younger, as in **The Old Man and the Old Moon** at Writers Theatre (through Nov. 10, 847-242-6000)—are surrounded by an environment responsive to the dramatic dynamic engendered by the view looking backwards as well as forward.

Highlighting the 2013 season are appearances by Mary Ann Thebus, playing the feisty granny in Amy Herzog's **4000 Miles** at Northlight (Sept. 20-Oct. 20, 847-673-6300), Bernard Beck and Iris Lieberman in **Elegy** at Victory Gardens (Oct. 31-Dec. 1, 773-871-3000), and Mike Nussbaum as the clan patriarch in **Smokefall** at the Goodman (Oct. 5-Nov. 3, 312-443-3800). Always welcome, too, are award-winning character divas Millicent Hurley, anchoring the cast for Raven's

The Trip to Bountiful (Sept. 23-Nov. 17, 773-338-2177), and Greta Oglesby, currently doing the same for Timeline's hit production of **A Raisin in the Sun** (running through Nov. 17, 773-281-8463), as well as Norm Woodel in Eclipse's **Haunting Julia** at the Athenaeum (Nov. 5-Dec. 1, 773-935-6875) and Redtwist company regulars Brian Parry and Jan Ellen Graves in the first Chicago revival of Bruce Norris' **Clybourne Park** (Oct. 5-Nov. 12, 773-728-7529).

This season's roles for—ahem!—mature actors include real-life historical personae: Michael Weber plays holocaust-obsessed Meyer Levin in Next Theatre's **Compulsion** (Oct. 15-Nov. 17, 847-475-1875), and Kelli Harrington, opera diva Maria Callas in Theo Ubique's **Master Class** (Oct. 14-Nov. 24, 800-595-4849). Deanna Dunagan's Marguerite Duras provides the reminiscent counterpart to Rae Gray's young author in **The North China Lover** at Lookingglass (Oct. 5-Nov. 10, 312-337-0665), while Reginald Tovian portrays musician Curtis Mayfield during his waning years for Black Ensemble's **It's All Right to Have a Good Time** (Sept. 22-Oct. 20, 773-769-4451). Oh, and let's not forget Karen Janes Woditsch and Craig Spidle's return as Julia and Paul Child—with Terry Hamilton again delivering onstage instruction in the correct method of scrambling eggs—in **To Master the Art**, newly-remounted at the Broadway Playhouse and running to Oct. 20 (800-745-3000).

You don't have to be young to fight—look for Harry Groener to swash buckles under the direction of Penny Metropulos and fight choreographer Rick Sordelet in **Cyrano de Bergerac** at Chicago Shakespeare (Oct. 2-Nov. 10, 312-595-5600), and Don Bender to rattle sabers as Gen-



Harry Groener in *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

eral Robert E. Lee at the battle of Gettysburg in **The Killer Angels** at Lifeline. Nor is romantic intrigue only for the youthful, as evidenced by the presence of Annabel Armour and John Lister in the Jane Austen satire **Northanger Abbey** at Remy Bumppo (Oct. 7-Nov. 10, 733-404-7336).

Most intriguing, however, are the grayhairs at the crossroads of decisions that will determine the course of their remaining years. This to-be-or-not-to-be crisis is at the roots of Bruce Graham's **Stella and Lou** and **The Outgoing Tide**, and generates the suspense in Conor McPherson's **The Seafarer**—escalated by a poker game with the Devil—scheduled for performance by Seanachai Theatre at the Den, featuring an all-star ensemble of Dan Waller, Brad Armacost, Kevin Theis, Ira Amyx and Shane Kenyon (Nov. 27-Jan. 5, 866-811-4111).

Nobody can wholly avoid aging—though Cher appears to be trying hard—but even with time yet a-flying, we can all still gather our roses as we may. Why not do it at the theater?

k.d. lang making Broadway debut

Lesbian Grammy winner k.d. lang is making her Broadway debut, according to Billboard.com.

The Canadian singer-songwriter will take over from Fantasia Barrino as the second star vocalist in *After Midnight*, a musical celebrating Duke Ellington's years at the famous Cotton Club nightclub in Harlem.

Lang starts performances Feb. 11, 2014, and will end her run March 9. The musical will debut Oct. 18, 2013, at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre, with an official opening night set for Nov. 3. Tickets for lang's engagement will go on sale Monday, Nov. 4.

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What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
 - **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
 - **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozide, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John's wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.



STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

I started my personal revolution

Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.

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Ask if it's right for you.

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Patient Information

STRIBILD™ (STRY-bild)

(elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.

3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone

- Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
- If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozide (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Combivir®, Emtriva®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- See “What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?”
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?**Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:**

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
 - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
 - Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
 - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
 - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
 - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
 - bepridil hydrochloric (Vascor®, Bepadin®)
 - bosentan (Tracleer®)
 - buspirone
 - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegreto®)
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpac®)
 - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
 - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
 - colchicine (Colcrys®)
 - medicines that contain dexamethasone
 - diazepam (Valium®)

- digoxin (Lanoxin®)
- disopyramide (Norpace®)
- estazolam
- ethosuximide (Zarontin®)
- flecainide (Tambocor®)
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent®, Flonase®, Flovent® Diskus, Flovent® HFA, Veramyst®)
- itraconazole (Sporanox®)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
- lidocaine (Xylocaine®)
- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- propafenone (Rythmol®)
- quinidine (Neudexta®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- rifapentine (Priftin®)
- risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
- salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
- sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- tadalafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- telithromycin (Ketek®)
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- zolpidem (Ambien®, Edular®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.STRIBILD.com.

Issued: August 2012



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DANCIN' FEATS

Fall dance preview

BY VICKI CRAIN

Coming off two hugely successful dance events in August, Dance For Life and the Chicago Dancing Festival, the Windy City goes full throttle into the fall. The season warms up in September, comes to a boil in October, adds some spice in November and simmers with two hometown favorites in December. Here's what's cooking in Chicago dance in the coming months.

The Joffrey Ballet presents the Russian Masters program at Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 19-22. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$31-\$152; call 800-982-2787 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago opens its season with **Susan Marshall & Company** at the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 19-21, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$26-\$30; call 312-369-8330 or visit www.colum.edu/dancecenter.

Thodos Dance Chicago and **Fulcrum New Music Project** collaborate for New Music and Dance at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts at University of Chicago, 915 E. 60th St., Friday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25; call 773-702-2787 or visit www.ticketsweb.uchicago.edu.

Nicole Gifford Dance and Ology Dance present the **Harvest Chicago Contemporary Dance Festival** featuring over 20 different groups at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts 1016 N. Dearborn St., Friday-Saturday, Sept. 20-21 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 22, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25 (\$60 for all three shows); call 312-337-6543 or visit www.hccdf.com.

The Seldoms revisit their 2008 issue-based work, **MONUMENT**, at Stage 773, 1225 W. Bel-

mont Ave., Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 26-28, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 29, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20; call 773-327-5252 or visit www.Stage773.com.

Vision, Faith, & Desire: Dancemakers Inspired By Martha Graham is a shared program by **Leopold Group, Winifred Haun & Dancers** and other artists at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts, 1016 N. Dearborn St., Friday-Saturday, Sept. 27-28, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30; visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/357861.

Mordine & Company Dance Theater presents **I Haven't Gone There...** at the Dance Center of Columbia College, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 3-5, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$26-\$30; call 312-369-8330 or visit www.colum.edu/dance_center.

Two weekends of performances by **Lucky Plush Productions** will take place at Link's Hall/Constellation, 3111 N. Western Ave., Thursdays-Saturdays, Oct. 3-13, at 7 p.m. and Sundays, Oct. 5 and 12 at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20; call 773-281-0824 or visit www.linkshall.org.

Zephyr Dance presents **Out And Back In Again**, at Defibrillator Gallery, 1136 N. Milwaukee Ave., Fridays-Sundays, Oct. 4-13, at 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation of \$10; for reservations call 773-489-5069.

Ballet West kicks off its 50th-anniversary season in Chicago with **Sleeping Beauty** and a repertory program at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., Friday, Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 5 at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 6 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$30-\$90; call 800-982-2787 or visit www.auditoriumtheatre.org.

Also on tour, **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** hits town with a mixed program at the Harris Theater for



Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Photo by Cheryl Mann

Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Saturday, Oct. 5, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25-\$75; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.harristheaterchicago.org.

The Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington St.) and the Storefront Theater (66 E. Randolph St.) host the **SpinOff** dance series from Sunday, Oct. 6 through Sunday, Nov. 3. For event information, visit www.cityofchicago.org/dcse.

Two local groups, **Same Planet Different World** and **Peter Carpenter Performance Project**, join for a weekend of dance at the Dance Center of Columbia College, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 10-12, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$26-\$30; call 312-369-8330 or visit www.colum.edu/dance_center.

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago starts its 36th season with the Fall Series at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 10-13. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$25-\$99; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.harristheaterchicago.org.

Dance Chance Redux 5.0 features work from four emerging local choreographers at the Northeastern Illinois University Auditorium/Fine Arts Building, 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Rd., Friday, Oct. 11, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20; visit www.boxoffice.neiu.edu/dance_chance.

The Joffrey Ballet presents the evening-length ballet **La Bayadere** at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., Wed., Oct. 16 through Sunday, Oct. 27. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$31-\$152; call 800-982-2787 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

The 19th annual **Dance Chicago** festival features 19 performances over six weeks at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., Saturday, Oct. 19 through Saturday, Nov. 30. Performance times and days vary. Tickets are \$15-\$47; call 773-935-6875 or visit www.athenaeumtheatre.org.

New York-based **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company** comes to the Dance Center of Columbia College, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Thursday-Friday, Oct. 24-25, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 26, at 3 and 8 p.m. Contains nudity and mature content. Tickets are \$26-\$30; call 312-369-8330 or visit www.colum.edu/dance_center.

A world premiere by Israeli choreographer Roni Koresh is part of **Giordano Dance Chicago**'s fall engagement at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Friday-Saturday, Oct. 25-26, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$60; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.harristheaterchicago.org.

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater presents **Generations** at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Friday, Nov. 1, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40-\$65; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.harristheaterchicago.org.

In its fall engagement, **River North Dance Chicago** boasts two world premieres at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Saturday, Nov. 16 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 17, at 3 p.m. A private gala performance will be held on Thursday, Nov. 14. Tickets are \$30-\$75;

call 312-334-7777 or visit www.harristheaterchicago.org.

Don't miss **Joffrey Ballet**'s annual production of **The Nutcracker** at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., Friday, Dec. 6-Saturday, Dec. 28. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$31-\$132; call 800-982-2787 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

For its winter series, **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago** revisits the 2012 full-evening work **One Thousand Pieces** at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 12-15. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$25-\$99; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.harristheaterchicago.org.



Joffrey Ballet's La Bayadere. Photo by Christopher Duggan



The Seldoms in **MONUMENT**. Photo by William Frederking

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NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Nora Dunn dishes on her one-woman show



BY JERRY NUNN

Nora Dunn became well-known on Saturday Night Live playing a variety of characters and now she brings new ones to Chicago audiences live and in person.

She was born in Chicago and attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago before joining the cast of SNL in 1985. She stayed on television with roles on Sisters and The Nanny before moving forward to films like Three Kings, Pineapple Express and LOL.

Recently Dunn appeared at the Drury Lane Theatre's production of Boeing-Boeing to rave reviews. She now tackles her own one-woman show, entitled Mythical Proportions, bringing a variety of characters to life as well as touching on her own private stories about the growing up in Chicago and life in Hollywood.

Nunn met Dunn for lunch and a chat about this latest project.

Windy City Times: Hi, Nora. Let's talk about what inspired this show. Did this come out of when you were in Love, Loss, and What I Wore?

Nora Dunn: Not really but in doing that show it made me want to do my own monologues. I had already been writing so after that I wanted to really put it together in earnest. There is an audience for it. She did a show specifically for women and mine is not specifically for them. I wanted to do some of my show not as a character.

WCT: It is interesting how you switch back and forth in the show. Talk about the first character. Is she based on Robert Evans?

ND: That started a long time ago when I was out with my brother and some other people. Someone had a big pair of glasses and I put

those on and started being Robert Evans telling stories. It was really funny and I wanted to make him into a character. By the time I did it was over because his book had come out then. Roberta Evans is not a producer but a celebrity agent. She became her own character and a piece to put in about mythology. That is the ultimate mythology with Hollywood stories and archetypes.

WCT: Joanne came from a doll?

ND: Yes, the story is true. It was a doll that I got for Christmas. I loved her and she started talking. My friends wanted to hear from her. I lost the doll unfortunately. I have never been able to find that doll. She came from Marshall Fields and was a beautiful baby doll. Of course, I washed her hair on Christmas Day and most of it fell out!

I performed her when I first started in comedy. She was the first character that I performed.

WCT: I know it was important to you to have this show play in Chicago.



Nora Dunn in *Mythical Proportions*. Photo by Charles Osgood

ND: Yes, I think it can play somewhere else but it is rooted in Chicago. My childhood was here. Chicago is to me is an Americana city. I never felt like New York was a part of America but that is why I love it because it is not that way. It is not a blue-collar town. I felt the same way in New Orleans. I love that city because it is not a traditional American city. I think Chicago represents America.

Luckily, I am from here because it is a great city to come home to.

WCT: Where did the title *Mythical Proportions* come from?

ND: I love the title. It came from when I was writing the show and I don't want to explain it. If you get it then you get it. It is up to the audience to understand what the title is.

Mythical Proportions is about my life. If you don't have that then you have not reflected on your life. I think most people do but maybe some don't. That would be a mistake not to. I am a writer so I write about my own experiences. I write poetry and that is focused about one moment of my life. You write a poem because you want to understand why you were affected that way.

This show is the same as naming a poem. If a name to a poem doesn't come to me then I feel

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FALL THEATER PREVIEW

Mix and match: Ten must-see shows

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Our seasonal theater previews frequently divide plays into categories such as LGBT plays, classics, world premieres and the like. But for my autumn theater preview, I've decided to mix-and-match with a list of 10 shows worth your attention for a variety of reasons. I am, after all, Chicago's most senior theater critic in years of service and that's gotta be good for something, right?

So here's what to see in the next two months before we are overwhelmed by the crush of holiday season shows. Productions are listed by their performance dates. I've stopped at 10 shows but easily might have listed a dozen more: 2013-2014 is shaping up as one of most eclectic and interesting theater seasons in several years.

The Crownless King, The House Theatre of Chicago, through Oct. 20. Chicago's very best story-telling theater troupe offers part two of a three-part, three-year epic saga which acts and

riffs like a heroic fantasy adventure of yore, but also smells a lot like a commentary on American political history. It's a cheeky combination and potentially a profound one. In the second part, the young king, who never wanted the throne, must learn to wield power. Typically, The House combines an original story with original music, special effects and some rough-and-tumble action sequences. Performed at the Chopin Theatre

Pullman Porter Blues, Goodman Theatre, Sept. 14 (previews)-Oct. 26. History comes home to Chicago where Pullman railroad cars were built and the once-powerful African-American Pullman Porters' union was based. It's set in 1937 when glamorous overnight trains crisscrossed America (and every one of them started/ended in Chicago, the nation's rail hub) and focuses on three generations of Pullman porters in the same family. Playwright Cheryl L. West has incorporated 12 classic blues numbers, played live, into the action. Chuck Smith directs a large company

The Wheel, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Sept. 21 (previews)-Nov. 10. Joan Allen, a founding member of the Steppenwolf Ensemble, returns "home" after an absence of 20 years during which time she became an Oscar-nominated film star. She is, and always was, an exceptional actor and that alone makes *The Wheel* worth seeing. But this very large production (17 actors) also features some of the best of the best such as Yasen Peyankov, Tim Hopper and Ora Jones under director Tina Landau. The story, too, sounds striking, the American premiere of a work of magic realism set in 19th-century Spain.

Cyrano de Bergerac, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Sept. 24 (previews)-Nov. 10. Everyone thinks Edmond Rostand's 1897 heroic comedy is a classic from the 18th Century. However, if you really listen to this drama in verse, you can distinguish its decidedly modern tone as it demolishes both military glory and superficial romantic glory. The play remains popular because it's a lively bittersweet story with a tremendously engaging hero and, let's face it, glorious language. The outstanding actor, Harry Groener, last seen here in *The Madness of King George*, should make a *Cyrano* you wouldn't want to miss by a nose let alone by a mile.

The True History of the Tragic Life and Triumphant Death of Julia Pastrana, the Ugliest Woman in the World, Tympanic Theatre Compa-



Cleavant Derricks of Pullman Porter Blues. Rehearsal photo by Liz Lauren

ny, Sept. 26-Oct. 19. Hey, you said a mouthful, and surviving photos of the real-life Pastrana (1834-1860) suggest you wouldn't wanna' lock lips with her. Born in Mexico, she spoke three languages, danced beautifully and was exploited and exhibited around the world as a freak ("The Ape Woman") in typical 19th Century style, with strong parallels to *The Elephant Man*. This is the regional premiere of this recent play by British author/actor Shaun Prendergast, and it has a gimmick: the play is performed in near-darkness, allowing audience imaginations to create their own visual images. Performed at the Berger Park Field House

Unwilling and Hostile Instruments: 100 Years of Extraordinary Chicago Women, Theatre Seven of Chicago, Oct. 3-27. Nine world premiere short plays by exceptional young local authors (Ike Holter, Emily Schwartz, Seth Bockley and Lauren Yee among them) about nine exceptional Chicago women (Jane Addams, Ida B. Wells, Ann Landers and Mavis Staples among them). This clever concept potentially is rich in variety, information and passion. Performed at American Theater Company

Directions for Restoring the Apparently Dead, Pride Films & Plays, Oct. 4 (previews)-Nov. 10. This world premiere by Martin Casella won Pride Films & Plays 2013 Great Gay Play Contest. It's a contemporary story set in the lovely English Lake District where two long-time friends retreat on a vacation, during which they must wrestle and resolve past and present issues, not to mention life-changing events. David Zak directs a very good cast. Has potential, if Casella hasn't tried to squeeze too much on the plate. Presented at Stage 773

Once, Oriental Theatre, Oct. 9-27. Broadway In Chicago presents the national tour of this winner of eight 2012 Tony Awards (Best Musical among them). Based on the 2006 film of the same name, this modestly-scaled show is a contemporary romance between a Dublin street musician and the woman who becomes his lover and his muse. Most of the songs from the film are retained and new ones have been added, and the actors play all the musical instruments themselves. Classic boy-meets-girl

Hello, Dolly!, Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace, Oct. 24 (previews)-Jan. 5. This show is one of my guilty pleasures; I love it! But it's trickier to pull off than it looks. Drury Lane has the estimable Rachel Rockwell as director and choreographer, and has been smart enough to import Tony Award winning singer-dancer-actor Karen Ziemba for the title role. One hopes she will kick up her heels more than most who play the role, because she certainly has the chops for it. This could be the good-time show of the season.

The Normal Heart, TimeLine (sic) Theatre Company, Oct. 26 (previews)-Dec. 22. The first big Chicago revival in years of Larry Kramer's still potent 1985 drama inspired by the AIDS crisis. In 1987, the Chicago premiere production at Next Theatre (Evanston) won the Best Production Jeff Award and transferred for a commercial run. Revived several times off-Broadway, the play finally made it to Broadway itself in 2011, winning the Tony Award for Best Revival. This new Chicago production has TimeLine's characteristic quality and integrity going for it, with sure-handed veteran Nick Bowling as director and with actor/director David Cromer playing Ned Weeks, the autobiographical hero of Kramer's play. This is a powerful play and an important one. Performed at Stage 773

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Pictured: Harry Groener, photo by Michael Broslow.

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BOOKS

Nico Lang reveals another 'Dimension'

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

As a child growing up in Cincinnati, Nico Lang started out writing fan fiction. Flash-forward to present-day Chicago: Lang has written for many publications and is currently a producer at Thought Catalog. Lang does not stop at writing, either.

Lang's recently released debut novel is titled *The Young People Who Traverse Dimensions While Wearing Sunglasses*, and it details the author's experiences with family and a move to France in a colorful, yet relatable way.

An open book, Lang talked with Windy City Times about sharing a memoir, traveling and his love of Woody Allen movies, among other details.

Windy City Times: What inspired you to write your own personal story?

Nico Lang: I've been writing forever. The first books I wrote were when I was a kid. It was kind of fan fiction in a way in that it would be a thinly veiled version of whatever I'd just seen. I remember I was just getting into detective stories as a kid, so I wrote my own version of the *Boxcar Children*. Now I'm getting around to writing one that's better. I went to Paris and a lot of bad things happened, but I realized that there was a story there. Life just gave you a book, you might as well write it down.

WCT: How did you decide what to include in your memoir?

Nico Lang: I just want to write whatever feels honest and feels real. I guess it's just trying to get what's in my head on the paper. Just thinking that there are some people that have really bad family situations and they seem to be marked by that and it's really funny you have a way of finding these people.

WCT: It seems like you run into these unfortunate situations at home and abroad.

Nico Lang: It's weird. I felt like I learned a lot about my life through doing something completely different that ended up being exactly the same because I avoided taking care of one "dying person" by taking care of another sick person in another country. It's funny; I didn't even realize that was the case until somebody pointed it out to me after reading my book.

One of the themes of the book, one of the reasons I moved to Paris at the time, was because I was obsessed with the Woody Allen movie, "Midnight in Paris." This weird man that I don't know, who has a very strange way of shaping my entire existence. I move to another country having seen the movie, but not realizing its lesson, then moving to that country and realizing the lesson of the film by being there.

WCT: I think everyone can relate to having some crazy people in their lives.

Nico Lang: My hope is always to find connection with other people, whether that's in my writing or in my life. It's something I strive for. It's the meaning of existence to find connection with others. I just hope that my work does the same thing. It gives people this feeling of connection. They might not have been through the thing, but they understand it.

WCT: In regards to the book's title, what kind of sunglasses do you wear while you traverse dimensions?

Nico Lang: I actually always forget to wear sunglasses, which is kind of the ironic part of the title. It's the thing I always mean to pack, but I never actually put in. *The Young People Who Traverse Dimensions While Wearing Sunglasses* was the name of The Matrix when it came out in France. The way the lost generation works in the 21st century, where they're not really lost anymore; you're just wandering with an iPhone. I thought that was oddly fitting. I just thought, "Why not call it *The Matrix*?"

WCT: How was your sexuality perceived in a

different country?

Nico Lang: I wasn't quite clear on the sexual mores of France. I assumed France was liberal, but we assume France is liberal about everything, but I'm not of this culture. I'm always one of those people who likes to know what I'm getting into before I get into things, which is kind of why that trip was such a curveball for me.

It was like learning that you can't trust what you think you know. For me, [it was] just not talking about it [sexual orientation] that much or bringing it up, just brushing it under the rug with a measure of respect. I think we all come from really different places and that we have to be understanding of that. I didn't want to assume anything about them and I didn't want to assume they were homophobic either. I figured I was just going to be myself and we'll figure the rest out later.

WCT: Do you have any plans to go back to Paris or are you looking to travel somewhere else in the future?

Nico Lang: I would visit, but I would certainly never move there again. I thought of going to Barcelona next year, so maybe I can have incredibly awful experiences in another city.

There's this really weird part of me that's considering moving to Barcelona because I've always wanted to move there and I've been obsessed for what feels like forever. Part of my undergrad was specifically focused on Spanish culture, particularly issues around Catalan identity, and I just still haven't been, which is funny because that's the plot of another Woody Allen movie.

WCT: So, your life is like a Woody Allen movie?

Nico Lang: Woody Allen was somebody I grew up with. When I was 15, the first time I saw a Woody Allen movie was "Annie Hall" and it just made me realize my life could be different. It's just funny to see the ways in which the movies he's made kind of mirror in some ways what I'm going through. I feel like Woody Allen's always been an odd compass for me and I guess you got to pick somebody. It's like your power animal in a way.

To learn more about Lang, visit www.thoughtcatalog.com. Lang's novel is also available for purchase on amazon.com.



Nico Lang. Photo by Cara Pagels

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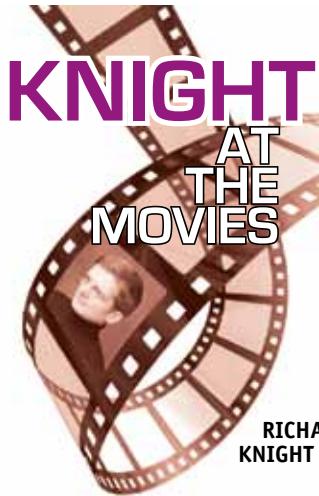
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BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT JR.

C.O.G.; Four; Sole Survivor; film notes

This week a trio of noteworthy independent films are making their Chicago debuts. Two of them—**C.O.G.** and **Four**—have prominent queer themes while the third is from out documentarian Ky Dickens, who follows her critically lauded debut *Fish out of Water* with **Soul Survivor**.

C.O.G. stars out actor Jonathan Groff (*Taking Woodstock*, TV's *Glee* and the forthcoming gay-themed HBO series *Looking*) as Samuel, a rather pretentious Yale grad student who decides to go "off the grid" and takes a job picking apples in an orchard in Oregon. Samuel's smug superiority is lost on the migrant workers he bunks with and he's taken down a peg by the boss (Dean Stockwell), who eventually finds him a job at the local apple harvesting factory. There, he's noticed by a leering forklift operator named Curly (Corey Stoll), who invites him out for what becomes the date from hell. The terrorized Samuel ends up befriending Jon (Denis O'Hare), a born-again Christian with an explosive temper he can barely contain and helps him create objects for an upcoming art fair. But soon, Samuel, whose arrogance has been whittled away by his various encounters, is in trouble again.

Director Kyle Patrick Alvarez has based his film on an autobiographical piece by gay essayist David Sedaris from the latter's collection *Naked*. The film has the distinction of being the first to be based on Sedaris' writings but the episodic quality of the material and the oddball characters are familiar staples to indie movie audiences and Sedaris' patented mix of wry wit and character insight don't really translate from page to screen. Rather, it's the performances of the actors—especially O'Hare and Stoll—that are the most notable elements in the movie. Groff is best in a later encounter with the terrifying Curly to which he brings unexpected depth and in his brief encounters with several of the film's supporting characters. The movie, which has had a splashy run on the gay film fest circuit over

the last year, opens on Friday, Sept. 20, at the Gene Siskel Film Center (164 N. State St.). www.siskelfilmcenter.com

Another LGBT film fest staple (this one from 2012) is **Four**, which out writer-director Joshua Sanchez adapted from Christopher Shinn's play. The movie follows the course of two random hook-ups during a hot Fourth of July night in a nameless urban city—between a married, middle-aged, closeted Black man named Joe (Wendell Pierce) and a young white teenage boy he has met over the Internet and the man's daughter and her new hunky Latino boyfriend, Dexter. The encounters between the two nascent couples are fraught with an undertow of loneliness and anxiety that is palpable and though the dialogue reveals its stage play roots, the performances overcome this. Pierce, especially, is adept at projecting Joe's complicated nature. The provocative film kicks off a Chicago theatrical run at AMC River East 21 beginning Friday, Sept. 20. <http://www.fourthemovie.com>.

Ky Dickens—the Chicago-based filmmaker (see my interview with Dickens in this week's Windy City Times) noted for her 2009 documentary *Fish out of Water*, which put the Bible's seven references to homosexuality under the microscope—returns with **Sole Survivor**, a thought-provoking documentary that is also playing at the Siskel on Sept. 20 and 26. Dickens' film centers on four of the just 14 sole survivors of large-scale airplane disasters—whom she aptly describes as members of "the loneliest club on earth."

George Lamson, who survived an air disaster at 17, becomes the linking device for the film. Lamson, who is glimpsed in vintage footage, is outwardly gregarious but has clearly been through years of emotional trauma. Dickens follows Lamson and his daughter as they travel to France to meet a young teenage survivor named Bahia, whose few words speak volumes. (As a filmmaker, she shows welcome restraint in these and other encounters in the film, never pushing the emotional envelope.)

Jim Polehinke, a co-pilot of another horrific crash, has survived with both tremendous physical and emotional challenges, and Dickens presents his story—and the subsequent investigation into the crash—with an even hand. Her fourth subject is Cecelia Cichan, who was a baby when she survived and was raised in anonymity.

The film marks the first time all but Lamson have spoken about their continuing ordeals as sole survivors. Again, Dickens shows restraint and allows her subjects to maintain their dignity as they haltingly and emotionally attempt to describe what so few can truly understand. With *Sole Survivor*, Dickens has made a compelling follow-up to *Fish Out of Water*, that is elevated by its sensitive approach to its potentially sensationalistic subject matter. www.solesurvivorfilm.com

Film notes:

—Support your local queer film festival: Tonight, Wed., Sept. 18, Ald. Rey Colon will appear at a meeting organized by community/queer



Wendell Pierce in **Four**. Photo by Cynthia Bittenfield

activist Robert Castillo with Logan Square-area business owners who are gathering to show their support for Reeling, Chicago's LGBT film festival which is coming to Logan Square for the first time in its 31-year history.

Reeling's executive director, Brenda Webb and myself, this year's director of programming for the fest, will be on hand to present an overview of the forthcoming fest. The meet-and-greet will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Logan Theater, 2646 N. Milwaukee Ave.—the primary venue for this year's Reeling (Nov. 7-14). The public is welcome to attend this complimentary event. The following week on Wed. Sept. 25, "Reeling in the Aisles," a benefit for the festival, will take place at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., 7-9 p.m.

During the evening, which will feature a selection of rarely seen queer movie clips, a complimentary drink and door prizes, the line-up for this year's festival will be announced. The Queer Film Society is co-sponsoring the event. www.reelingfilmfestival.org

—Support your local filmmaker: Writer/director John Lerchen, a Columbia College film major, has finished shooting his first indie feature, *Dearest Jane*. The movie, which is described as a romantic drama tells the story of a troubled teen sent to live with her gay uncle in the isolated Indiana countryside, is seeking post production report via a kickstarter campaign. A 2014 release is anticipated. www.dearestjane.com

—Free screening: The Chicago Cinema Society and Fangoria are presenting a free screening of director Eduardo Rodriguez's **Fright Night 2: New Blood** on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 8 p.m. at the Patio Theater, 6008 W. Irving Park Rd. From the looks of the trailer, the film appears to utilize characters and situations from the 1985 original while giving them a much different spin than the 2011 remake (for instance, Gerry, the vampire played by Chris Sarandon and Colin Farrell, respectively, becomes a sexy seductress named Gerri in this version who appears to have some pretty strong lesbian inclinations to boot). Doors for the screening are at 7:30 p.m. and seating is on a first-come, first-seated basis. <http://chicagocinemasociety.org>

—Director Steven Soderbergh's **Behind the Candelabra**, his darkly comic look at the relationship between Vegas entertainer Liberace and his young lover Scott Thorson was one of HBO's biggest hits of the year. The movie, which features fearless, Emmy-nominated performances by Michael Douglas and Matt Damon in the leading roles, and excellent support from Debbie Reynolds, Rob Lowe, Dan Ackroyd and Cheyenne Jackson is just out on Blu-ray and DVD and includes a making-of featurette.

'Center on Culture' Sept. 20-Oct. 26

Center on Culture, a new theater series coordinated by Center on Halsted, will begin this fall.

The series will begin with award-winning comedy and cabaret performance artist, storyteller and monologist Miss Coco Peru. Peru will appear at Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St., Friday and Saturday, Sept. 20-21, beginning at 6 p.m.

The New York City-based, all-male, classical string and singing quartet Well Strung will be putting their own spin on the music of Mozart, Vivaldi, Rihanna, Adele, Lady Gaga and others Friday-Saturday, Oct. 18-19, at 6 p.m.

Lastly, there will be a special preview performance of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* produced by TimeLine Theatre Company at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. The special performance will be Saturday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m.

For more information on the series and to purchase tickets, visit <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/culture>. For information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Dustin Erikstrup at 773-661-0957 or derikstrup@centeronhalsted.org.

Chicago film fest creates new LGBT award

The Chicago International Film Festival is rebranding its LGBT-focused section entitled OUTrageous, according to a press release.

The section will now be called OUT-Look, made up of feature films, documentaries and short films, and a new competition, with the Q HUGO Award to be presented at a stand-alone presentation during the festival.

The 49th Chicago International Film Festival takes place Oct. 10-24. For additional information, visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com.

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THE ADVOCATE PRIDE FILMS & PLAYS

Lesbian filmmaker Ky Dickens talks 'Sole Survivor'

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Ky Dickens—the out Chicago based filmmaker noted for her 2009 documentary *Fish Out of Water*, which put the Bible's seven references to homosexuality under the microscope—returns with *Sole Survivor*, a thought-provoking documentary that is playing at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., on Sept. 21 and 26. Dickens' film centers on four of the just 14 sole survivors of large scale airplane disasters—whom she aptly describes as members of "the loneliest club on earth."

Two of her interview subjects—George Lamson and Joe Polehinke—are scheduled to attend the Saturday, Sept. 21, screening, where they will meet for the first time. Dickens and producer Amy Clay will be at both screenings. WBEZ's "Weekender" host Allison Cuddy will moderate the Sept. 21 Q&A.

CNN has picked up the film for distribution, and it is expected to have a theatrical run early next year, followed by broadcast on the network and an eventual DVD release. The Siskel screenings are rare opportunities to not only see Dickens' remarkable film in advance of its release but a chance to meet two of the sole survivors in person. Windy City Times sat down with Dickens to discuss the film.

Windy City Times: Where did this rather provocative idea come from? Is there a personal connection to the subject?

Ky Dickens: It is personal, as a lot of these things are. In high school I was arguing with a good friend of mine over who was going to ride shotgun when a friend of mine got a new car. And I lost and about five minutes later my friend Carson—who won the battle to ride in the front seat—was in a car crash and died. I was in the car behind and watched as the car spun him to



Ky Dickens. Photo from Kristen Kaza

his death after hitting a pole.

I felt a tremendous amount of survivor's guilt from that. I was 16 at the time and so I've always taken an interest in survivor's stories. I realized in my early 30s that I had been crazy driven since that accident and I think part of it was because I felt I had to do something really great with my life since I lived and my friend had died.

At that point I had read a story about a sole survivor of a plane crash and I thought, "If any-

one knows how to get over survivor's guilt it would be someone like that." So I found George Lamson on Facebook and we started a Facebook relationship. Eventually we met in person and at that point I told him I was a documentary filmmaker and he told me that he never really healed from his thing and that he was afraid to meet other survivors and their families. I told him I would film him doing that and he acknowledged that that would raise him to his bravest self and that's when the film started to take shape. That was in 2010.

WCT: The film follows George and his daughter as they meet the young French girl, Bahia, and her family, which is very moving. Then there is Cecelia Cichan, who's never spoken about her experience before. How did you find her and convince her to talk?

KD: That was fascinating. From the beginning of this, one aspect of the film was about connecting with the sole survivors but the other aspect was making sure that voices and experiences from the victim's families were in the picture because that's part of the survivor's experience. I'd already been talking to some of the families from Cecelia's flight—Northwest #255—and I started a relationship with them. A lot of these families have Facebook pages or community chatrooms where they keep in touch with one another and it got out there that I was making a film. Cecelia read it and she contacted me right after she donated to our Kickstarter campaign.

WCT: That's pretty incredible.

KD: It was. I mean, she's one of the most elusive people out there; a lot of news people have been trying to get a hold of her for years and when I saw that she'd donated on the Kickstarter page I thought, "What!?" Then there was an email from her saying, "I heard about this, why haven't you asked me?" I wrote back that I would love for her to be involved but that I thought she wasn't interested or wanted to be private. Something, I think, about seeing the trailer and seeing other sole survivors really moved her to the point of wanting to get involved.

She told me later the reason she agreed to do it—and she wanted to do it—was because her whole life she was the focus; she was singled out as the sole survivor; as this miracle child that survived this crash and here was the one situation where she got to be one of many stories of survivors. I think for her that felt a lot safer than anything that had come before.

WCT: It's no surprise that there's a haunted quality to the demeanor of all four of the survivors—especially Bahia, the young French girl.

KD: I think because her crash had happened the most recently, which is no doubt part of it.

WCT: Your tagline, that this is "loneliest club in the world," really struck a chord with me. I'm wondering, as a queer woman, if you find that there's always something about this outsider status that resonates with Our People, as I do. Am I picking up on something there? Is that part of what attracted you to these people?

KD: Yes—I think you are so spot-on with that. For one, it probably is one of the smallest minorities in the world. Absolutely—there are only 14 people in the world who have survived a large plane crash and so they constantly think no one understands them; that no one could quite get it unless you've been through it, etc. There was a softening when Jim and when George and when Cecelia found out I was gay. I think they all just had a sense that I'm human like them; I understand hardship; my life hasn't been a cakewalk; I'm a person who's been hurt and who's been oppressed and who has been misunderstood and who has had to fight to have a voice and who has to fight to be recognized for who I really am.

And even though they went through something very different I think in some aspect it made them feel a bit safer with me. I can't exactly explain why but it was quite wonderful. At one point George told me early on, "I've never met another gay person. You're the first gay per-

Turn to page 28

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MUSIC

Musician SONiA releases 'Film'

BY SARAH TOCE

Multinational singer/songwriter SONiA from Disappear Fear released her 17th album, *Broken Film*, on Sept. 17. A self-described dedication to John Lennon, *Broken Film* draws on the socioeconomical seasoning reminiscent of a life well-pronounced.

"Here in America, we are seeing a lot of beautiful green pastures and hearing sexy male cowboys and farmers talking about how they love their land and the beautiful natural gas underneath it. These commercials are 99 percent propaganda," SONiA said. "We need to not be persuaded by Halliburton, Exxon Mobile and Shell to sell the rights to extract the natural gas under our land in any of our States to these greed mongers. To allow any kind of fracking on any land is pure suicide and genocide. Even if pretty faces and people you normally elect like Obama and Clinton say it is ok. It ain't OK at all."

Before she released the CD, SONiA talked with Windy City Times.

Windy City Times: On Sept. 17 you will release your 17th album. What inspired you to create the music we all hear on this new release?

SONiA: In two words: dedication and perspiration. My Life inspired this new CD, the window of my heart, mind and body that I look, love and live through. My songs develop like the process of the irritating sand that become pearls in oysters, grinding them through my craft and vision of what they ultimately sound like on the recording.

WCT: Which musicians personally inspire you to continue recreating your career?

SONiA: I feel a connection with John Lennon, not that I would site him for recreating my career—that is a constant thing—but there is some kind of connection. I dedicated this CD to the vision of John Lennon and Yoko Ono. I left an earlier mix of the *Broken Film* CD for Yoko on her birthday, which is my birthday, too.

WCT: If you could select a few major events over the past five years that helped shape your current work, what would they be and why?

SONiA: My marriage to Terry, my dad losing his battle with lung cancer, my mom's stroke and my sister's divorce. I know that I am in it with Terry [and that] she is who I want to always navigate life with. I am thankful every day for my time with her. I miss my Dad. I started to grow up and really hear in a new way. With regard to my mom, I am the primary person responsible for my mom now and it has really helped me to be a more responsible person. My sister's divorce paralleled our own parents' divorce and struck some deep chords of pain and the awareness of some missing ingredients like respect and forgiveness.

WCT: How do your songs on this album differentiate from previous releases?

SONiA: I really put effort into finding the sweetest key for my voice—using my Shubb Capos. Another differentiation is [that] I actually enunciate a good deal more than on previous CDs. Last Hanukah a fan/friend from NYC gave me a pink baseball cap with the letter "G" on it. I was dumbfounded. He said I needed it because I never pronounced the "G" at the end of words when I'm singing. I noticed he was right, so on this CD I am very aware of where to and not to put the "G."

WCT: What can longtime fans of your work expect from this new album?

SONiA: My longtime fans know that I will never stop evolving as a person [and] as an artist. That said, early feedback from old fans is that the songs and sounds remind them of our largest selling CD, Disappear Fear's self-titled CD from 1994. In fact, I chose the same engineer for this project, Mike Poole, he has a way of minimizing the techy stuff and letting the true acoustic

soul rise loud and clear and somehow get the best performance out of me and the band. I am super-proud of this new CD, *Broken Film*, and I am really thrilled to be on the road with my new Disappear Fear band making the tunes come alive for you.

WCT: Can you share with us a memory or two of Chicago that you hold dear?

SONiA: One night at the Metro Cabaret with Disappear Fear, we did our gig and then also that night Lowen and Navarro—another acoustic duo—had a gig and came to ours. Then the Indigo Girls also had a gig that night and mentioned that we were playing and that they were heading there. So, backstage three awesome duos were hanging out trading notes and guitar licks. It was a blast.

Another time we were on tour and I had this purple and pink tie-dyed bra hanging in our van and Amy [Ray] wanted to see our touring van, so we showed it to her and my bra was just right there waving in the wind...very embarrassing for me.

One other thing comes to mind. Jill Sobule [asked me to sing] "I Kissed a Girl" with her onstage at Halsted Market Days. I was in the Porta John backstage when she announced the song and I kind of jumped out of it when she announced my name, which was completely visible to the first rows in the crowd, and then I kissed her at the end of the song. That was fun.

I have had some great times in Chicago with good friends at Shubba's and the Kitchen and running out of gas on Soldier Field on the way to Women and Children First bookstore signing.

WCT: As the world changes, so does your music. How is your art affected by the political climate of a possible war with Syria?

SONiA: Of course, being called a political songwriter and with 16 albums and now my 17th CD coming out this September, I have several songs that address the political climates of war. The song "I am the Enemy" and "Sugarcane"—on the No Bomb Is Smart CD—both directly speak to [the] 9/11 tragedy. On this brand-new CD, *Broken Film*, the first song is called "Start" and it was, in part, inspired by my nephew saving the life of a fellow Marine in an IED incident in Afghanistan. It is exactly about how "You don't need hands to hold somebody's heart."

And the main character's daughter went off to war [and] did not return and never told her Dad she loved him, but then he found a note she left for him. We in America—except for the soldiers and veterans—are so isolated from these wars. And we are so ill-equipped to make good decisions or even have any kind of intelligent opinion on these topics. We sit here fat and happy and safe away from the desperate souls in the Middle East wars.

I am a peace activist and I believe in the great Gandhi at the same time. I really think that some folks have no remorse and kill without a moral code. This baffles me. I see no choice other than to empower those who can remove them from access to making war on their fellow citizens and the modern world. This is not 1776. This is not 1492. This is not 1933. This is 2013, and we are completely and irreversibly connected.

WCT: Do you have a particular viewpoint on the homophobia in Russia? Is there a message you could share to help your fans under Putin feel a bit less isolated?

SONiA: I would say, "You are not alone." I have friends who are lesbians [and] who are from Russia. It was not easy there for them. Any society that strives to make their citizens cookie cutter replicas of some robotic ideal will self-destruct or be destroyed in time. Come to America, we will embrace you.

Russia has a long history of persecution of human rights. In fact, there is no word in Russian for "gay" or "lesbian." There is a song I co-wrote posthumously with an African-American



SONiA. PR photo

poet named Countee Cullen called, "Who's So Scared," about racism here in the USA. Another song in my repertoire is called "By My Silence"; [it] addresses the victims of the Holocaust which, at first, were political dissidents and homosexuals. I think it is important to speak up for what you believe in, face the music, and it will have your back.

WCT: What would you want your young fans to know about their history?

SONiA: The world today—for those of us who are not white, Christian, straight and male—is a whole lot more inclusive of us by those very own people. Amen.

This year, the passing of gay marriage in the States and recognition federally is a huge step forward for Americans and humankind. Until now, so many of us [have] lived in fear and

shame. By extinguishing the flames of discrimination, we are a better nation of wholeness and ability. But truly our children inherit all of our traits good and bad. It is up to each of us to disappear fear and walk the talk on a moment-by-moment basis; this sets the strongest path of transformation into a better quality life.

WCT: If you could give one piece of advice to your younger self just getting started in the business, what would it be?

SONiA: The one piece of advice I would give to myself when I was just getting started in the music business would be to enjoy the whole ride and realize it will never be high enough or big enough or loud enough, so just grab all the gusto and let love in.

See <http://disappearfear.com>.

DICKENS from page 27

son I ever had a meal with and I think it's pretty cool." And I was like, "You're 40 years old, George, I'm sure you have met another gay person." [Laughs hard] That was a fun moment. So, I can't explain how or why but you're totally right that there is an outsider status that somehow they knew in their gut that I've been through and that they were like, "She's cool."

WCT: It's great that CNN picked up the film for distribution.

KD: We're thrilled of course because it means that thousands of survivors will get a chance to see it. We found that at festivals that many different types of survivors totally relate to this.

WCT: The film is a touchstone.

KD: Absolutely.

WCT: It's probably way too early to ask but are you thinking about your next film?

KD: Yes—I actually have a production meeting tonight. [Laughs] It's on a subject that I think is going to be the next great cultural war and it's very confusing and that's why I'm interested in it. It's a film about extinction.

There are three scientists right now who are on the verge of bringing back species from the dead. Woolly mammoth is one of them, the Tasmanian tiger is another. Even though these scientists are so excited about it, it's still fantasy about being able to do this. But at the same time there's this element of, "But should we?" and "What does this mean" and, "If we bring them back, where do we put them?"

WCT: Oh, my God. It's Jurassic Park brought to life!

KD: Yes—in a documentary. It's truly the documentary version of that. I'm super excited about that. We've just started pre-production on it and getting scientists on board but it's going to happen in our lifetime. And another question comes to mind: is this a true slippery slope? If we can bring back animals can we bring back a person who died? If you're rich enough and we have the technology...it's crazy to think about.

WCT: That's fascinating; insane to think about—and it sounds like it might make a good film! [Laughs]

KD: That's the hope!

See www.solesurvivorfilm.com.

BOOKS

Karen Joy Fowler examines behavior in 'Ourselves'

BY SALLY PARSONS

Karen Joy Fowler, author of *The Jane Austen Book Club*, tackles animal-behavior experiments and their devastating effect on one family in her new novel, *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*.

The family falls apart after the loss of Fern, who was introduced into their lives as an infant and raised beside daughter Rosemary as a twin. Fowler deftly explores memory, identity, language and other rich topics with grace, humor and compassion.

Windy City Times: In the '90s you helped launch a literary prize, the Tiptree, for writers who expand or explore our understanding of gender. Last year's winner, *The Drowning Girl*, recognizes the complexity of human beings through its characters—lesbian, straight and transgender, old and young. Why does understanding gender interest you?

Karen Joy Fowler: I am a product of the second wave of feminism. A lot of my attachment to science fiction in particular, and to literature in general, was through the very brilliant, exploratory work being done by fiction writers in that period. ... Those books made me see the world as a much more complicated and interesting and potentially freer place beyond the sort of sexuality I had grown up with.

WCT: But what made you decide to set up this prize?

KJF: It seemed to me that kind of thinking about the possibilities of our social lives, of our romantic lives, of our sexual lives was fading

away—at least at that time from the literature I was most attached to, which was science fiction. ... And so Pat Murphy [U.S. science-fiction writer] and I set up this award to encourage the kind of work that continues to mean so much to us.

WCT: You are the daughter of an animal behaviorist. Did you have close contact with any of the animals your father worked with?

KJF: There was a time when I hung out in the rat lab playing with the rats. This would have ended about the time I was 11.

WCT: In what ways did that kind of background inform your work in this novel?

KJF: As I was growing up, issues of behavior modification and learning processes and a very scientific approach to social interactions was part of the dinner-table conversation. ...

WCT: There are a lot of obvious parallels between you and Rosemary, your main character.

KJF: And there are obvious parallels between the father in the book and my father. But my father would not have been so stupid as to engage the family in that kind of experiment that Rosemary's father does.

WCT: So why would you say that was stupid, that experiment?

KJF: The most famous case in which this experiment was performed was Winthrop Kellogg in the 1930s. What he does not seem to have anticipated is that the experiment had a profound effect on the child as well as on the chimpanzee. [Kellogg raised an infant chimpanzee for nine months with his own infant son Donald.]



Karen Joy Fowler. Photo by Brett Hall Jones

WCT: What does the title of the book mean?

KJF: By the time you finish the book, I hope the title means ... that we are an inextricable part of nature, that any attempts to suggest that we hold some sort of special outsider role in the natural world is a mistaken one. Everything we see around us is part of us, partly because we are seeing it and therefore translating it through our own brains into part of us, and partly because we all spring from the same sources and are connected.

WCT: So what do you make of it all—the possible connections between humans and chimps and other apes? And the use of animals in research and the abandonment of same?

KJF: Our behavior towards animals in general has been and continues to be so horrific. ... There's been some really happy news that our government has changed the rules in terms of what is permissible over the rights of animals. They've tried to retire almost all chimps from lab

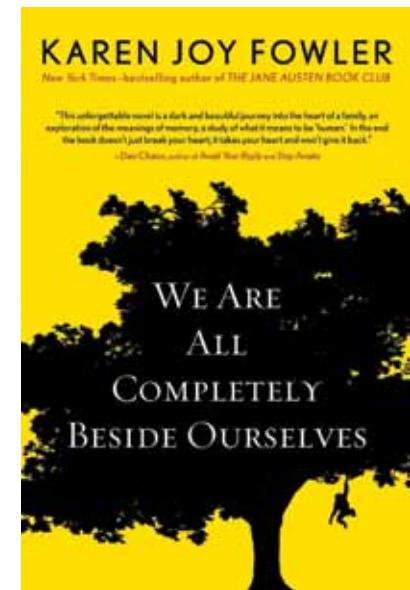
research. These are enormously positive steps. Although, of course, they create another problem of where the chimps who have been living in these labs will now go. It's expensive to find a happy place for a chimp to be.

WCT: There are many ways you emphasize speech—the projected voice in the ventriloquist dummy, sign language that Fern uses, Rosemary's constant talking as a child, replaced by reticence to speak as an adult. What was your intent here?

KJF: My own vision of the book is that it's all about speech. The experiments done with chimpanzees were largely focused on the issue of whether chimps could learn to use language. And so every character in the book I have thought about in terms of their relationship to language and how they use it, how good they are at it.

We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves, by Karen Joy Fowler, retails for \$26.95.

Fowler will appear at Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St., Wed., Sept. 25, at 7:30 p.m.



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Enso Sushi & Bar

BY MEGHAN STREIT

I stumbled upon Enso Sushi & Bar earlier this summer after a failed Costco run. My wife and I trekked down to Lincoln Park only to discover that Costco closes at 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Who knew? And yes, we were going to Costco on a Saturday night. Ah, marital bliss.

Fortunately, we found ourselves in Bucktown at dinnertime on a beautiful summer evening. I spotted an empty table near the doors that open onto the lively Damen Ave. sidewalk, and we decided to have dinner at Enso. The place is a hole in the wall in the truest sense. It's a tiny and dark tunnel-like space. The black ceilings are studded with small white lights, giving the impression that you're either at an exhibit at the

Planetarium or in the bedroom of an eight-year-old who has "decorated" with those glow-in-the-dark stars you stick on the ceiling for your mom to discover years later.

The menu combines East and West in a manner that is both playful and sophisticated. Think "Tokyo nachos," made with an assortment of fresh fish, avocado and truffle oil mayo, and crispy soft-shell crab "sliders."

The short ribs are an excellent starter. The plump ribs are cooked to perfection in miniature cast iron pans that arrive blazing hot at your table. The ribs are slathered in a finger-lickin' good sauce that is sticky and sweet with just enough Asian spice.

Don't get too far into your meal without a cocktail. In addition to a nice, but pricy, wine list, Enso also has an expansive selection of sake. There is a chrysanthemum-flavored sake that pairs really nicely with all kinds of fresh fish. It's bright and fragrant with subtle floral notes, but not at all sweet.

Enso's sushi menu is one of the more impressive I've laid eyes on. You'll find old stand-bys like sweet potato tempura, Philly and dragon rolls, but you may want to swap out your usual order for some of the more inventive options.

And, get this: You can play sushi chef for the night because there is a make-your-own-maki section of the menu. You get a long list of options and you can build your own roll from the bottom up. Swap out soy paper for seaweed, combine shrimp and lobster, or create your own concoction by mixing wasabi mayo and cilantro—whatever you can dream up, they will make it for you.

I elected to leave my dinner to the experts, with a selection of specialty rolls. I loved the Wocka-Wocka, which is a souped-up version of a standard Philly roll. In addition to soy-marinated salmon and cream cheese, this delectable roll is stuffed with scallops, drizzled with truffle oil mayo and topped with fried shallots. I know, who wants a basic Philly when you can have all of that? I would have preferred a bit more truffle mayo, but the Wocka-Wocka was still outstanding.

The "North Shore" roll is another standout. Fat chunks of lobster are fried in tempura batter, layered with avocado and cream cheese and spiked with Sriracha and wasabi mayo. Tobiko, chives and even more tempura (in the form of crumbs) top it all off. It's decadent and delicious.

Now, don't go thinking you can get this fancy sushi for the price of a California roll. You can't. The North Shore roll, for instance, will cost you the better part of a \$20 bill. But, it's worth it.

The electric eel maki served as a lighter choice among my cream cheese-heavy selections—but it's far from basic. Tempura unagi plays the starring role. Unagi sauce and spicy mayo add some kick, and asparagus and spicy tuna give it a fresh and light finish.

I also sampled several pieces of super white tuna nigiri, and the quality of the fish—when left to stand on its own without any smears of cream cheese or crispy bits of tempura—was a testament to the freshness of all of the fish at Enso. The tuna was rich and tender, just as it should be.

My discovery of Enso Sushi was a happy accident—and I'm glad I found it. It's a clever little place that feels right at home in Bucktown.

Enso Sushi & Bar is located at 1613 N. Damen Ave.; call 773-878-8998 or visit www.ensochicago.com.

Do you need some more Sugar & Spice in your life? Follow me on Twitter: @SugarAndSpiceMS—for inside scoop and commentary on Chicago's dining scene.

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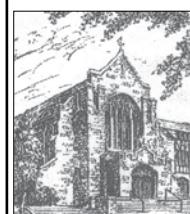


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**Coming 'Out in the Park'**

Six Flags Great America hosted a rainbow of attendees as LGBT folk turned out for a roller coaster after-party following the closing of the park. After last year's event being beset by a rainstorm, September 14 proved to be the right date to celebrate diversity in a fun atmosphere. Singers, DJs, and libations added to short lines at the 12 rides making a carefree evening where attendees could hold hands and be themselves while feeling like VIPs.

Hosted by BestGayChicago.com and Mini of Chicago, this second year's event was bigger than ever with pre- and after-parties in a variety of local haunts.

Proceeds from ticket sales helped benefit Chicago House.

For information about Out in the Park next year and sponsorship, visit www.gaysixflagschicago.com.

Text and photos by Jerry Nunn



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CALENDAR

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WINDY CITY TIMES **nightspots**

Wed., Sept. 18

Fifth Anniversary Speaker Series Luncheon: Hillary Clinton Chicago House Social Service Agency and Co-Chairs Christy Cressey, Betsy Ebeling, Todd Hamilton and Michael Leppen; 11:30am-2pm, Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S Michigan Ave., Chicago, http://www.chicagohouse.org/event_chicago_house Speaker_series.html

Wabash Arts Corridor Crawl Kicks Off Expo Chicago Kicks off International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art at Navy Pier, showcasing cultural assets of Chicago's newest creative community with gallery openings, concerts, performances, demonstrations, sales, a pub and food crawl, tours of new buildings, the unveiling of the new Papermaker's Garden, and a Joffrey Ballet rehearsal performance. Free. Information, call Norman Alexandroff. 5pm-8pm, 312-369-7416, Wabash Ave. between Congress and Roosevelt

Q&A Trivia w/ Kwizmaster Kirk Williamson Join Nightspots' own Kirk Williamson as he challenges the audience with a variety of questions while bartender Jeff serves up \$5 Rokk cocktails. Get your team together, because the first place team receives a \$25 @mosphere certificate. 8pm-10:30pm, Atmosphere Bar, 5355 N. Clark St., <http://www.facebook.com/qatrvia>

Signs of Life Signs Of Life, a new drama with music based on the true story of the Czech ghetto Theresienstadt, tells one of the most fascinating and least known stories of the Holocaust. 8pm-10pm, 773-871-3000, Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N Lincoln Ave., <http://www.signsoflifethemusical.com>

Foster and Adoptive Parent Orientation Attending an orientation is a great way to learn more about what it takes to become a licensed foster parent and to help you determine if foster and/or adoptive parenting is the right decision for you and your family. 6pm-8pm, 855-WeFoster, Little City, 700 N Sacramento Ave., Suite 201, <http://www.littlecity.org/foster>

Thursday, Sept. 19

Allies for Marriage Equality Illinois Unites for Marriage Equality, \$50 ally ticket or more to help assure marriage equality in Illinois. Beer and well drinks for 3 hours included in your contribution. Mia Phifer at mia@miaphifer.com or by phone. 5:30pm-8:30pm, 773-398-6986, Vertigo Sky Lounge, 2 West Erie St., <http://www.ilunites.org/allies>

EXPO CHICAGO/2013 opening night pre-

view Art Expositions, LLC presents EXPO CHICAGO/2013, The International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art. Opening night preview benefits the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; 6pm-9pm, Navy Pier, 600 E Grand Ave., <http://www.expochicago.com>

Hell on Heels Launch Party Thursday, September 19th; 9pm, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St., <http://www.roscoes.com>

Friday, Sept. 20

Hofbrauhaus Chicago Hofbräuhaus Chicago, the first and only German microbrewery, beer hall and restaurant in the Chicago area, will celebrate its first annual Oktoberfest Sept. 13—Oct. 31. 11am-11pm, MB Financial Park, 5500 Park Place Rosemont, Ill., <http://www.hofbrauhaus-chicago.com>

EXPO CHICAGO Art Expositions, LLC presents a four-day art event featuring over 125 leading international galleries and offers diverse programming including /Dialogues, IN/SITU and EXPO VIDEO. Tickets, \$20 for one day, \$30 for three day. 11am-7pm, Navy Pier, 600 E Grand Ave., <http://www.expo-video.com>

Organizing for Action (formally Obama For America) marks the two-year anniversary of the end of Don't Ask Don't Tell. Send a message to our Springfield area IL House of Representatives, Sue Scherer, Raymond Poe and Rich Brauer, that we want them to vote YES on SB10. RSVP online. 10:30am, Atmosphere Bar, 5355 N. Clark St., <http://www.facebook.com/qatrvia>

Edition Chicago Edition Chicago Will Showcase Cutting Edge Galleries And Non-profit Institutions From Around The World In An Intimate, Invitation-only Art Fair Context. Located In Chicago's West Loop, Already Home To Many Exciting Contemporary Spaces, Edition Chicago Will Present Both Emerging And Established Artists With An Emphasis On Affordable Works That Will Offer Collectors A Unique Entry Point Into The Art Market. 12pm-7pm, Chicago Artists Coalition's West Loop Gallery 217 N. Carpenter St., <http://www.editionchicago.com/>

Chicago Sky facing Indiana Fever in first round of WNBA playoffs. The teams compete in a best-of-three series. The first game is at 6 p.m. at Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Ill. See www.ChicagoSky.net.

Center on Culture Fall Event Series: Miss Coco Peru Join Award-winning comedy/

cabaret performance artist, storyteller and monologist, Coco Peru for an evening of laughs and libations. 6pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., <http://communitycenteronhalsted.org/culture>

Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

An array of acclaimed artists from Chicago and beyond tell the powerful story of an African-American family living in a crowded apartment on Chicago's South Side during the 1950s. Previews August 20 - 25. Through Nov. 17. 8pm, Timeline Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave., <http://timelinetheatre.com>

Saturday, Sept. 21

Dating for Queer Nerds, supernatural-themed Believe in Magic quiz, plus conjure prizes like ghost-hunting cameras, fortune teller pyramids and tinfoil hat kits.. Online registration is required at nerdsatheart.com; 4pm-7pm, 855-637-3568, Gallery Bar, 738 N. Clark St., <http://www.nerdsatheart.com>

World Music Festival Chicago 2013 The festival will open at Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park and close with "One World Under One Roof," an open house featuring nine groups on Sept. 22. Chicago Cultural Center. 11am, Citywide, <http://worldmusicfestivalchicago.org>

#GodHatesHashtags GayCo Productions presents the brand new sketch comedy show: a searingly silly look at the evolving gay community, exploring the burning questions; is Stockholm syndrome necessarily a BAD thing; is there more to the twerkers of Halsted than meets the eye; and with all the recent advancements in gay rights, how will we handle our happily ever after? 7:30pm-8:30pm, Donny's Skybox at the Second City, <http://gayco.com/godhateshashtags>

Sole Survivor screening Film by Ky Dickens whose previous feature-length documentary was FISH OUT OF WATER. 8pm, Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N State St., <http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/solesurvivor>

Sunday, Sept. 22

Angelina Ristorante "Gay Church" Brunch Known in Boystown as "Gay Church" this Sunday tradition brings cute people & tasty food together! Join Zany Philip, Straight Graham, Cute Bryan, Misbehaving Mikey, Bottle-Popping Justin, Pretty Teresa, Charming Daniel, Super Model Jayson, and Benny the Harry Potter look-a-like for this loud and delicious celebration. CASH ONLY: 11am-2:30pm, Angelina Ristorante, 3561 N Broadway, <http://www.angelinaristorante.com/>

Set Up Romantic comedy for grown ups and winner of the 2013 Neil Simon Festival New Play Contest, is about two people with personal baggage who pull themselves together just long enough to go on a blind date. 2pm-3pm, 773-465-8668, Studio BE, 3110 N Sheffield Ave., <http://www.setupchicago.com>

Bi* Celebration Party! Join the Bisexual

Program along with other collaborative programs at Center on Halsted for Bi* Celebration Party! 5pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., <http://www.communitycenteronhalsted.org/culture>

Monday, Sept. 23

GLBT Loop People Join the funnest GLBT group that meets in the Loop, this time on Monday, September 23, at Chicago's iconic Berghoff Bar. We'll be sitting near the bar, and we look forward to you joining us for drinks and/or dinner. 6pm-8:30pm, Berghoff Bar, 17 W Adams St., <http://www.meetup.com/glbtloop/events/139179202/>

CCPA Faculty Recital: Neal Alger, jazz guitar Neal Alger, a Chicago jazz artist for nearly 20 years, explores his interest in Brazilian, classical, and pop music in his solo guitar recital. (Free); 7:30pm-9pm, 312-341-2352, Ganz Hall at Roosevelt University, 430 S Michigan Ave. 7th Floor Chicago, IL 60605, <http://roosevelt.edu/cipa> more information

Ian McFeron live @ Uncommon Ground Ian McFeron continues to tour over 170 dates this year as he celebrates the release of his seventh album. 8pm-10pm, 773-465-9801, Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. Devon Avenue, Chicago, <http://www.ianmcferon.com>

Tuesday, Sept. 24

Drag Race with Frida Lay Chicago's only amateur drag contest, hosted by Frida Lay! A hit at Roscoe's since its premier in 2000. 10am, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St, Chicago, <http://www.roscoes.com> more information

Black Vocality Cultural Memory, Identities, and Practices of African-American Singing Styles, a two-day symposium on how contemporary African-American vocal styles influence and express the reshaping of new cultural identities. Last night Sept. 25. Free. 9am-5pm, 312-369-7559, Columbia College Music Dept, 1014 S. Michigan, Chicago, <http://www.colum.edu/cbm>

Pet Shop Boys Tickets on sale now. 8pm, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress Pkwy, Chicago, <http://www.livenation.com>

Wednesday, Sept. 25

Karen Joy Fowler and Gail Tsukiyama, introduced by Jane Hamilton WCF presents award-winning author Jane Hamilton (Map of the World, Laura Rider's Masterpiece), who will host a reading and conversation with Karen Joy Fowler (We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves) and Gail Tsukiyama (A Hundred Flowers). 7:30pm, Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark St., Chicago, <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Out comedian/actor Kevin Allison: Risk! Former member of MTV's legendary group The State, an active kinkster and teacher at kink camp. Tonight's theme: Tumultuous. 8pm, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress Pkwy, Chicago, <http://www.livenation.com>



HAIL TO HILLARY

Wednesday, Sept. 18

Hillary Clinton will deliver the keynote at Chicago House's Speaker Series at the Hilton Chicago.

ous. 8pm, Up Comedy Club, 230 W. North Ave., <http://risk-show.com>; Tickets: http://upcomedyclub.com/show_right.cfm?id=268715&cart

Thursday, Sept. 26

BarAIDS: Young Professionals Networking Happy Hour The Auxiliary Board of EdgeAlliance is excited to invite you to this year's first BarAIDS event: A young professionals' networking happy hour, benefiting the residents of EdgeAlliance's North Lawndale Campus! 5:30pm-8:30pm, Vertigo Sky Lounge, 2 West Erie Street, Chicago, <http://www.edgealliance.org>

Big Night: Benefiting Chicago's Neediest Animals Annual event benefiting Chicago's neediest animals. Friends of Chicago Animal Care and Control (FCACC) announce Celebrity Chefs event, featuring over a dozen of Chicago's finest chefs serving tastings; 6:30pm-9pm, 773-743-9000, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington St., http://fcacc.org/fcacc_home/home/210-get-tickets-while-you-can; Tickets: <http://fcaccbignight.eventbrite.com/>

WCF presents Edwidge Danticat, Claire of the Sea Light Set in a seaside village in Haiti, Danticat's fifth work of fiction Claire of the Sea Light centers on seven-year-old Claire, the tale looks back to the people she's lost in her short life. Admission requires purchase of Claire of the Sea Light from Women & Children First. Women's Voices Fund will provide a limited number of free tickets for those who cannot afford. 7:30pm, 773-769-9299, First Free Church, 5255 N. Ashland Ave., <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

DUNN from page 23

I haven't written a poem. Sometimes a names comes and that is exactly it. Mythical Proportions came to me like that. It doesn't mean that is what the show is about but the title of the show is really a character that is part of the show.

WCT: Were you influenced by other one-woman shows like Lily Tomlin's The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe?

ND: I don't think I was influenced by the shows themselves. I saw that show in New York. I saw Sandra Bernhard use music in her piece. They are very different. I think the genre is very different because you have to hold the audience for that period of time. I think the biggest mistake is to make your show too long. I believe 70 minutes is the right amount of time for my anyways. I don't believe there should be an intermission in a one person show.

WCT: Some shows are so long and a big commitment.

ND: Not only a big commitment but it has to be worthy of being that long. I'm an editor. Saturday Night Live was about editing. You only had about four minutes to make your statement.

You had to pare it down to what you need.

I had to edit because not every word will people be hanging on. I let myself be indulgent but not for the audience.

WCT: Were there characters or stories you left on the cutting-room floor?

ND: Not really, because this is a theater piece. It's a play. I hate to cut anything that gets a laugh. I had some things that were in the show because I thought they were funny but they didn't fit into the story. We cut up until the press night and left some things in for the preview audiences.

WCT: You had told me about Hell in a Handbag's The Birds before and I finally saw it.

ND: I love that. There is a perfect example of everything that is in it belongs in it. Their props are perfect. They pull things out of the movie that comments on the movie. It is really a great time.

WCT: What are your future plans for the show Mythical Proportions?

ND: I am playing it here and don't want to think too far ahead with it. We will see how it runs here. I don't have plans to take it to New York or do it for the rest of my life. I would like to do it in other theaters for short runs maybe

on the West Coast.

WCT: Would you want it to be in a book form?

ND: I don't know. Books are not profitable. If it were a show on television then it would sell but it is hard to get a book published unless it is connected to other media now. I am not saying

Royal George hosting Fabjance cancer benefit

A special performance of the hit comedy Bible Bingo: An Act of Charity in Two Acts will be presented Wed., Sept. 18, at the Royal George Theater, 1641 N. Halsted St., at 7 p.m.

The event will be a fundraiser for Judy Fabjance to help her cover medical and personal expenses, who has survived cancer twice. (Admission is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$20.)

Fabjance has been an instructor at the Second City since 1999, and is a founding member of the sketch-comedy troupe GayCo.

Email angie@undertheguntheater.com to reserve a seat.

no to television but I believe this show is in the medium it belongs in with theater.

Visit www.theaterwit.org or call 773-975-8150 for tickets to Mythical Proportions, now playing at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave., until Sept. 22.



Judy Fabjance.

BILLY MASTERS

"I probably wouldn't go on *The Big Bang Theory* because me and Chuck Lorre, we're not friends. He should get over it. He's in AA and when people are in AA, they're not very forgiving. They need to start drinking and loosen up, I think!"—Roseanne Barr tells the audience at Comic-Con why she won't join former Roseanne castmate Johnny Galecki on *The Big Bang Theory*. Maybe she and Chuck should just sit down and work it out—over shots, of course.

Good news for all of you out there who want to get married to someone but don't necessarily want to live with them. The California Department of Corrections has announced that they will allow inmates to marry same-sex partners. This means that if you go to one of those websites where incarcerated murderers are looking



Don't look for Roseanne Barr on *The Big Bang Theory* anytime soon, Billy says. Photo by Mario Perez

for pen pals, you could start up a little relationship. It's really the best of both worlds. You get married, have conjugal visits, and go home. I should add that the law stipulates that an inmate cannot marry another prisoner. So, while there's no guarantee that you're not being cheated on, at least your spouse won't find another hubby in the big house!

Many straight actors are speaking out about homosexuality. Last week, Gilles Marini told Bethenny Frankel that he thinks it's "uncool" to be in the closet these days. Joseph Gordon-Levitt was interviewed by Out magazine and refused to refute rumors that he's gay, saying, "That would be really tacky." In an interview with The Daily Beast, James Franco admits to liking those rumors: "I don't even care if people think I'm gay. ... I mean, I wish I was. I wish I was gay." And in an upcoming episode of Inside the Actors Studio, Jake Gyllenhaal addressed gay rumors directly: "It's a huge compliment." He then re-affirmed his heterosexuality, and said he loves "tits and ass."

A few months ago, I told you that wedding planner and TV personality David Tutera was going through a messy break-up. At the time, he and his husband Ryan had been married for 10 years. They were expecting their first children through a surrogate when their marriage hit a rough patch. The only things we know about their problems was a statement released by Ryan: "After repeated attempts at marriage counseling and therapy, we have been unable to save our relationship due to his addiction to sex. He has been engaged in a pattern of hiring sex escorts and prostitutes to support his addiction." Needless to say, Tutera called the allegations "baseless and untrue." What's happened

since then? First, the surrogate gave birth to fraternal twins. Apparently, one of the eggs was fertilized with David's sperm and the other with Ryan's sperm (and that ends the educational portion of this column). Although the divorce isn't yet final, I'm told the couple is inching closer to a settlement. In the meantime, what happened to the kids? In a nod to Solomonic Law, the court ordered temporary custody of each child to its biological father (David got Cielo, Ryan got Cedric).

In some happier news, one of the Village People just got married. Randy Jones, the original cowboy, got hitched to his partner Will Grega. The ceremony took place in New York City Hall on Randy's 61st birthday, and the subsequent festivities went on for three days—fitting since the couple has been together for three decades!

We also should send out congratulations to Sir Ian McKellen, who just married Patrick Stewart. Well, he didn't actually marry him. He "married" him—meaning he officiated over the wedding of Sir Patrick and Sunny Ozell. This was not Ian's first time at the altar. A few years ago he became ordained (or whatever he did) in order to officiate a civil partnership ceremony for two of his male friends back in the UK. While we're not sure what he wore to Mr. Stewart's nuptials, we do know that when he first performed his duties, he wore a long, flowing white gown. Or, as he described it, "Something I bought in India. It was rather fetching." I'm sure it was.

This nicely leads into our next item. Many people credit Torch Song Trilogy as putting a face on gay couples. Although it was a hit, Harvey Fierstein has been so busy acting and collaborating on musicals that he hasn't written a new play in almost three decades. Well, the wait is over. Casa Valentina will get its world premiere at the Manhattan Theatre Club on April 23, 2014. The play, based on a true story, is about a group of heterosexual men who went to the Catskills every summer in the 1960s to dress and act like women. Fascinating.

Could it be that Sara Gilbert inadvertently answered one of the biggest rumors of her life? Sure seems like it. Last week, the ladies of *The Talk* were revealing big emotional secrets. Sara's stemmed from when she was dating her Roseanne co-star, Johnny Galecki. After they'd make out, she'd get depressed. Uh-oh, that's never a good sign.

They discussed it and she revealed she might be gay. "He was super-sweet about it," she says. But then she continued the story: "I started dating a woman who was, like, 18 years older than I was who was also in the public eye and it was something that could have really, like ... people could have found out about." Who was this woman? Faithful readers of this column know the answer. In fact, I believe it's one of the first stories I ever broke. And, Sara's right—the woman is, indeed, 18 years older. Back then, I blabbed all about it. But now, my lips are sealed.

When I'm virtually giving away a blind item, it's time to end yet another column. It suddenly occurs to me that this week I didn't deliver even an inch of skin ... let alone seven or eight. Let me immediately remedy that with the lovely Nolan Gerard Funk—someone I usually bring up when I want to make a joke about bringing in "da Funk." But this time, I'm mentioning the former *Glee* warbler because he recently did a photo shoot for *Flaunt* magazine. And he certainly does flaunt it—not that I'm surprised. While he was a struggling young actor, he was a hot stripper in LA-area gay bars, where his large uncut penis was his calling card. Although he's now known for his other talents, he doesn't mind revisiting his past, as you'll see on www.BillyMasters.com, the site that never forgets. If you have a question for me, drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Sir Ian and Patrick are cast in *Casa Valentina*! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Transgender pioneer reflects on sports past

BY ROSS FORMAN

Lynn Conway is a transgender pioneer whose longtime passion has been sports, particularly adventure sports. She's overcome two similar life obstacles (transitioning and a fear of heights) en route to her current state: a 75-year-old Michigan resident—reflective and respected, passionate and accomplished, innovative and intelligent.

"In a strange way, while rock-climbing years

ago I was learning exactly what I needed to transition, learning how to overcome fear," Conway said. "Although scared of heights, I worked up to some modest climbing in Yosemite Valley—and passionately enjoyed it."

Conway, who lives west of Ann Arbor, has been married to Charlie since 2002; they have been together since 1988. The two were in Washington D.C., this past June for the President's White House Reception in celebration of LGBT Pride Month. Joy, hope and optimism carried

Sept. 18, 2013

throughout the event, filled with other activists, advocates and allies.

Conway has been out and a trans-rights advocate for 15 years, although her involvement with the LGBT community began decades earlier.

"When I went away to college in 1955, I was finally free to begin exploring—but it was very difficult," Conway said. "I thought I was gay [early on because] society was telling me I was. So I sort of randomly tried to find my way into the gay world, but that didn't work."

Enjoying sailing while in college, Conway was also drawn to rock climbing, finding joy in conquering her fear of heights a step at a time.

After earning her degrees at Columbia University in the early 1960s, Conway went west into a computer research career and into climbing in Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. By then she knew what she had to do. She completed her transition in 1968 while living in San Francisco.

"Most of my transition mentors were trans-girls who were either sex workers or entertainers at places like Finnochio's," she said, reflecting on an era long past. "No way could I have been out back then and found a regular job. I didn't have the talent to be an entertainer, so I'd have ended up in sex work."

All along, sports were Conway's crutch, her supporting shoulder. The adventure sports were dangerous and difficult, but transitioning was as well. However, the sports were also exciting. "It's the learning that's fun, the exploring that's fun," she said.

Conway became a widely known computer pioneer while living in stealth after her transition. She also took up whitewater slalom racing and went on to motocross racing, sports that, no doubt, brought her back to summer camp, at age 10, in Maine.

"[Camp] was a transformative experience in my life because all at once I learned about things like making fires, hiking, camping, fishing, swimming, horseback riding, rifle shooting and more," Conway said. "It's what set off my tomboyish adventure-seeking."



Lynn Conway and spouse Charlie. Photo from Conway.

Roscoe's in Red Bull Flugtag

Red Bull Flugtag—an exhibition of the world's wildest human-powered flying machines—will take place in Burnham Park, 3901 S. Lake Shore Dr., on Saturday, Sept. 21. Flights are 1-4 p.m.

Thirty-one teams will launch homemade aircrafts from a 30-foot flight deck over Lake Michigan in an attempt to achieve the age-old dream of human-powered flight. The crew from Boystown nightspot Roscoe's Tavern has teamed with Miss Frida Lay to form the group Hell on Heels, designing a massive red stiletto flying machine.

See <http://www.facebook.com/redbull-flugtag>.

Sky facing Indiana in playoffs

The Chicago Sky, who finished first in the Eastern Conference, will face fourth seed Indiana Fever in the first round of the 2013 WNBA playoffs.

The first game of the Eastern Conference Semifinals will be held at 6 p.m. CT on Friday, Sept. 20, at Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Ill. The game will air on NBATV.

The Sky will head to Indianapolis for the second game of the series on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 2 p.m. CT. Game two will air on ESPN2. The date and time of the final game in the series, if needed, is to be determined.

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