

THE
EVER-
'POPULAR'
KRISTIN
CHENOWETH

PAGE 22



WINDY CITY TIMES

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

MAY 7, 2014
VOL 29, NO. 32

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



LGBTQ youth summit looks at homelessness

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Area youth, activists, service providers and other community members gathered May 2-5 for the 2014 Chicago Summit on LGBT Youth Homelessness, an event hosted by Windy City Times as a followup to its Generation Halsted series.

LGBT youths actively participated in the summit from planning through the final reporting out. Young people were the main participants in sessions held May 2, then were joined by other stakeholders May 3. On May 5, facilitators presented preliminary reports garnered from the findings of the previous days' sessions.

Session topics included housing, healthcare, public policy, legal issues, jobs and education and youths in systems. Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim was one of the summit's co-organizers, along with Kim Hunt of Affinity Community Services, Bonn Wade of Chicago House's TransLife Center, and youth advocates Trian Alexander, Keyshia Laymorris and Breezy Connor.

At the May 5 event, held at the Museum of Broadcast Communications, 560 N. State St., session facilitators identified a number of common concerns and suggestions youths spoke about. Journalist LZ Granderson was the emcee, with six presenters

Turn to page 8



LURIE SERIES
CONTINUES WITH
DR. EARL CHENG
PAGE 6



DREAM TOWN
REALTY MAKES
LGBT EXTENSION
PAGE 12



NEON TREES' TYLER
GLENN TALKS
ABOUT COMING
OUT
PAGE 23



Angelica Ross of TransLife Center's TransWorks Project facilitates a discussion on education and jobs at the summit. Photo by Hal Baim

Educational program for LGBT youth planned

BY MATT SIMONETTE

An educational program is being planned that will provide academic and other support services for LGBT at-risk youth, especially those living on the South Side.

The initiative, to be known as the Lorde Rustin Education & Social Justice Program, is being spearheaded by Bishop James E. Dukes of Pentecostal Liberation Christian Center, 6810 S. Ashland Ave., in conjunction with Prologue, Inc., which operates four programs in the city aimed at helping students who have dropped out of school but want to complete their education. Prologue also operates several alternative high schools in the city.

According to a press release, Dukes conceived the program after meeting with area youths, many of whom said they were both homeless and LGBT. "When I asked them why they were homeless, one of the youth said, 'I have a home. They [my parents] just don't want me there.'"

The initiative is not intended to be a "full-blown educational program," according to Dr. Nancy Jackson, CEO of Prologue. Rather, it will focus mainly on offering assistance to at-risk LGBT individuals aged 16-21 who are either completing work toward a high school diploma or trying to obtain a GED. Those individuals also will be able to access support services such as housing assistance,



Turn to page 11

Dr. Nancy Jackson and C.C. Carter. Photo by Hal Baim

IGNITING OUR 30TH YEAR OF SERVICE

AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO

COCKTAIL PARTY & LIVE SAVE-THE-DATE EVENT

OPEN BAR • DELECTABLE WORLD FARE • DANCING

Guests will also delight in live glass artistry and roof-top views of the sunset over the skyline.

FRIDAY, MAY 16 | 6 - 9PM

IGNITE GLASS STUDIOS
401 North Armour Street | Chicago, Illinois 60642

COCKTAIL OR BUSINESS ATTIRE
Tickets \$185

IGNITE:

LIGHT OUR FIGHT. IGNITE OUR FUTURE.

Tickets & details on our Luxury Vacation Raffle available at AIDSChicago.org/Ignite

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY



Aetna Health Systems | American Airlines | Food for Thought Catering | Public Communications Inc.

BAR SPONSORS



MEDIA PARTNERS

A&U Magazine | BestGayChicago.com | BOI Magazine | ChicagoPride.com | GRAB Magazine | Windy City Media Group

JOFFREY ★ BALLET

CHICAGO

ASHLEY WHEATER
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

"STUNNING...POWERFUL...
TRULY MAGNIFICENT"

— The Telegraph

KRZYSZTOF PASTOR'S
U.S. PREMIERE

APRIL 30-MAY 11

ROMEO & JULIET

A MODERN RETELLING OF SHAKESPEARE'S TIMELESS MASTERPIECE

TICKETS START AT \$31 | 800.982.2787 | JOFFREY.ORG/ROMEO

PRESENTING SPONSOR



LIVE MUSIC SPONSOR

Elizabeth F. Cheney
Foundation

MASTERS OF DANCE SPONSOR



2013-2014 SEASON SPONSORS



PERFORMS AT:

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
OF ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

Jeffrey Dancers: Mahallia Ward & Alberto Velazquez | Photo by: Christopher Duggan

50 East Congress Parkway, Chicago

this week in
WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS		ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS	
Groundbreaking lawsuit; column	4	Dancin' Feats: Adamczyk	15
Part two of Lurie series	6	Hibbert of 'Sound of Music'	18
LGBT youth summit	8	KATM: Neighbors; Stage Fright	20
Wojcik's award; Boos obit	10	'Pregnant Butch'; Gender Fusions	21
Table to Action	11	Kristin Chenoweth	22
Dream Town Realty; Pael a judge	12	Neon Trees' Tyler Glenn	23
Gay in the Life	13	Dish: Baconfest 2014; Naansense	26
VIEWES: Hardacker; letter	14	Billy Masters	29
		OUTLINES	
		Classifieds	26
		Calendar	28

Images on cover (left, from top): Press photo of Kristin Chenoweth; photo of Dr. Earl Cheng by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer; photo of Dream Town Realty by Tracy Baim; photo of Tyler Glenn by Andrew Zaeh

DOWNLOAD THIS!

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

online exclusives at
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



TOTAL R-E-S-P-E-C-T
Legendary divas Aretha Franklin (left) and Diana performed separate shows recently.
Photo by Jerry Nunn



Dr. Laurel Schneider was among those who spoke at the Castaneda Lecture, which focuses on LGBT justice and inclusion.
Photo by Derrick Clifton



Longtime activist Julio Rodriguez had a few words of wisdom at a Project VIDA event.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer

ONE LOVE
The inaugural ONE Northside convention focused on issues such as homelessness.

'BEACON' OF LIGHT
Daytime soap stars such as Crystal Chappell engage in lesbian storylines in the web series Beacon Hill.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
Find out the latest about Nate Berkus, Dustin Lance Black and Lorde.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS



An LGBT-friendly travel expo recently took place at the Center on Halsted.
Press photo

nightspots

MR. CHICAGO LEATHER 2014
MIGUEL TORRES

HEY, MISTER

Find Nightspots on **facebook**

WINDY CITY QUEERCAS
queer and now

SEATTLING WITH SARAH TOCE

Show #572

www.WindyCityQueercast.com



steppenwolf

The pioneers settling the old west fought winter, starvation and wild animals. But they didn't have to balance a checkbook.

THE WAY WEST

BY **MONA MANSOUR** DIRECTED BY ENSEMBLE MEMBER **AMY MORTON**
Featuring Ira Amyx, ensemble member Martha Lavey, Caroline Neff, Deirdre O'Connell, Zoe Perry and Gabriel Ruiz

"Fast, fiercely acted production" -Daily Herald

"Marvelous... especially compelling" -Newcity

"Farcical, sitcomlike spin on the enduring, even self-mocking tall tales celebrating the pioneer spirit" -Chicago Sun-Times



TICKETS START AT JUST \$20.
BUY ONLINE AT STEPPENWOLF.ORG OR CALL 312-335-1650.

Major Foundation Support

Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation

Corporate Production Sponsor



Additional Support



N.C. suit challenges religious discrimination

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

In a first-of-its-kind lawsuit, a group of ministers filed a complaint in federal court April 28 against North Carolina's ban on marriage for same-sex couples, saying that the law's penalties against clergy who conduct ceremonies for same-sex marriages violates their free exercise of religion.

The United Church of Christ (UCC) organized the lawsuit, *United Church of Christ v. Cooper*, which was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, in Charlotte. The UCC is a mainline Protestant denomination, with an estimated 1 million members across the country.

The lawsuit challenges all North Carolina laws that define marriage as exclusively for opposite-sex couples, as well as the state's "Marriage Laws" that "preclude—through the imposition of criminal penalties and otherwise—religious ministers, clergy, or anyone else from performing a ceremony of marriage for same-sex couples, thereby preventing couples in those congregations from freely participating in such religious ceremonies."

The plaintiffs include UCC, clergy plaintiffs and same-sex couple plaintiffs.

"Under North Carolina law, the Clergy Plaintiffs are prohibited under threat of criminal prosecution from performing any such religious ceremonies, and the Couple Plaintiffs are prohibited from becoming married in the tradition of their respective faiths. Such laws," stated the lawsuit, "violate the First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause."

The lawsuit also claims the ban violates the First Amendment right to expressive association of all plaintiffs and, for couple plaintiffs, the constitutional rights to equal protection of the law and due process. It asks the district court to issue both a preliminary and permanent injunction against North Carolina Attorney General Ray Cooper and other state defendants to stop enforcement of the law.

Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry group, noted that North Carolina's ban goes farther than most state bans by "actually criminalizing" a religious ceremony for a same-sex couple.

"In their zeal to withhold marriage from gay couples in North Carolina," said Wolfson, "officials not only pushed a discriminatory constitutional amendment, but further piled on—actually criminalizing clergy marrying couples within their own religious beliefs. The intent was to chill houses of worship from celebrating love in their own faith, and crossed the line in violating religious freedom on top of violating the constitutional guarantee of the freedom to marry."

Jon Davidson, legal director for Lambda Legal, called the lawsuit "particularly promising" because of the criminalization aspect.

North Carolina makes it a misdemeanor for a "minister, officer or any other person authorized to solemnize a marriage" under North Carolina law to marry a couple without them having obtained a marriage license, which same-sex couples cannot obtain from the state.

"If this provision applies to purely religious marriage ceremonies, as opposed to only civil marriages solemnized by clergy," said Davidson, "I believe it would violate the religious freedom guarantee of the First Amendment."

State law can define who can get married and who cannot. Many states, for instance, ban marriage between first cousins. They justify such bans by pointing to scientific studies that indicate an increased risk for producing children with birth defects. But states with bans on same-sex marriages have had a hard time justifying them, and courts have routinely found their explanations unconvincing. Most



Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry group. Photo by David Shankbone

lawsuits challenging state bans on allowing same-sex couples to marry argue that the bans are driven by a desire to discriminate against LGBT people.

Gary Buseck, legal director for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, said the religious arguments in support of allowing same-sex couples to marry "have been floating around for some years and have been laid out to some extent in amicus briefs in some cases." But he said the UCC case may not move far at all simply because there are cases further along in the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, which includes North Carolina.

The Fourth Circuit will hear arguments May 13 in *Bostic v. Schaefer*, a case being led by the legal team of Ted Olson and David Boies. Lambda Legal and the ACLU have become intervenors in that case because they have a similar one in Virginia, too.

Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, general minister and president of the UCC, said his denomination is "proud to defend the religious freedoms upon which this nation was founded."

Meanwhile, Cooper filed a brief opposing a request in an ACLU-led lawsuit, *Fisher-Borne v. Smith*, on behalf of six couples. The request is seeking a preliminary injunction and expedited review to allow a lesbian couple's marriage in Massachusetts be recognized in North Carolina to secure health coverage for their child with cerebral palsy.

Cooper called it an "extraordinary step" that would, in essence, undo the North Carolina law. The brief says the harm that might be experienced by the couple and their child is "outweighed by the harm to the public if State officials are enjoined from enforcing the democratically ratified State laws and Constitution."

"To alter the definition of marriage, by means of injunctive relief granted prior to this court's ruling on State Defendants' pending dispositive motions, prior to the final determination of this action on merits, and prior to the Fourth Circuit's and the United States Supreme Court's guidance on this important social issue," wrote Cooper, "is not in keeping with the applicable jurisprudence or the Supreme Court's preferred deliberative process. [Plaintiffs'] motion should be denied on this basis alone."

The response was likely a surprise to some, given that Cooper, a Democrat, has expressed his opposition to the ban on same-sex marriage. But he has also vowed to enforce the law as long as it is on the books. Local papers have reported for months that Cooper is expected to be a candidate for governor in 2016.

The ACLU had until May 5 to reply to Cooper's response.

©2014 Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

Open To Thinking

BY NICK PATRICCA



Rancher Bundy and Civil Religion in the U.S.A.

In his 1762 treatise 'The Social Contract' Jean-Jacques Rousseau presents the principles necessary to construct legitimate political authority in the modern world, a world that had lost or destroyed the traditional foundations for government. In Book 8, he presents the idea of a 'civil religion,' a religion that the state should endorse to promote good citizenship. Rousseau's civil religion preaches: 1) the existence of a supreme deity that exercises some providential control over history and nature; 2) an afterlife in which virtue is rewarded and vice is punished; 3) an active tolerance by the state of all religions as long as their practices do not interfere with the core values of the nation-state.

In essence, Rousseau argues that the political authority of the modern nation-state requires a civil religion to make legitimate and to justify its right to govern its citizens.

In his 1967 essay 'Civil Religion in America,' the sociologist Robert N. Bellah

Let's examine a current extreme example: Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy believes he has a constitutional right to graze his 900 cattle on federal land. On April 12, 2014 hundreds of self-proclaimed 'militia' rallied in Bunkersville, Nevada, to support the rights of rancher Bundy. These armed women and men mustered to defend Bundy's 'constitutional rights': to pursue his happiness through ranching, to exercise his freedom through the use of federal lands for grazing, and to protect his property (cattle) through force of arms if necessary.

Bundy uses USA land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of our federal government to graze his cattle. The BLM alleges that Bundy now owes 1.1 million in grazing fees. According to various reports in the media, Rancher Bundy says alternately either that he does not recognize the federal government or that he does not recognize the federal government's ownership of the

land. He also adds that in the past (prior to 1993) he paid the fees to the BLM as management fees not as grazing fees. He now claims the BLM are not proper managers. To make a states rights point, Bundy affirms that he abides by all

"The words 'Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness' do not appear in our Constitution; they appear in our Declaration of Independence."

explores the concept of civil religion as it manifests itself in the USA. For Bellah, the basic elements of our civil religion are: the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution as the sacred scriptures (sometimes Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is added to this list); the War of Independence and the Civil War as the sacred events; Chosen People, Promised Land (Exodus), New Jerusalem, Sacrificial Death and Re-Birth as the sacred themes; Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln as the high priests; and Liberty, Democracy, and Free Enterprise as the core rights of citizenship. And, of course, Thanksgiving is our civic holy day officially established by Washington October 3, 1789.

In the 20th century, communism and fascism, among other isms, developed civil religion into what Emilio Gentile, Walter Benjamin, and others call 'political religion,' an ideology that the state employs as an official state religion in order to control and motivate its citizens, and to suppress dissent. Interestingly, another form of political religion has developed in our contemporary USA society. This type of political religion is not used by the state to impose its will on its citizens; rather, these political religions are used by various groups within our nation to justify their understandings of the sacred elements of our dominant civil religion. Understandings they are willing to defend by dying for them or killing for them: the classic hallmarks of a religion.

laws and regulations of the sovereign state of Nevada.

Some unkind critics of Bundy have observed that his motive for not paying the grazing fees might not be driven by principle but by the fact that he has not been able to make a living as a rancher for some time. Several of Bundy's supporters countered this complaint with this most intriguing logic: Bundy has a constitutional right to be a money-losing cattle man because it is his way of life and the constitution guarantees his right to pursue his happiness as he sees fit.

The words 'Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness' do not appear in our Constitution; they appear in our Declaration of Independence. Nevertheless, in many versions of our civil religion, these words are perceived and used as sacred text, as gospel equivalent to constitutional text.

Though Locke, and many other philosophers, posit the protection of 'life, liberty, and property' to be the principle functions of government, it is unique to us citizens of the United States to proclaim 'the pursuit of happiness' as a function of government.

The Bundy affair has many dimensions. The one most interesting to me is this: the pursuit of happiness as a principle of political authority and legitimacy.

© nicholas.patricca@gmail.com

Nick Patricca is professor emeritus at Loyola University Chicago, president of Chicago Network and playwright emeritus at Victory Gardens Theater.

HRC condemns Brunei death sentence

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) issued a statement condemning the government of Brunei's decision to allow a series of penal-code reforms to take effect that will soon include stoning as a possible punishment for engaging in same-sex activity.

"LGBT citizens in many countries around the world remain persistent targets of harassment,

arrest, violence, and torture for simply being who they are," said Ty Cobb, HRC's director of global engagement. "The decision by the government of Brunei to soon become the eighth nation to allow the death penalty against LGBT people is horrific and sickening."

In October 2013, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah announced that he was amending the nation's

criminal laws and introducing amputation, flogging and stoning as possible punishments for a variety of so-called offenses, according to the HRC statement.

These changes were scheduled to be implemented in three phases beginning on April 22, but were temporarily put on hold by the government of Brunei earlier this month. However,

according to a royal decree issued April 30, the first of three phases of implementation was slated to begin May 1.

Already, actions had occurred around the world because of the law. The Dorchester Hotel in England is facing a boycott from fashion and screen stars in a situation over the statute, according to The Evening Standard. In addition, the OutGiving conference, which involves LGBT heavyweights, pulled out of California's Beverly Hills Hotel because the sultan of Brunei owns the property.

Pentagon declaration leaves out 'T' in LGBT

The Pentagon issued a new declaration of its goals for human rights—and although the document affirms for the first time inclusion of gay, lesbian and bisexual service members, it omits any reference of either transgender troops or civilian workers, The Washington Blade reported.

The document, known as the Department of Defense Human Goals Charter, sets forth principles for the Pentagon to "create a culture of inclusion" in the U.S. armed forces, both on the military and the civilian side.

Although the document sets goals for the department, it doesn't necessarily reflect a change in policy or law.

During the signing ceremony April 28, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel touted the progress the Pentagon in integrating openly gay people in the military since repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the U.S. Supreme Court decision against the Defense of Marriage Act.

The American Military Partner Association (AMPA), an organization for LGBT military spouses and their families, issued a statement regarding the declaration. "We applaud the Secretary of Defense and the Administration for including sexual orientation with these important goals in equal opportunity to build stronger and more inclusive command climates throughout the Department of Defense (DoD)," said Stephen Peters, president of AMPA.

However, Peters added, "We call upon the Secretary and the Administration to take swift action in changing the official DoD Non-Discrimination Policy and the Military Equal Opportunity Program to include sexual orientation as a protected class for uniformed troops against unlawful prejudice and discrimination. ... We also look forward to the day when the Human Goals Charter addresses gender identity and our transgender service members are no longer forced to serve in silence."

LGBT advocates praise VAWA guidelines

A coalition consisting of the Human Rights Campaign, the GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), FORGE and the National Center for Transgender Equality issued a statement applauding "the Department of Justice for issuing strong implementing guidelines for the historic non-discrimination provisions in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)."

The statement adds that the guidelines guarantee "that LGBT survivors of violence receive equal services and treatment free from unlawful discrimination. ... These provisions mark the first ever explicit protections from discrimination for LGBT people under federal law."

The coalition also announced that "the Office of Violence Against Women in the Department of Justice (OVW) announced a framework for analyzing the limited conditions for services that are segregated or specific to gender and prohibited justifications based on overbroad assumptions or past practice." Lastly, the group urged other federal agencies to follow "the lead of the Department of Justice and [apply] similar interpretations of other laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

GLSEN to honor Champaign superintendent

An assistant superintendent in Illinois will be among those GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) will be honoring in New York on May 19.

Dr. Laura Taylor—an assistant superintendent for Champaign Schools in Champaign, Illinois—will be honored as Educator of the Year. Previously, she served as principal of Urbana High School, where she used her background in

social justice work to organize students, educators and faculty members around issues of acceptance and inclusion in schools, according to a GLSEN press release.

GLSEN will also honor New York Times best-selling author Janet Mock, AT&T and the Gay-Straight Alliance of the Year at the 11th annual GLSEN Respect Awards: New York, presented by Wells Fargo at Gotham Hall. Mock will receive the Inspiration Award while AT&T will be honored with the Commitment to Diversity & Inclusion Award. In addition, The Park City High Gay-Straight Alliance of Park City, Utah, will also receive an award.

 /windycitymediagroup



FUELING THE Frontlines

A Global Campaign for LGBTQI Rights



2014 FUELING THE FRONTLINE AWARDS

May 16, 2014

Mayne Stage | 1328 W. Morse Avenue | Chicago, IL

6:30 PM Sponsor Reception - 7:15 PM All Ticket Holder Reception

Celebrating the life and legacy of Vernita Gray and honoring Tracy Baim and Julio Rodriguez for a lifetime of activism

With special musical guest Toshi Reagon

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets available at
<http://bit.ly/FF2014Chicago>

Special thanks to Visionary Sponsors Fred Eychaner,
Michael A. Leppen, and Dr. Nan Schaffer and Karen Dixon



Inside Lurie's Gender & Sex Development Program

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSERFER

Part two: The Sex Development Clinic

According to the Intersex Society of North America, the number of times a child is "born so noticeably atypical in terms of genitalia that a specialist in sex differentiation is called in, comes out to about 1 in 1,500 to 1 in 2,000 births."

However, the society also notes that some children can be born with "subtler forms of sex-anatomy variations, some of which won't show up until later in life."

Dr. Courtney Finlayson, M.D., an endocrinologist at the Lurie Children's Hospital's Gender & Sex Development Program's Sex Development Clinic, explained that there are three major steps in human sexual development. "The first is establishment of chromosomal sex, which happens at birth, and is the combination and of X and Y chromosomes," she said. "The second is development of gonadal sex, which is the process by which gonadal tissue becomes either ovarian tissue or testicular tissue. The third is development of the remainder of the internal and external genitalia under the influence of hormones. Disorders of sex development occur when there is an abnormal step in sex development."

The term "intersex" has recently been seen in many circles as leading to an inaccurate stigmatization of patients, since there are many forms of the condition that are not limited to a person born with both male and female genitalia and diagnosing a patient with the condition is not always so cut and dried. For example, there are people who display abnormalities in their sex chromosomes or who over-produce male or female hormones. Thus, Disorders of Sexual Development (DSD) is currently viewed as the most acceptable description.

A paper the American Psychological Association released has noted the feelings of "shame, isolation and depression" that a DSD patient can feel. "Parents of children sometimes wonder how much they should tell their children about the condition and at what age," the paper stated. "Parents, physicians and intersex persons may have differing opinions about whether, how and at what age surgery should be performed to change the appearance of ambiguous genitals. At this time, there is very little research evidence to guide such decisions."

Finlayson said that one of the most essential tasks for the Sex Development Clinic is a careful evaluation of each of the three steps in a patient's sexual development. As the endocrinologist, many of those tasks fall upon her. "Blood tests to determine chromosomes and hormone levels are measured at specific times in development to try to determine the cause of the disorder," she explained. "Understanding the cause guides our care of the patient. It can help us to predict future hormone production and whether the gonadal tissue (testicle, ovary or ovotestis) will function for reproduction. Over time, the children may require further hormone evaluation and potentially hormone supplementation."

Ultimately, she is part of a team of specialists at the clinic—endocrinologist, surgeon and psychologist—who will meet with and interpret their findings in to the family in an easy to understand fashion and then work together to come up with an optimum care plan.

Dr. Earl Cheng, M.D., is a professor of urology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. He is the co-director of Lurie Children's Hospital's Gender & Sex Development Program and provides direct clinical care for the program's DSD patients.

Cheng's co-founding of the program and partnership with Dr. Rob Garofalo was one that was close to 10 years in the making. "Rob is a very energetic individual," Cheng said with a laugh. "He deals with the population of patients who are gender non-conforming and I deal with the population of DSD patients that are sometimes confused with them. Many years ago, Rob and I came up with the idea of developing a program that could handle both populations. For both political and financial reasons we weren't able to do it then."

Cheng said the medical needs of DSD kids and those who are gender non-conforming are not necessarily the same. However, they require the same specialists for treatment. "These individuals require an endocrinologist to provide an evaluation of the hormones causing the issue at hand," he explained. "They might need surgeons at some point in time and—most importantly—there's a tremendous need for psychological and psychiatric assessment. There's a lack of individuals with the expertise who are willing to provide that sort of care."

A conflux of events helped the Gender & Sex Development Program eventually become a reality—the generous start-up donation they received alongside an increased awareness among the public of the challenges faced by both gender non-conforming and DSD people. "No longer were these two populations of patients just getting shoved under the rug," Cheng said. "Now I think the public is willing to embrace them and see how we can better take care of these individuals. Everything came together at the right time."

Despite the widening acceptance of the term for DSD patients, Cheng wanted to point out that there were reasons why the word "disorders" was not added to the Gender & Sex Development Program. "What we came to understand was that how both gender non-conforming and DSD individuals view themselves is extremely important," he said. "For the gender non-conforming group, to even associate the term 'disorder' with a program they're involved in would be insulting since there is no element of a disorder where they're concerned."

However, Cheng says that, for DSD patients, there is an opposite feeling. "For them, it more like, 'OK I was born with differences and what is the expertise that I need to better understand it? Is it something I want to address from a medical or surgical standpoint or do I want to stay the way that I am?'"

Cheng said he believes that the world is maturing and reaching a progressive understanding that the divisions between male and female and the decisions of surgeons are not black and white. "I think that the United States is behind some of the other countries," he said. "But the bottom line is that all of the people—whether they be gender non-conforming or those individuals who have anatomic variances—sort of fall under the same umbrella from the standpoint of needing to understand that there might or might not be overlap."

Both Cheng and Garofalo said there is still so much that is unknown about the work they do. "I think Rob and I were among the first group of physicians in the field who were never afraid to say 'we don't know,'" Cheng said. "I can't tell you the number of times that a family asks me questions that I don't know the answers to. It goes against how I was trained as a surgeon. Twenty years ago, I was trained to have all the answers."

Some of those unanswered questions concern babies born with certain elements of male and female anatomy. Parents will ask if their child is going to feel like more of a boy or a girl later in life. "There are many times that we say 'well most of the data suggests that they may act more like a male, but they could identify

as female later,'" Cheng explained. "Sometimes parents want to know if they can make the decision based on how the child's organs are going to work. We'll have a uterus that's a little malformed and they want to know if that uterus could be functional down the line. Then you have ovotestis—which is an organ with both ovarian and testicular tissue—and the question is 'how is that going to best function?' We don't know. We're not only taking into consideration issues of psychological identification of gender but also fertility potential."

Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) is the most common cause of ambiguous genitalia in children. The adrenal gland makes an excess amount of testosterone (typically thought of as a male hormone) while a child is *in utero*. This can lead to girls who are born with male appearing external genitalia, including a gross enlargement of the clitoris. "The vast majority of individuals with CAH that are females will identify as females later on," Cheng said. "Although there are incidents of a female declaring that they identify as a male, most of the time girls develop a female gender identity and everyone feels comfortable performing a feminizing genitoplasty. In the past, reduction pro-

cedure—as well as in the long term from the standpoint of sexual satisfaction."

Cheng said that as early as 20 or 30 years ago, surgeons approached the DSD population with a form of arrogance. "The feeling of surgeons in the past was 'when it looks mostly male on the outside, we'll make it male, when it looks mostly female, we'll make it female and if we're not quite sure then we'll just assign it, because—as long as we nurture that gender—the child will be fine.' When a child was born with ambiguous genitalia, the surgeons with the loudest voices would make a decision and tell the family 'this is what we're going to do,' and then surgically they'd make the outer and internal genitalia be consistent with that decision. There was research to suggest that was all good. Then we found out that it was completely wrong. We are much more thoughtful today"

By way of demonstrating how flawed such research turned out to be, Cheng cited the John/Joan case. In 1967, doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital accidentally removed the penis of an anonymous baby boy. A recommendation was made to change the child's gender and raise the child as a female. "They thought the child would do fine," Cheng recalled. "But in reality the individual had tremendous problems growing up and subsequently identified as male. In the medical community, that landmark case has helped prove that the brain has already been imprinted in utero and has a predetermined gender identity. It isn't necessarily concordant



Dr. Earl Cheng, M.D., a professor of urology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer

cedures on the clitoris would be performed that would affect its function, potentially harming sexual satisfaction later in life. We have altered those procedures to allow better concealment of the enlarged clitoris, while at the same time not affecting sensation and function. We're still not perfect but we're trying to move in a direction where we can satisfy the needs of the individual in the short term—as far as how they are viewed when someone changes their

with what their external genitalia looks like."

Today, Cheng has open discussions with the family of a DSD newborn as part of an entire team approach that involves an ethicist, an endocrinologist and a mental health professional. "We have very open discussions with the family and tell them what we know and what we don't know," he said. "In the end though—legally and ethically—the decision belongs to the parents. In many conditions, we try to emphasize

not doing anything irreversible from a surgical standpoint. In a perfect world, the best thing to do would be to keep an individual in a neutral hormonal and anatomic situation and let them decide later on in life. Unfortunately society is not accepting of that and it places tremendous pressure on the family."

Dr. Diane Chen, Ph.D., is a psychologist who has been with the Gender & Sex Development program since July, 2013. She trained at Lurie for both her internship and post doctoral fellowship in clinical child and pediatric psychology and brings a strong family therapy and early childhood development perspective to the program. Along with Dr. Marco Hidalgo, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist, she works with both the Gender Development and Sex Development Clinics.

Thus far, Chen has seen the parents of newborn DSD children up to kids in their early teens (although the clinic will accept patients up to the age of 24). The multi-disciplinary approach the clinic offers to these patients and their families has already shown some distinct advantages. "When newborns were diagnosed with a DSD, their treatment used to be sort of piecemeal," Chen said. "They had to go to one provider for surgery and another for endocrinology. If they needed some sort of emotional support, they might have gotten a social worker or a psychologist separate from all those other providers. The great thing about this clinic is that they see all the providers together."

The goal of the clinic is to provide one-stop services for families. "They can meet with an endocrinologist, urologist, pediatric surgeon and psychologist all together," Chen said. "In a lot of cases we will go in as team to see a lot of these families so we're getting the history all together with each specialty's expertise provided to the parents."

To have just been informed that their newborn has a DSD can be an emotionally devastating time for new parents and Chen views her behavioral health services as essential to them. "When they've just had a child, they want to celebrate that, but how do you do so when everyone wants to know if it's a boy or a girl?" Chen said. "There's a lot of stress and pressure on the parents to come up with something to say and it is such a poorly understood medical condition."

Chen asserts that she hears a lot of confusion from the parents of a newborn DSD child. Parents tend to ask the team what they think will be most the likely gender identity the child will have as they develop. "There's no test for that," Chen said. "Having that uncertainty is really difficult for parents. So we're trying to understand the type of support that parents need to make these decisions."

At the same time, the clinic is actively working to reduce the stigma associated with being a DSD child. "We're trying to put it out there more, and make this not such a shameful thing that families must hide," Chen said. "We let them know that they're not alone. We have families in our program that have volunteered to help support other families. Having that peer support available has been an invaluable resource."

Both Chen and Hidalgo provide a familiar face to parents. They make sure that parents feel supported and are digesting all the information being provided to them by the endocrinologist, surgeons and urologists. After those providers step out of the room, Chen and Hidalgo go to work. "Our medical colleagues are fantastic and do a great job of breaking things down for the families to a level that they can understand, but it's still a lot of information," Chen said. "We debrief the parents on all the information they received and reiterate to them that they're probably not going to remember it all. We also need to get an idea of what they have heard. Parents don't always digest the information they're getting because their situation is so high stress. Our job is to gauge where they are and determine when we need to pull one of the doctors back in or schedule another appointment."

She agrees with Cheng that the field has

evolved enough to encourage parents not to make rash decisions about surgery, especially something that is more cosmetic versus a functional need. "Dr. Cheng will make recommendations to parents based on function," she said. "What needs to be done so, for example, the child can urinate and what can and should be postponed."

"There are groups that will say no surgery should be done and there are still groups that maintain aggressive surgery should be done," Cheng explained. "The bottom line is we don't have enough psychological studies to tell us which approach is right."

Should a parent decide that they want their child to have surgery, Cheng says that procedures during infancy are technically easier than performing surgery as an adult. "The tissues tend to be more malleable," he said. "They are easier to work with and babies heal very quickly. From a psychosocial standpoint, if you do the procedure before they have collected memories, then they aren't going to recall the discomfort and the trauma of the surgery itself."

In the case of older and adolescent DSD children, Chen sees a plethora of sometimes terrified questions and concerns. "They want to know 'what does it mean when my private parts look like a girl's and I was raised as a girl but

genetically I'm XY? Does that mean I'm not a girl? Does that mean I'm really a boy?' Part of our role is to talk them through that."

That process begins with Chen affirming the child's feelings. "I say, 'You know what? You're a girl. Your body may be a little different, but you're a girl. It's their gender identity, it's their expression, it's how they were reared. A lot of the discussion revolves around how having a DSD impacts their lives, who they disclose it to and what is the purpose of that disclosure.'"

In some cases, Chen says it isn't necessary for them to disclose their medical status but—as with most pediatric conditions that require daily medication,—once kids develop into adolescence, the medications serve as a reminder that they are different from their peers. "Part of our role is to work with the kids and their families with adherence to medication," Chen said. "We need to determine if they're accidentally forgetting to take them or choosing not to. That's an issue we have to explore. We need to find out what is playing into that and try to discern whether the child understands the function and importance of the medication."

Most of the teenagers Chen has seen have been extremely well-adjusted. "That's a testament to their families and the care that they have received," she said. "I think where the psychologist's role gets more amplified is with

a DSD child who was reared in a particular gender but who questions their own identity."

The Sex Development Clinic may not be able to completely address all of a child and parent's questions for the moment but that is changing. The team has joined in a multi-institutional partnership with Dr. Amy Wisniewski, Ph.D., who works with research and education at the SUCCEED Clinic at the University of Oklahoma. "She has a study encompassing ten institutions across the United States," Cheng said. "In which we are taking DSD children and performing a psychological assessment of both parents and child. We're looking at before and after surgical results and following these individuals long term. It's unbelievably important for us to understand the impact of what we're doing well and what we're doing poorly in the operating room."

Cheng said he hopes he will be able to sit down with families and provide them with the answers they need to put them on the right path. "One of my mentors once told me that you never go in to see a family with bad news without telling them what you're going to do to rectify the situation," he said. "It's our goal to provide a supportive environment and say, 'look, we're going to work with you and try to figure all of this out. We'll be there with you every step of the way.'"

WE WANT YOU

worldpride
Under License from InterPride
 2014 · toronto · ontario · canada
 JUNE 20-29, 2014
worldpridetoronto.com

THIS ONE IS GOING TO BE HUGE

The world is coming together for a Pride to remember: provocative art, celebrated film and fierce divas, DJs and rockers spanning over 25 city blocks. An entire city embracing who you are.

Join us for a global celebration of LGBTQ culture. Streets will turn into parades, parks into parties and strangers into friends.

YOUR PRIDE WILL KNOW NO BOUNDS

InterPride | Pride Toronto | TD | toronto+ | ONTARIO CANADA



YEPP, the Young Empowerment Performance Project, performed each of the three days of the summit. Here they are at UIC. Photos by Hal Baim

SUMMIT from cover

discussing the following areas: policy, legal, housing, health, youth in systems, and jobs and education. Among the themes that emerged from the summit, according to organizers:

- 1) Youths are in need of more than a bed
- 2) Long-term relationship building is needed
- 3) Additional transparency and accountability from providers is needed
- 4) Visibility of the issue must be raised
- 5) Community assets can be repurposed for solutions
- 6) Youth must have a real voice
- 7) The community must hold itself accountable
- 8) Everything intersects

A common thread throughout the sessions was a frustration in knowing what services and resources were actually available, and who qualified for what.

"We have to make the definition of 'youth' consistent across agencies ... [not having that] creates a tremendous amount of confusion," said activist Nicole Sutton, who facilitated sessions on public policy.

Young people who qualify for assistance in one sector may be too old to do so in another. Few agencies and resources can act as a clearinghouse for youth services, meaning those youths' days are often spent having to do long hours of legwork to find food or a place to sleep. Indeed, many social service agencies have the same problems—some of their representatives complained of working in "silos," where little information is shared with other

agencies, sometimes hindering even their most basic tasks from getting accomplished.

Another issue was helping youths who "aged out" of the system, reaching an age where they no longer qualified for any assistance. Young people across many income levels now depend on support from their family well into their twenties; most homeless teenagers do not have a support system in place once they turn 18 or 21 and are left in limbo when they are dropped from support systems abruptly.

"We need to send them out on the right foot," said Imani Rupert of Broadway Youth Center, facilitator of the Youth in Systems sessions.

Owen Daniel-McCarter of Transformative Justice Law Project facilitated sessions on legal issues, and said that participants were quite often centered on their experiences in Lakeview

and encounters with police there.

"People were clearly traumatized and felt disrespected across the board by interactions with police," said McDaniel Carter, who added that participants suggested a full-time Chicago Police Department LGBT liaison as one of the possible solutions.

They were also eager to see decriminalization of sex work and drug use, two transgressions that often impeded young people's ability to find employment once they reached legal age.

"There are very few opportunities to have records expunged," said Rupert. "When they grow up these are things that stick with them and they have a difficult time finding a job that will get them a living wage."

Turn to page 9



Facilitators included (left to right) Lara Brooks, Imani Rupert, Owen Daniel-McCarter, and Luis Roman.



Workshops at the summit.



Left: Emcee LZ Granderson. Above: a panel discussion. Photos by Hal Baim

SUMMIT from page 8

Finding stable housing also presented a problem for youths. While the city does have myriad services available, they nevertheless are confusing and difficult to access, and obvious solutions are sometimes overlooked thanks to bureaucratic and political hurdles. According to activist Lara Brooks, facilitator of housing sessions, a potential solution are “hosted housing” programs wherein community members can provide space to a youth and their family.

“We don’t need buildings with 250 units,” said Brooks. “We need homes, where young people can have flexibility.”

But Bonn Wade of TransLife Center noted that it has been difficult to obtain funding for such programs.

“We’ve been in front of every politician under the sun,” said Wade. “We don’t fit neatly in with the current requests for proposals.”

Health concerns also posed serious challenges. Despite Medicaid expansion and implementation of the Affordable Care Act, youths often don’t know where they can turn for medical issues.

Luis Roman of Association of Latino/as Motivating Action said that AIDS and STIs were not first and foremost on youths’ minds during the healthcare sections, and that they were often concerned about accessing wellness and child care programs. Granderson, who was Roman’s co-facilitator, added that participants were frustrated at having to frequently come to the North Side to access the services.

Angelica Ross of the TransLife Center’s TransWorks project, facilitated the jobs and education discussions, and pointed to the additional barriers experienced in employment by transgender women of color. She especially promoted entrepreneurial and LGBTQ small business owner involvement as keys to the solution to more employment options.

Other special speakers appearing at the summit included Jama Shelton, Forty to None Project Director of the NYC-based True Colors Fund; activist Monica James; state Rep. Greg Harris; John Pfeiffer of the Chicago Department of Family Support Services; James Cunningham of Housing & Urban Development; and Juliana Harms of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. YEPP, the Young Empowerment Performance Project, performed each of the three days of the summit.

Windy City Times will post findings from the summits plenary sessions, and post videos from keynote addresses, as well as additional reports from summit discussions.



More workshops at the summit.



Trian Alexander (left) and Chris Smith.

The foundations and groups assisting Windy City Times with the summit were: The Crossroads Fund, True Colors Fund, Polk Bros Foundation, Alphawood Foundation Chicago, Liz and Eric Lefkowsky, Pierce Family Foundation, Lehman-Stamm Family Fund, Woods Fund of Chicago, Heartland Human Care Services, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Affinity Community Services, Lambda Legal, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago House, Howard Brown Health Center, The Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action, LM Catering French Caterer, Orbitz, and ChicagoPride.com. The venues donating their facilities are: Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital, the University of Illinois at Chicago Gender and Sexuality Center, and the Museum of Broadcast Communications.



Bonn Wade (left) and Jama Shelton.



Erica Phillips and Joy Messinger from the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health co-lead an adulthood training at the summit.



Jama Shelton, Kim Hunt, Breezy Connor (back), Tracy Baim, Keyshia LaMorris and Bonn Wade.

Wojcik wins ISBA award

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Legal scholar Mark Wojcik has been awarded the Illinois State Bar Association's (ISBA's) Community Leadership Award.

ISBA's Standing Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity presents the award, which honors individuals who have "by individual example and education, worked to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and who have worked towards fostering understanding of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons and the legal issues of concern to them," according to the ISBA's website.

Wojcik, a professor at John Marshall Law School, founded the Chicago Bar Association's Committee on Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men, and was inducted into the Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2010. He is author of the 2004 article "The Wedding Bells Heard Around the World: Years from Now, Will We Wonder Why We Worried About Same-Sex Marriage?" and was the co-author of the first legal casebook on AIDS law, according to the Hall of Fame website. Wojcik has also published articles addressing legal aspects of HIV status and immigration, among other issues pertinent to the LGBT community.



Mark Wojcik. Photo from Wojcik

The award will be presented at the ISBA Annual Meeting on June 20.

Past recipients include the Jenner & Block law firm, Judge Sebastian T. Patti, state Rep. Greg Harris and former AIDS Legal Council of Chicago Executive Director Ann Hilton Fisher.

AIDS groups criticize case of HIV transmission

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Officials from local AIDS organizations spoke against an announcement April 24 that a Chicago man was being charged with criminal transmission of HIV.

According to Cook County prosecutors, Johanson Little, of the 4400 block of South State Street, dated a Cook County woman from June 2012 to June 2013. She later tested positive for HIV and said that Little was the only man with whom she had sexual relations during and after that time frame. Little had told the woman that his wife had died from ovarian cancer, but the wife's family later said that she had died from AIDS complications, reported Chicago Tribune April 24.

Little was charged with criminal transmission of HIV, a class 2 felony. On April 24, Judge James Brown ordered Little held on \$750,000 bail.

Suraj Madoori, Coordinator of AIDS Foundation of Chicago's HIV Prevention Justice Alliance, said that the state's laws criminalizing HIV transmission in cases such as this inexorably complicate public health measures.

"Why would you ever want to get tested, if you knew that it would get back to harm you

further?" Madoori asked. "Laws like these are detrimental to building good relations with communities who are at risk for transmission."

He added that the laws are remnants of an age when governments knew nothing about HIV and were doing whatever they could to prevent the infection from spreading. "They no longer make any sense, and they are based on data from the 1980s."

Tom Yates, executive director of AIDS Legal Council Chicago, added, "I'm unaware of any evidence that laws such as these prevent transmission of HIV. To me, the law stigmatizes disclosure."

Yates added that, despite a presumption of innocence, the man's status is now a matter of public record. "It's unfortunate that this information was reported and released."

TWO launches Center Against Religious Extremism

Chicago-based organization Truth Wins Out announced the launch of its new Center Against Religious Extremism (TWO CARE.org), "which aims to hold America's religious right accountable for promoting theocracy at home and shipping its dangerous brand of hate abroad," according to a press release.

TWO CARE launched with a \$100,000 match-

PASSAGES

D.J. Boos

D.J. (Danny) Boos Jr.—a longtime Chicago service industry figure, 1997 Mr. Chicago Leather, and accomplished contemporary "green artist"—died suddenly of an apparent cardiac arrest on March 14. He was 48.

Born April 4, 1965 in Beaverton, Michigan, to Danny W. Boos Sr. and Jamie L. De Young-Boos, D.J. graduated from Beaverton High School in 1982, subsequently enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. After an honorable discharge, D.J. briefly relocated to San Diego, California, Saugatuck, and Douglas, Michigan, finally settling in the place he considered home for 25 years: Chicago. On Nov. 7, 2004, on a dance floor, the place where D.J. found his "Chicago Family," D.J. met his partner of nine years, Daniel R. Sullivan, M.A., LPC., with whom he remained closely connected until his death.

A figure in Chicago's service industry since 1989, D.J. bartended for longstanding establishments in Chicago's Boystown and Andersonville neighborhoods including Little Jim's, Touché, Bucks, and Northwestern Hospital. For the past 20 years until his death, D.J. served as a supervisor for Chicago hospitality staffing employer and friend Todd Armbruster at Service Is Us (SIU). Additionally, early in his life, D.J. developed a love of art, designing and painting figures for his 20-year hobby playing Dungeons and Dragons. However, in recent years D.J. discovered his passion for green art, refurbishing discarded items and developing it into amazing works of contemporary "trashion" art.

In addition to his career in the hospitality industry, D.J. often donated his time to Chicago's LGBTQI community, including the Chicago Hearts Foundation, producer of the forerunning Chicago HIV/AIDS fundraiser Chicago Fireball; Test Positive Aware Network; and The Center on Halsted.

D.J. is survived by former partner and lifelong friend, Daniel R. Sullivan; two stepdaughters, Brittney M. Sullivan & Sascha R. Sullivan; two stepgrandchildren, Luke A. Sul-



D.J. (Danny) Boos Jr. Photo from Daniel Sullivan

livan & Bailee R. Whitaker; cousin L. Leatherberry; "Chicago family" Scott A. Jones, Steve Hiltbrand, Matt Moder, Kevin McKee, Rob Lehnhoff, Ric Clark, Jeff Giffin, Brandon Edwards, Chris Newman, Collin Kurth, Jorge Quintero, Molly Callinan, Dawn and Paul Magyer, and numerous friends.

Also surviving are his mother, Jamie L. DeYoung Boos; sisters Melissa Yager, Christie Boos and Donnaleigh Christie; nieces & nephews Jamie Yager, Kimber & Keenan Boos-Harless, Maxine and Jessie Christie. D.J. is preceded in death by nephew Brandon Boos; maternal and paternal grandparents; and biological parent Danny W. Boos Sr.

A memorial took place March 16 at the Herderge-Brieske Funeral home officiated by Brooke Benjamin of the Chicago Cremation Society. A Life Celebration with dispersal of D.J.'s ashes will take place on Sunday, May 18, at 11 a.m. at Lake Michigan's Hollywood Beach. Donations in DJ's honor should be made to Test Positive Aware Network (<http://www.tpan.com/>).

ing grant from philanthropist Henry van Ameringen.

The center's initial report, which TWO CARE researcher Bruce Wilson released, will focus on "The Gathering," an annual event where the religious right's philanthropic community doles out up to \$1 billion in grants.

AFC among HUD HIV/AIDS housing grants

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced \$29 million

in grants to assist more than 1,200 extremely low-income persons and families living with HIV/AIDS annually.

AIDS Foundation of Chicago's (AFC's) Re-entry Housing for Health Partnership, is awarded a HOPWA permanent supportive housing renewal grant of \$1,419,482 to continue providing scattered-site tenant-based rental assistance to 33 post-incarcerated individuals annually.

In addition, AFC's Chicago Housing for Health project has received a HOPWA permanent supportive housing renewal grant of \$1,423,774 to continue providing supportive housing to persons living with HIV/AIDS in Chicago.

These were the only programs in Illinois to receive such grants from HUD.

Ehrlich Dental

General & Cosmetic Dentistry

"I have never felt more at ease in a dentist's office."

- Licensed Sedation Dentistry
- Check Out Our Reviews Online

3118 N. Sheffield Ave.
Chicago, IL
(773) 935-0300

www.EhrlichDental.com

Serving Lakeview & Beyond!



Joshua H. Ehrlich, DMD



BEAN BLOSSOM
PRODUCTIONS

Video Production Services

Special event videos for:

- Weddings/civil unions
- Social gatherings/group functions
- Team events
- Portraits
- Actor video reels/head shots

Small business videos for:

- Website/social media content
- Real estate promos
- Training programs
- Promotional materials & e-newsletters

Call us today!

Telling your story through compelling digital media.
www.BeanBlossomProductions.net

Serving the community with pride!

773-727-5642



Community leaders share a creative mapping exercise at the Table to Action workshop. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Social-justice issues discussed at Table to Action workshop

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

About 30 local activists, organizers, faith leaders and scholars including members of the LGBT community gathered at the Table to Action workshop featuring art, relationship building, story and song at the Chicago Theological Seminary April 25.

The goal was “to imagine and plan ... what it takes for one city to turn a desire to stand with and for each other across issue, faith, race, and orientation into a concrete plan for action.”

During the day-long event, participants were asked to share their dreams for the future on issues that matter to them the most and LGBT equality was expressed by more than one of the participants.

Leaders at the Center for Arts and Activism, Stephen Duncombe and Steve Lambert, spoke about the history of creative activism and facilitated a creative mapping workshop where groups were asked to use art to share their vision of an ideal future for Chicago.

Rev. Benjamin L. Reynolds and Sabrina Hayeem-Ladani performed an original piece of poetry using participants’ thoughts about an ideal world and Rev. Dr. JoAnne Marie Terrell and Sabrina Hayeem-Ladani provided the musical benediction to close out the day’s events.

See www.tabletoaction.org and www.artisti-cactivism.org for more information.

‘Of Home and Dreaming’

BY THE TABLE TO ACTION PROJECT PARTICIPANTS—APRIL 25, 2014

Home is not a place to be found, but a place to be created.

Kids play outside without adults watching over them.
My daughter is a blessed gift. There is room for her to run and children with whom she plays. Youth come together to learn about their ancestors. They are fed, they are clothed, they are loved.

Home is not a place to be found, but a place to be created.

Everyone has equal opportunity to walk, play and raise families in compassion and love. The night outside my door is where people are gathered, with music and dancing. I dance. We all dance. We are free to go out in the middle of the night.

Bachata, hip-hop and country western on the same 10-minute walk, solar panels, children on my porch that aren’t mine. I have a porch. Families and friends telling stories, I raise my two sons with my best friend and work part-time as a pastor in a small church that has monthly poetry slams. I sing in a community choir and speak Spanish as often as I speak English and I can share Calle 13’s new song with everyone because they’ll understand it.

Shelly Ann lives next door and her triplets play at my house while I translate from the Greek to my sermon.

I hear laughter, sounds of aha!, smiles, hugs, and thank you’s. Smells of barbecue, melon, iced tea. Food is shared at tables, corn on the cob so fresh it’s like candy. Your oldest relative is someone I know and see. I know her story and how her hand feels.

Home is not a place to be found, but a place to be created.

Everything is clean and tidy, only the smells of people’s fragrances. Churches without locks on the door, where you wear what you want! Nice quality shirts, jackets, slacks & shoes, cadillacs! LGBTQ pastors are welcome to serve in all congregations. We can drink from any public water fountain we want to, travel anywhere we want! New languages are created to communicate across barriers! We all live in this abundantly colorful world—we know that all is well. No more hungry people, there is a joy pandemic! Places of rest and rejuvenation, grass in all urban communities, a burning memorial for ritualized atonement from past psychic wounds. Those I meet appreciate my beauty and I am dazzled by theirs.

Home is a disease-free world where creativity abounds. Where the definition of family is expanded, where a biracial gay couple pushes a stroller down the sidewalk as the sun shines brightly.

Home is not a place to be found, but a place to be created.

It’s heaven and my mother takes long, slow breaths, her lungs full of clean healthy air. It’s heaven and it smells like springtime—crisp and open where no black woman has knowledge or memory of pain or lack. If one is sad, all are sad— This is a common humankind. It’s heaven and God allows an infinite number of kisses that feel warm and easy and good. Heart opening— Love gushing out— No more masks— Snapshot of a dream.



Bill Kurtis and Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim. Photo by Hal Baim

WCT publisher earns two journalism honors

Windy City Times publisher Tracy Baim was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chicago Headline Club, a mainstream journalism organization that honors the best in Chicago journalism at their annual Peter Lisagor Awards. Veteran broadcast journalists Bill Kurtis and Karen Meyer were the other Lifetime Achievement Award recipients. Dozens of other awards were also presented for journalism work from 2013. Baim received a Lisagor Award for her editorials about marriage equality in Illinois.

PROGRAM from cover

health care and job referrals.

Jackson added that she expects the program, which the principals hope to launch by September, to have a staff of about six or seven people. Activist Dr. Carla (“C.C.”) Carter will serve as initiative coordinator.

“I think that it’s important to remember

that we now have an opportunity to do right by people who have told us they were not feeling welcome, and help them make a transition into higher education,” Jackson said. “This idea came up before, and we would often be told that ‘the community isn’t ready’—but now, when Illinois has marriage equality and the LGBT community has made so much progress, maybe it’s time.”

Silhouette Window Shadings

HunterDouglas

celebration of

Light

savings event

April 1–June 13, 2014

Light that invites.

Silhouette® Window Shadings diffuse the sun’s rays, creating soft light that naturally illuminates your home. Save now with valuable rebates. Ask for details.

\$25 to \$100

rebate per unit*

ON SELECT HUNTER DOUGLAS WINDOW FASHIONS

HOM by Ray & Son
Chicago and All Suburbs
Gay Owned Over 35 Years
847-541-4848
www.hombyrayandson.com

Ask about **FREE** Measuring and Installation

The Art of Window Dressing **FREE** ideas booklet with the ad

*Manufacturer’s mail-in rebate offer valid for purchases made 4/1/14–6/13/14 from participating dealers in the U.S. only. Rebate will be issued in the form of a prepaid reward card and mailed within 6 weeks of rebate claim receipt. Funds do not expire. Subject to applicable law, a \$2.00 monthly fee will be assessed against card balance 7 months after card issuance and each month thereafter. Additional limitations apply. Ask participating dealer for details and rebate form. © 2014 Hunter Douglas. All rights reserved. All trademarks used herein are the property of Hunter Douglas. SPG14MB3 41382



The Dream Town realty team. Photo by Tracy Baim

Dream Town Realty creates first LGBT client-services division

BY DERRICK CLIFTON

A local realty company has created a first-of-its-kind client services team, in hopes of meeting emerging, specific needs of LGBT people in the housing market.

During the past several weeks, Dream Town Realty publicly launched a division that includes more than a dozen LGBT-identified brokers, who are ready to help couples and families navigate real estate issues in a rapidly changing legal landscape.

In the process, company leaders say, they hope to inspire a "pride of ownership" in the community.

"We anticipate this division to be a space where we can give and receive support, making it a win-win for everyone involved," said Yuval Degani, president of Dream Town Realty. "We feel that it's very important to take a stand,

and we've weighed the risks."

Marketing specifically towards a community demographic segment is an unusual, if not unheard of move for a real estate company, one that Degani didn't take lightly. Near the eventual passage of Illinois' equal marriage bill last fall, he and other company leaders decided to embark on a six-month exploratory process that resulted in a new LGBT wing of the business.

Leveraging a pool of LGBT talent and straight employees who openly support the community, Degani said he was confident about making the leap.

"We felt some people might be upset or view this in a negative way and we said, that's okay," he said.

In the brokers' combined decades of experience and multiple accreditations, they've had to help LGBT couples and families as best as they could given the many legal provisions

that weren't available for them. Doing their best work often meant adapting for clients as best as possible. And, more often than not, they did the work of LGBT community outreach alone and without support.

"I had to advertise in gay publications everywhere and my company was not supporting me at all. In some ways, they were unsupportive," said Chad Duda, a residential specialist for Dream Town Realty. "It's nice to be at a company that supports the community."

Jim Schiefelbein, an outside consultant who works closely with management at Dream Town Realty, said, "The company is moving this instead of the employees moving it."

With Illinois' equal marriage law now being implemented in Cook and a few neighboring counties prior to the law's statewide effective date of June 1, legal changes have arrived much quicker than employees at Dream Town Realty could've anticipated.

Paue elected associate judge

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Attorney Linda Paue, a lesbian who last year withdrew her bid to be elected judge of the circuit court of Cook County, 10th subcircuit, has been elected to be an associate judge, according to an April 29 statement.

Paue is one of 13 individuals who were elected in an internal election administered by the circuit court of Cook County.

Judicial candidates were evaluated by the Alliance of Bar Associations and the Chicago Bar Association, as well as a nominating committee consisting of Chief Judge Timothy Evans and 10 presiding judges. The appointment will last through June 30, 2015, at which time Paue would have to be reappointed.

In August 2013, Paue told Windy City Times that she was committed to the integrity of the judiciary: "As someone who has been practicing for 23 years, my day-to-day interaction is with judges and lawyers, and that's been the focus for me," she said. "In order to have a healthy government, we also need an impartial judiciary. That's where my passion lies. Most of the judges out there are fantastic, but that's not always true."

She added that she became more interested in judicial elections when observing the campaign of her friend, Judge Mary Roberts.

"It was fascinating to learn that it's not always about qualifications and integrity, and that it's sometimes about politics and backroom deals. I want to change that," Paue said.

Paue also ran in 2010, but narrowly lost to Susan Kennedy Sullivan.

WACT celebrates two decades with potluck

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Women of All Cultures Together (WACT) celebrated its 20th anniversary with a big potluck event at the Chicago Theological Seminary on May 3.

"It is about women of all cultures coming together just to have a brunch and eat," said Rita Adair, WACT liaison on the event committee. "There's no agenda, no affiliation to any religion or organization, there not budget, there's nothing. It's just women coming together to mingle and network and have good food and it's lasted for 20 years."

Launched in 1994, WACT is a potluck brunch and social-support organization for all lesbians and bisexual women. Modeled after Men of All Cultures Together (MACT), Merilee Snyder, Evette Cordona, Phyllis Johnson and Claire Huang came together with a vision to provide a social venue for women who did not

want to meet at bars.

"What we were looking for was a way to break the color line," said Johnson. "First off, a lot of lesbians, their social scenes were based in the bar and we didn't want to do that and we wanted to have a way for white women and Black women, Asian women and Latina women, to come together and just be."

Johnson hosted the inaugural brunch in May 1994, welcoming 10 attendees.

Remembering she brought the lemonade and first salad to the first brunch, she said each meeting held the first Sunday of each month maintains the original mission and a laid-back, social setting.

"I think about how they've lasted for 20 years and maybe it is because there's no agenda and no affiliation," said Adair who has been a liaison for a year and coming to WACT for four years since coming from Wisconsin. "It just exists, so there's no arguments or anything."

The party had over 60 people to enjoy networking and tables of food. A history of WACT was presented and guest speakers Cordona, Johnson and Melvyna Gaynor were honored with awards as well as Affinity Community Services, who has served as a WACT sponsor over the years.

Lucy Shumpert, the event Emcee, provided the event introduction Sandra Peterson said a prayer. DJ Doris played the music during the celebration, while Hakeema and Keema's Kickin' Crew led the line dancing instruction

However, a new section of the company's website was ready well ahead of time, featuring a comprehensive resource directory that includes broker contacts, a variety of resources, and frequently asked questions for LGBT home buyers and sellers. Some common concerns that arise include transitioning from civil unions to marriages, how to manage financial documents and end-of-life considerations.

Most of the content was informed by research commissioned by the company's leadership, which revealed that LGBT people were being underserved or treated unfairly while navigating the home buying or selling process.

In developing an LGBT client services division, Dream Town Realty executives wanted to ensure that the community's specific desires and needs were being directly addressed both online and by their team of brokers, said Schiefelbein.

"[Degani] had an unwavering commitment to making sure there was substance," he said. "We've all been to the pride parade, we've seen people roll through and then they're gone. Here, there's a company that's committed to keeping the resources in play."

Dream Town Realty also plans to host community education sessions on an ongoing basis. The team recently organized an "Pride of Ownership" on April 26 at Center on Halsted, featuring a panel of political and real estate experts discussing how the equal marriage bill changes the game for LGBT housing in Illinois. They've also planned an "Out of the Office" event in June to show appreciation for their clients during Pride Month.

Getting in touch with the community in an authentic way has stirred excitement for both straight and LGBT brokers alike at Dream Town Realty. For some, it's creating an atmosphere that they say makes it one of the best places to work.

"Before they even make a call, they can read online and make a decision. They don't have to ask awkward questions to an agent they don't know anything about at all," said Amie Klujian, one of Dream Town's LGBT client consultants. "I'm proud to work at a brokerage that's at the forefront of this revolution. It makes you feel supported ... and it helps our clients feel good to know they're working with a broker who cares."

For more information on Dream Town Realty's LGBT client-services group, visit dreamtownrealty.com/lgbt.

toward the last few hours.

"I'm really happy about it," said Johnson of the 20th anniversary. "I think it feels a little too Chicago, but this brunch maybe is going to bring back that Latina, white girl, Black girl, Asian girl mix. That makes me very happy. I hope to come to the 30th. I like this event because it was very diverse. We had women from all over the city and women from all different cultures together."

More information on WACT is at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1424956277761473>.

Lambda Legal adds trans-rights attorney

Lambda Legal announced Kyle Palazzolo as a new staff and HIV project attorney at the Midwest regional office in Chicago.

The former Jenner & Block attorney has extensive transgender-rights litigation experience and has co-authored appellate briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court; Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, and Eleventh federal circuits.

While at Jenner & Block, Palazzolo was active in cases involving transgender rights, including serving as co-counsel while achieving a significant victory defeating an Illinois policy prohibiting changes to birth certificates for transgender individuals and co-authoring an amicus brief regarding medical treatment for incarcerated transgender individuals.

GAY *in the* **LIFE**
Michael Lunde
 BY ROSS FORMAN

Age
 "Thirtysomething"

Neighborhood
 Lincoln Park

Hometown
 Seattle

Relationship status
 In an 11-year relationship

Favorite movies
 About Schmidt and The Jazz Singer

Favorite TV shows
 The Goldbergs, The Blacklist, and The Following

Hobbies
 Sports, karaoke, "any excuse to be with family, and anything to do with the outdoors."

Favorite sports team
 Seattle Seahawks

Former job
 "I [was] a promoter, bartender, and the Aloha Liaison for Hula's Bar and Lei Stand [in Waikiki] for 10 years."

Favorite drink at a bar
 Ketel One and cranberry juice, with a splash of Redbull and Bud Lite.

Little-known fact
 "I'm a big shoe and hat collector."

Michael R. Lunde was vacationing in Maui from Honolulu, where he lived at the time, when he visited Dan's Green House. A little piglet, which literally could fit in his hands, nudged Lunde's leg. Lunde instantly fell in love. Priscilla Pua'a Lunde is the official name of the miniature Hawaiian pot belly pig, now 10—and both owner and his four-legged friend call Chicago home. "I believe that Priscilla picked us to be her family," said Lunde, who moved to Chicago earlier this year with his longtime partner, Raqi Couture, and a good friend of theirs, Travis Hanakahi. "She's a perfect addition because she is smart, clean, potty-trained, and so adorable. Look at our family: different and eye-catching. She's a perfect fit."



"Priscilla is like my own daughter. Although it takes a lot of effort to relocate a pig and a golden doodle [dog] across the [Pacific] Ocean, Priscilla is everywhere I'm at. I don't even think she knows that she is a pig." Priscilla eats protein pellets in the morning, fruits and veggies for lunch and dinner. She also chows an occasional veggie lovers pizza, Lunde said. "We built a section for Priscilla [at our home in Hawaii], made with three or four-foot high walls," Lunde said. "We left her home alone for the first time and, when we came home, she wasn't in her section. After looking in panic, we finally found her cozily wrapped in our comforter on the bed. "We learned that she is a jumping piglet and covers herself in a blanket." Lunde used to walk Priscilla through Waikiki, "and we felt like we were with a celebrity. We couldn't walk five feet without tourists asking to take a picture with Priscilla. If she charged each tourist for a picture, if it was her choice, she would have an endless supply of fruits and veggies."

OUTCHICAGO



with Scott Duff

Chicago's LGBT Radio
 WCPT 820AM | Sundays 11a-1p
 Streaming live at chicagosprogressivetalk.com

Chicago's Progressive Talk Proud all week long



**THIS SUMMER:
 REDEFINE POSSIBLE**

JOIN US FOR
OPENING NIGHT
MAY 16 @ 7:30PM
AT ALLSTATE ARENA



**TICKETS START
 AS LOW AS \$15**

866.SKY.WNBA | CHICAGOSKY.NET

VIEWPOINT

WINDY CITY
TIMES

VOL. 29, No. 32, May 7, 2014

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

PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
 MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis
 BUSINESS MANAGER Ripley Caine
 DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA Jean Albright
 ART DIRECTOR Kirk Williamson
 SENIOR REPORTER Matt Simonette
 SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Terri Klinsky,
 Kirk Williamson, Amy Matheny, Chris Cheuvront,
 Gretchen Blickensderfer
 PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT Scott Duff
 NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863
 SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, David Byrne, Tony
 Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair
 THEATER EDITOR Scott C. Morgan
 CINEMA WRITER Richard Knight Jr.
 BOOKS WRITER Yasmin Nair
 SPORTS WRITER Ross Forman
 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS
 Mary Shen Barnidge, Steve Warren, Lawrence
 Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Jerry Nunn, Jonathan
 Abarbanel
 COLUMNISTS/WRITERS: Yvonne Zipter, Jorjet
 Harper, Meghan Streit, Charlise Dewey, Carrie
 Maxwell, Billy Masters, Sarah Toce, Dana Rudolph,
 Sally Parsons, Melissa Wasserman, Joe Franco, Nick
 Patricca, Liz Baudler, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda,
 Kate Sosin
 SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS Mel Ferrand, Hal Baim,
 Emmanuel Garcia, Tim Carroll, Ed Negron, Susan
 Mattes

CIRCULATION

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright
 DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Renee,
 Sue and Victor
 WEB HOSTING: LoveYourWebsite.com (lead
 programmer: Martie Marro)

Copyright 2014 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.
 (773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
 e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com or
 Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
 podcast: WindyCityQueercast.com

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,
 5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, Illinois 60640
 U.S.A.
 (MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Windy City Times Deadline every Wednesday.
 Nightspots Deadline Wednesday prior to street date.
 OUT! Resource Guide ONLINE
 www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
 www.WindyCityQueercast.com

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

Community Marketing, Inc.



CEC
HARDACKER

HBHC town-hall meeting to look at health, aging

The first of five community town-hall meetings that Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) will host this spring will focus on the health needs of Chicago's aging LGBTQ community.

We welcome the participation of seniors and anyone interested in discussing the concerns and health needs of aging LGBTQ individuals. The first Town Hall will be hosted by CEO David Ernesto Munar, Magda Houlberg, MD, Medical Director and geriatrician, and myself on Monday, May 12, 6-7:30 p.m., at the Brown Elephant Resale Store, 3651 N. Halsted St.

HBHC is hosting these meetings as a part of our community needs assessment, which is conducted every five years to get a better un-

derstanding of the LGBTQ community's unique health needs and concerns. The information gathered from this community town-hall meeting will be used for planning purposes, and will be shared with the larger community.

It is widely understood that services available for the aging LGBTQ population are limited. Multiple factors point to a critical lack of services for the aging population in general; numbers of older adults are rising exponentially (10,000 baby boomers are turning 65 each day). Of 65+ adults, 2 to 15 percent identify as LGBTQ. At the same time, nursing colleges report a shortage of faculty available to students applying for beginning programs, and indicators reveal a significant shortage of graduate nurses specializing in gerontology. Further, nursing programs (and most medical curricula) do not require expertise in or provide training to facilitate culturally competent to care for aging LGBTQ individuals, placing those individuals at increased risk for poor health outcomes.

Well-known barriers to care persist for the aging LGBTQ population. HBHC is preparing for the inevitable increase in numbers of 65+ patients/clients (estimated increase of 24 percent by 2020 and 100 percent by 2040) who will present with geriatric health issues and multiple chronic conditions. To be proactive and prepare for the rising numbers of people

in need of culturally competent primary care services, HBHC is proud to host this and other community discussions to amplify understanding and support about the health and wellness needs of the over-65 LGBTQ population.

In recent years, we have made progress mitigating health disparities for aging LGBTQ people. However, health issues in our community persist, and there is still important work to be done to meet these needs.

The May 12 session is part of The Chicago Community Trust's "On the Table" initiative, which is mobilizing Chicago area residents to come together to discuss real issues and practical solutions that help shape a collective future for the people of Chicago.

We are eager to hear your stories, and we encourage you to join us in person or via Twitter using hashtag #HBHCTownHalls.

Cec Hardacker, RN, is the HBHC director of geriatric education and lead trainer for the Nurses Health Education About LGBT Elders (HEALE) Curriculum. She is currently completing a master's degree in clinical nurse leadership at Rush Medical College. She is bilingual English/Spanish educator and a proud member of Chicago's LGBTQ community. For more information on HEALE, visit www.howardbrown.org/HEALE.



LETTERS

PrEP rally

An open letter to the
 AIDS Healthcare
 Foundation (AHF)
 President Michael Weinstein

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

We, the research team at The Hunter College Center for HIV Educational Studies and Training (CHEST), are deeply concerned about your recent inflammatory remarks about HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), calling Truvada a "party drug" and "ineffective" in preventing HIV transmission. We know that the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), as the largest HIV/AIDS services organization in the United States with a \$300-million budget, provides services to a diverse range of patients and clients. People who are at risk for HIV and who are HIV-positive often experience barriers due to intersecting factors in accessing HIV services.

The AHF staff and board are also quite diverse in their experiences and approaches to HIV work and in all likelihood, there are staff and volunteers at AHF that do not agree with your position on PrEP. Your position on PrEP ignores the data on its effectiveness and further fuels stigma around sexual behavior and HIV, especially amongst communities that are most at risk for HIV infection—young men of color who have sex with men and serodiscordant couples. The AHF should represent the needs of all people at risk for or living with HIV/AIDS rather than catering only to those who engage in particular behaviors deemed "appropriate" (especially considering they are likely at less risk for HIV in the first place and thus in less need of the AHF's services).

Mr. Weinstein, your position on PrEP is out of touch with the realities of HIV prevention. PrEP is the most promising biomedical intervention to date for preventing new HIV infections in high-risk populations and is designed to provide protection against existing levels of HIV risk. In fact, there is no evidence that the use of PrEP will increase risk behaviors. Research suggests that a majority of people struggle to use condoms 100 percent

of the time, and PrEP would provide an added layer of protection in the face of their existing risk. Men already engaged in bareback sex deserve and need an effective HIV prevention method—condoms should not be the only tool that people have to protect themselves from HIV infection. There are also contributing factors that impact decisions around condom use, such as using substances and engaging in high risk sexual behavior. Shaming non-mainstream sexual practices along with fueling stigma can potentially increase their risk and the difficulty of providing prevention for people engaged in such practices.

Over the past couple of weeks, leading experts and activists working in the field of HIV prevention have spoken out against your position on PrEP, yet you continue to stand by your statements. There is a significant amount of misinformation and confusion about PrEP—misleading information about its effectiveness, side effects and health-insurance coverage, to name a few, that can contribute to the relatively small numbers of people who are currently on PrEP. As professionals working in HIV prevention and care, we need to focus on the realities of the HIV epidemic and work to make

PrEP more widely available to those individuals who are at most risk for HIV infection.

Further, we must focus on understanding and addressing barriers to PrEP uptake, factors that contribute to difficulties with PrEP adherence (e.g., drug use), issues with dissemination of accurate information regarding PrEP to community members and service providers, and the continued stigma that is associated with the sexual practices that put individuals at risk for HIV.

The continuation of the HIV epidemic both nationally and globally requires a shift in the HIV prevention paradigm, and it is clear that the position you have taken on behalf of AHF is dangerous, stigmatizing and out of touch with such paradigm-shifting approaches to prevention.

Signed,
 The CHEST Research Team
 Center for HIV Educational
 Studies and Training (CHEST)
 Hunter College of the City
 University of New York (CUNY)

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

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo
from
Matthew
Adamczyk

CLOWNING AROUND

The Joffrey Ballet's Matthew Adamczyk is pretty multitasking. Read below.

MOVIES

'Fright' night.
Page 20

Still from *Stage Fright*
from Magnet Releasing



DISH

The fest of times.
Page 26

Photo from *Baconfest*
by Ed Negron



THEATER

'Soft' sell.
Page 16

Photo from *Lay Me Down Softly*
by Emily Schwartz



DANCIN' FEATS

Matthew Adamczyk: Joffrey's dancing painter

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

Matthew Adamczyk, 29, grew up in central Massachusetts doing competition dance—"jazz, tap, ballet, acrobatics ... all of it!" he said in an interview with *Windy City Times*. As a high school student at the prestigious Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton, Florida, Adamczyk auditioned on a whim for a dance company he'd never really heard of and got the job. Now in his 11th year at the Joffrey Ballet, Adamczyk has danced in just about every ballet in the company's repertory.

The Joffrey Ballet that Adamczyk walked into more than 10 years ago is very different from the company of today. Gerald Arpino was still at the helm; the company had been in Chicago about nine years. After nearly 20 years as the sole artistic director following the death of Robert Joffrey, Arpino's death in 2007 created a serious shake-up.

Now, sitting Artistic Director Ashley Wheater is taking Joffrey to new heights and has, in many ways, revitalized a company in mourning. Many dancers hop from company to company because the culture, directors, and rep start to feel stale, but the changes that Joffrey has endured over the last decade have allowed Adamczyk to feel continually refreshed and revitalized without leaving the city he now calls home. This is a luxury not many dancers are afforded, and Adamczyk has found a supportive group of friends and colleagues in Chicago, particularly in the LGBT community. Upon moving to Chicago, "I just allowed myself to be me and explore and find the community," he said, "and I have to say the gay community here was so welcoming."

Adamczyk is dancing as Tybalt in the U.S. premiere of Krzysztof Pastor's *Romeo & Juliet*. The ballet maintains the conventional storyline and Prokofiev score, but expedites the ballet to two hours and places the characters in the twentieth century. Even as a veteran, leading dancer, Adamczyk gravitates toward seemingly "lesser" roles. He portrayed Iago in last season's *Othello*, and has loved character roles such as an evil Stepsister in *Cinderella*. "It's definitely the [role] I wanted," he said. "Tybalt, for me, is a really strong character. I like the second character/villain role. I'm really trying to give Tybalt more a youthful feel—I don't want to say bratty—but there needs to be a distinct difference between Tybalt and Lord Capulet. The best way to portray that is with age and maturity level. Tybalt is very sophisticated in my eyes, but he's still a boy. ... Too much aggression can come off as dry, and you've got to make the audience like Tybalt as well."

Adamczyk has had to embody Tybalt, in addition to learning an alternate role, in less than a month. He draws from experience in youth theater and years of training to take choreography and characterization in quickly, but admits that the fast pace of working for an elite ballet company can be challenging. "We're trained to do it ... but it's very difficult. Being a dancer is, apparently according to *The New York Times*, the second most stressful job. We put our lives in other people's hands and we're open to being criticized and critiqued constantly. We don't really have a say; we're just told 'this is how it needs to be; this is how you have to do it.' When your job is telling you 'no, no, no, no,' it's been a saving grace to do my own thing."



Matthew Adamczyk as Iago in *Othello*. Photo by Cheryl Mann

His "own thing," is an independent business as a visual artist. Adamczyk's whimsical style channels the pop art movement, with a big nod to his dancerly knowledge of the human form. He's pushing to establish himself as a painter while he's still dancing, in part to scratch a creative itch he can't get from dancing, but also to have a solid foundation to fall back on when he can no longer perform. A dancer's career is sometimes tragically short, and Adamczyk has nurtured both talents to keep his professional options open, rather than waiting until retirement to start promoting his paintings. Apparently, it's working. His work has been shown at the Guggenheim Museum, and at a growing number of Joffrey events. Recently Adamczyk was selected as a featured LGBTQ artist at Center on Halsted, where his work is

currently shown in the second-floor gallery through May 27.

Lead dancer in a world-class ballet company, accomplished painter and an actor, to boot—it seems that Mr. Arpino was on to something when he hired a young kid from Massachusetts who had never heard of the Joffrey Ballet.

The Joffrey Ballet's *Romeo & Juliet* runs through May 11 at the Auditorium Theatre at Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy. Tickets are \$31-\$152; visit joffrey.org.

The LGBTQ Artists Gallery at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., is featuring Matthew Adamczyk's artwork through May 27 in the second floor gallery. Admission is free. Learn more about Adamczyk's work at dancingpainter.com.



Manny Buckley and Steve Lenz in *Hit the Wall*. Photo by Ryan Bourque

THEATER REVIEW

Hit the Wall

Playwright: Ike Holter

At: The Chicago Commercial Collective in conjunction with the Inconvenience at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: 773-404-7336;

www.greenhousetheater.org; \$20-\$55

Runs through: June 29

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The story of the Stonewall Riots could have been told as a straightforward documentary with stationary actors reciting solemn fact-filled monologues, or it could have adopted a microcosmic approach, focusing on the personal responses of a few individuals caught up in troubling times. Ike Holter employs both of these devices in his account, but he also incorporates elements designed to—well, hit the *fourth* wall, vaulting the barriers separating the audience from the dramatic action with a presentation that swarms over the room like so many angry bees to heighten the immediacy of the events depicted.

The incident encapsulated in a breathless 90 minutes by The Inconvenience ensemble occurred June 27, 1968, on a sultry summer evening in the Greenwich Village district of New York City, when the police made one of their habitual raids on The Stonewall Inn, a bar whose clientele encompassed gay people, cross-dressers, fetishists and other devotees of alternative gender roles. Unlike other nights, however, the culprits refused to go quietly, drawing crowds of supporters who stormed the police station to protest the harassment, shouting, “Out of the closets and into the streets!” By morning of the next day, a full-scale revolution was under way.

We enter the auditorium to confront an adrenalin-pumping soundscape served up by a live rock ‘n’ roll band whose period score quickly immerses us in the ambience of an urban enclave on the brink of duende-fueled abandon. Assisted by the wry surveillance of stoop-sitters Tano and Mika, we meet the archetypal figures who will each play a part in forging a collective identity leading to change—college-boy Newbie and Wall Street A-Gay. Drag-diva Carson and teenage butch-lezzie Peg. Counter-culture drifter Cliff and motor-mouth activist Roberta. Naysayers include family-values proponent Madeline and voice-of-authority Cop, both of whom get their chance to argue in

defense of their choices.

Holter’s perfunctory attempt at fairness does nothing to mitigate the undeniably propagandistic slant of his panoramic view. Histories are written by the victors, after all, and so nowadays there is little doubt as to who the good guys were. The characters may proudly declare “I was there,” but no matter where you were during the era under scrutiny—with its many divisive issues shaking the very foundations of American society—you’ll probably find yourself cheering on these suddenly-self-empowered dissidents as they revel in spontaneous anarchy and hitherto-unrecognized unity. Just try to resist the temptation to kick over trash cans on your way home, huh?

CRITICS’ PICKS

Depraved New World, The Second City, open run. With elements of long-form improv, Second City’s 102nd mainstage revue features an extremely sharp cast (especially John Hartman), some high-risk musical improv, several gay-specific scenes and advanced use of music and sound. JA

Lay Me Down Softly, Seanachai Theatre Company at Den Theatre, through May 25. It’s not Rocky, but Billy Roche’s quiet tale of a carnival boxer who unlaces his gloves to settle down with the woman who loves him works its tough-tender enchantment on us just the same. MSB

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Promethean Theatre Ensemble at Athenaeum Theatre, through May 24. Steampunk design elements enliven the philosophical musings of Hamlet’s disposable sidekicks in Tom Stoppard’s career-launching play. MSB

Snow White and the Seven Drag Queens, MidTangent Productions at Hydrate, through May 17. Snow White becomes the ultimate “fag hag” as she befriends seven Boystown drag queens who incur the wrath of their evil landlady Maleficent DeVille. This revised revival is loads of campy fun and filled with peppy pop songs and showtune parodies. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Lay Me Down Softly

Playwright: Billy Roche

At: Seanachai Theatre Company at the Den, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Tickets: 866-811-4111;

www.seanachai.org; \$26-\$30

Runs through: May 25

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Let’s make a few things clear, right at the start: First, this is the 1960s, and Delaney’s Traveling Road Show is an honest operation, unlike some of the fly-by-night carnivals roaming rural Ireland today. Second, Theo Delaney’s amusements include no freaks, animal acts or hoochie-coochie dancers, but strictly clean entertainment—anchored by boxing matches providing local challengers an opportunity to take on “Killer Deano,” the show’s in-house slugger. This is not Rocky, however: All domestic violence is kept offstage and all sporting violence occurs while we aren’t looking.

Billy Roche, you see, isn’t content to treat us like the rubes come to pay strangers for the illusions that are Delaney’s stock-in-trade, but instead regards us as contemplative observers more interested in the backstage dynamics of its personnel—blustery Theo, the boss; sexy Lily, his box-office manager; swaggering Dean, the aforementioned Killer; gentle Peader, his trainer, and laconic Junior, now the resident handyman, but himself a former pro boxer before being sidelined by a foot injury. What distinguishes this stop on their tour of

the Wexford backwaters is not just the uneasy prospect of a village boasting both a marksman who threatens to deplete the shooting gallery’s inventory of prizes and a retired middle-weight champ seeking revenge for an excessive beating inflicted upon his cousin by an overenthusiastic Deano, but the unanticipated arrival of Emer, Theo’s long-estranged teenaged daughter, curious to learn about the father who abandoned her mother on the road before her birth.

Over the course of the lead-ups and walk-aways surrounding the Big Fight (that we will only see in shadow), we watch an attraction grow between young Emer and shy Junior, their tentative overtures contrasting sharply with the tough-love affection of Lily and Theo, itself a muted version of the volatile marital practices typical of rootless communities. When Junior risks permanent disability after going six rounds in the ring, Emer begs him to leave with her for a more peaceful life—a plea that finds an unexpected advocate in the enigmatic Peader.

Roche’s intimate scrutiny of the small life-changing decisions affecting the destinies of common folk may seem drab to those with a low tolerance for sentimentality, but under Kevin Christopher Fox’s understated direction, the Seanachai ensemble conjures vivid personalities whose unspoken backstories (could Peader be Emer’s real father? What led Junior to his career in the ring?) inspire mystery and enchantment holding us rapt for the two hours that we view this sepia-toned portrait of a subculture that outsiders rarely see.



Rebecca Spence and Andrew White in *In the Garden*. Photo by Liz Lauren

THEATER REVIEW

In the Garden

Playwright: Sara Gmitter

At: Lookingglass Theatre, Water Tower Water Works

Tickets: 1-312-337-0665;

www.lookingglasstheatre.org; \$45-\$70

Runs through: June 15

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

I cleverly could say this world premiere is garden-variety psychological realism. That’s not a put-down, but a shout-out to the fact that Lookingglass doesn’t present many standard-format plays. In the Garden is an intelligent drama about Charles Darwin (1809-1882), focusing on 15 years—1836-1851—during which he married, fathered nine children and published *On the Origin of Species*. His wife, Emma, was a close cousin, his intellectual equal, a passionate spouse and a devout Unitarian. The play opposes her unwavering Christian faith against Darwin’s growing agnosticism, which was motivated less by evolutionary theory than by the perpetuation of evil and pain in the world, including the natural world. For both, the great crucible was the lingering illness and death of a beloved daughter in 1851, challenging both to confront their ideologies.

Author Sara Gmitter’s meticulous research alters just a few facts to heighten the drama (for example, she reduces the number of children and changes the order of birth). She’s scrupulous, however, about the free exchange of views between Charles and Emma and their devotion to each other. She makes clear that Darwin’s ideas developed over time, and that his work never was anti-God, although neither he nor Emma took the Bible as literal truth. Given the serious intellectual debate of the work, it’s pleasantly surprising how quick it is and even downright amusing at moments, a credit to Gmitter’s skills as a dramatist and to director Jessica Thebus and her company.

Part of the amusement value comes from the supporting players who double and triple in various roles (sometimes crossing genders), especially Austin Tichenor with his deliciously dry delivery. But the play rises on the first-rate acting of Andrew White and Rebecca Spence as Charles and Emma, he so solidly of this earth with just a touch of absent-minded professor and she so radiant and expressive of countenance. They are multi-dimensional and engrossing performances—you can see them thinking and feeling—and they are a handsome couple as well, although White sports a beard that Darwin hadn’t grown yet.

The frequent Lookingglass presentational flourishes are reserved for the gorgeous stagecraft. Against a vast shadow-box backdrop of impenetrable lush forest, scenic designer Collette Pollard places a three-quarter round stage with three-dimensional trees and a towering bookcase at the rear. The bookcase becomes a repository for Darwin’s scientific samples (Sarah Burnham, skillful props design), while flowering plants sprout from the legs of otherwise-realistic (and beautiful) 19th-century furniture—a desk, a grand piano, a chaise lounge. Mara Blumenfeld’s richly textured costumes prove that Victorian Era clothing did not subscribe to basic black, while JR Lederle’s lighting is both bright and supple.

In the Garden amply demonstrates why historical drama remains popular, and should!



Billy Zane and Jenn Gambatese in *The Sound of Music*. Photo by Todd Rosenberg

THEATER REVIEW

The Sound of Music

Book: Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse;
Score: Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II
At: Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker Dr.
Tickets: 312-827-5927 or www.lyricopera.org; \$29-\$199
Runs through May 25

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There are always pros and cons to staging Broadway musicals in opera houses, and they're apparent in the Lyric Opera of Chicago's new production of the 1959 Rodgers and Hammerstein classic *The Sound of Music*.

On one hand, you get all the musical and technical capabilities that an opera house can throw at a production, and they are undeniably top-notch at the Lyric. It would be hard for any local theater or national tour to duplicate the scenic spectacle by Tony Award-winning designer Michael Yeargan on display at the Lyric, nor would many be willing to provide a full orchestra (led by the esteemed Broadway conductor Rob Fisher) with a full contingent of live rather than synthesized strings.

But on the other hand, you lose any sense of intimacy in a nearly 3,600-seat opera house. Although the use of microphone amplification is better than in the Lyric's *Oklahoma!* from last year, there's still a sense of artificial disembodiment.

The Lyric is drawing from not only the opera world for its casting of *The Sound of Music*, but also from Broadway and Hollywood. It's no doubt that Billy Zane of *Titanic* fame appearing as Captain von Trapp is probably one of the major draws for new Lyric audiences. But unfortunately Zane's understated and rather bland performance underwhelms against the more established Broadway and opera cast contingents.

Broadway veteran Jenn Gambatese (*All Shook Up*, *Tarzan*) hits it out of the park with her perky take on Maria, the novice nun who is sent to temporarily care for a widower's seven children as Austria is on the verge of being absorbed into Nazi Germany. Another Broadway and Hollywood veteran, Edward Hibbert as the effete Uncle Max, also knows how to draw laughs and work over the crowd.

Opera soprano Elizabeth Futral is an all-in-performer with singing and acting, so it's unfair that she's been cast as the Baroness Elsa Schraeder who only gets to sing two of the three Broadway songs that were dropped for the film version. The Lyric better have a showier role for Futral in the future.

Also from the opera camp is soprano Christine Brewer as the Mother Abbess, powerfully handling the anthem "Climb Every Mountain" with majesty and grandeur. Headed by Brewer, the operatic choral ensemble of nuns is also vocally glorious.

Director Marc Bruni has also found a strong

contingent of child actors for the von Trapp children, and they are naturally cute and thankfully not too cloying. Choreographer Dennis Jones also contributes some strong storytelling via dance in the finely paired "Sixteen

SPOTLIGHT



Be on the forefront of LGBTQ drama by seeing readings of five competing works in **Pride Films and Plays' Gay Play Weekend**. There's a campy murder mystery comedy involving Joan Crawford impersonators (*Who Killed Joan Crawford?*), a historical Renaissance-set drama (Michelangelo and Tommaso), a musical about a 1973 arson attack on a New Orleans gay bar (*The View UpStairs*), a gay marriage proposal comedy (*The Book of Andy*) and a harrowing based-upon-a-true story of gay man's childhood (*Gentle Passage*). The Gay Play Weekend is May 9-11 at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St. Tickets are \$10 for each play. Call 800-838-3006 or visit www.brownpapertickets.com or www.pridefilmsandplays.com. Photo courtesy of Pride Films and Plays

Going on *Seventeen*" number, featuring Besty Farrar as Liesl and Zach Sorrow as Rolf.

So be aware of the pluses and minuses of the Lyric's new *Sound of Music*. If you want to get

up close and personal with the grand production, you'll have to pay some big bucks in order to do so.

BROADWAY IN CHICAGO SERIES

FIVE SHOWS FOR AS LOW AS \$89

*Give Mom the gift of theater and Fannie May Chocolates too!**

THEY DELIVERED THE PAPERS, UNTIL THEY MADE THE HEADLINES...

2012 TONY AWARD WINNER!
BEST SCORE
BEST CHOREOGRAPHY

Disney **NEWSIES**
BROADWAY'S SMASH HIT MUSICAL

THE SONG THE WORLD KNOWS. THE STORY IT DOESN'T.

A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL

"ONE OF THE BEST FAMILY MUSICALS EVER PENNED"
—Chicago Tribune

Annie
THE BRAND NEW PRODUCTION

DISCOVER WHAT REALLY HAPPENED BETWEEN RAGS AND RICHES.

RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S **CINDERELLA**

A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL

Created by and Starring **Dee Snider**

FOR THE BEST SEATS SUBSCRIBE NOW!

BROADWAYINCHICAGO.COM • 312.977.1717 • GROUPS CALL 312.977.1710

BANK OF AMERICA THEATRE
ORIENTAL THEATRE
Cadillac Palace
AUDITORIUM THEATRE
BROADWAY PLAYHOUSE AT WATER VIEWS PLACE
Hampton NAJESTIC
Chicago's EssexInn
theWit
THE PENINSULA CHICAGO
UNITED

*Valid on subscriptions starting at \$116.00. Fannie May gift card, valued at \$15, will be mailed. Not valid on Balcony Club subscriptions. Limited to the first 100 new subscribers only.

NUNN ON ONE: MUSICALS

'The hills are alive' with Edward Hibbert



BY JERRY NUNN

Starting at the very beginning, a very good place to start, actor Edward Hibbert was born in New York but raised in Britain, hence the charming accent. He returned to the United States in the '80s where his career took off. He won an Obie Award for his part as Sterling in Paul Rudnick's Jeffrey.

He has numerous television appearances but may best be remembered for the recurring role as the restaurant critic Gil Chesterton for 11 seasons on Frasier.

After appearing in several Broadway musicals like *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Curtains*, he is now tackling the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic *Sound of Music* playing at the Lyric Op-

era House in the role of Max Detweiler.

We talked to the out and proud actor over lunch one day about his career in the arts.

Windy City Times: Hi, Edward. Where do you call home these days?

Edward Hibbert: I grew up in England, then the theater kept me in New York; afterward a project took me to the third world, Los Angeles. I never lived in LA but I spent a lot of time there. I have a domicile in New York and one in London that I hardly ever get to see. I have been kept pretty busy over here.

WCT: How often have you been to Chicago?

EH: Hardly ever. The last time I was here to work at the Blackstone Theatre. I was just a new kid on the block in New York in a really funny play called *Noises Off* in its original Broadway Production. I did the national tour and it was a great way to see America. We sat down for five weeks in places like Denver, San Francisco and Chicago. I can't remember anything about where I stayed. It was near the lake.

WCT: How long are you here for?

EH: May 25. We are going to an intense week now. We got on stage for the first time yesterday. Have you been to the Opera House?

WCT: I have.

EH: It's like playing JFK! It is huge and absolutely cavernous. I was sitting there watching those beautiful nuns trilling away and I thought, "I hope those subscribers bring binoculars."



The Sound of Music's Edward Hibbert. Photo by Joan Marcus

WCT: I will remember that when I get to opening night!

EH: You better.

WCT: How has it been going on *Sound of Music* so far?

EH: It has all be very quick. To do an epic musical like this in barely three weeks is pretty extraordinary. Thankfully our director, Marc Bruni, came to the table really focused. He had it all worked out. The child labor laws are just ridiculous with the Von Trapp children. We have a very short rehearsal period. The kids are only allowed to work three hours a day with us so that is tough. We got on the stage the day before yesterday then we go into a really intense week. We have technical dress rehearsals starting tomorrow then with the orchestra we heard last night—all 38 of them: amazing!

WCT: Have you done this role before?

EH: I have once. It was not that long ago at the Paper Mill Playhouse, which is a lovely Broadway sized house although next to the Lyric it is a little doll's house, located in Millburn, New Jersey. This production is much more lavish with no expense spared.

WCT: Since you are familiar with the role of Max do you just expand on it?

EH: Yes. I didn't have to start doing my character research, that was there. It is nice to bring new things to the table and return to a part.

WCT: Are you excited about working with Billy Zane?

EH: Yes; I am loving this company. The lady I play opposite is an opera singer, Elizabeth Futral. Here I am with a semi comedy musical with this beautiful soprano! It is working out alright, sort of a yin and yang.

WCT: Max saves the family's lives in the show.

EH: I think he's ambivalent in terms of his affiliation with the Nazis. That gives him a few layers. I did a club act in New York earlier this year and I described Max as a cross between Nazi sympathizer and Auntie Mame! He's there to make the kids stars of the festival, he's a friend of the captain, and he has a sparring partner in the baroness.

WCT: Did you see the Carrie Underwood version of *Sound of Music*?

EH: As much as I could tolerate, which wasn't much. It was horrifying, soup to nuts.

WCT: On to happier things. Tell me about winning an award for your role in Jeffrey.

EH: You have to understand that Paul Rudnick wrote that play and it was all about timing. That play came along at exactly the right time. The AIDS epidemic was virulent at that time. Paul had the brilliant audacity to write a play about a man looking for love and finding

it with a man that was HIV-positive. It was done against the backdrop of a 1930s screwball comedy.

It was not only funny but very profound and very moving. I had a wonderful part playing his best friend, an interior designer. I won two awards and got to do it in New York. My partner at the time told me to go and do it in Los Angeles. I did go and it opened a lot of windows for me. I think they had enough chiseled young blonde men around so they were looking for some character actors. Out of that, I got a lot of television. It was wonderful.

WCT: Is that how Frasier happened?

EH: It came out of that.

WCT: Do people think you are a restaurant critic when you dine out?

EH: I do get that sometimes, and sometimes you get nice treatment as a result of that. I am amazed that people stop me in the street about it. It is on every day. I was in Starbucks and a guy came in saying, "Oh my God, it's Gil Chesterton." He started quoting dialogue from the show. That tells us it was a truly great show. The writers were excellent. It doesn't get better. There is nothing as good as that on television, maybe *Modern Family* but a lot of the same guys wrote on Frasier.

It was one in a million. We adored each other, all theater trained actors.

WCT: I did some extra work for Boss while it was filmed in Chicago and met Kelsey Grammer.

EH: He's a lovely man. I have worked a lot with David Hyde Pierce [Grammer's co-star on the TV show Frasier]. I did a show on Broadway with him. He's directing a show that I am doing at the end of the year on Broadway with Tyne Daly.

WCT: I heard she was in town.

EH: She is in New York doing a play about a mother who's son has died of AIDS. She's superb. I adore her. This new show is a complete departure from that. It's a musical about an interfaith wedding. Tyne plays the Jewish mother and I play the wedding planner.

WCT: What is called?

EH: It Shoulda Been You.

WCT: Talk a bit about being out of the closet in Hollywood.

EH: I've never had a big issue about it. I suppose looking back there is a difference between being a character actor like Ian McKellen and coming out and being a leading man where you know the box office receipts and girls fantasizing about the actor is one thing. That is a different department.

Being gay for me in Hollywood was not a problem. Someone once said, "An Englishman and a homosexual is a distinction without a difference." Everyone thinks all Englishmen are gay and a lot of them are.

Ironically the character I played on Frasier announced on season five that he had a wife. I am always happy to play gay characters as long as they are well written. Do I think there is still homophobia in the entertainment industry? Yes. Less so than it was but it's there.

WCT: Tell about working with Carol Burnett.

EH: I've been very blessed with some of the ladies I have got work with. I had the most wonderful time and fell in love with Vancouver. We shot *Once Upon a Mattress* there. Can you imagine the fun when you are working 12 hours a day with Carol Burnett and Tracy Ullman? I was in gay heaven!

WCT: You are working on a cabaret act?

EH: I have done it, twice. It is the most exciting and terrifying thing one will ever do. You are launched into the world of a nightclub. I have a superb musical director, who is also a composer that wrote two songs that I sing. I hope to take it to points beyond New York. I was going to do it in London but that date didn't work out. I may go to Palm Springs and I think San Francisco is in the cards.

Do Re Mi your way over to the Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr., now through May 25 for The Sound of Music. Ticket information can be found at www.lyricopera.org/soundofmusic or call 312-827-5600.

CULTURE CLUB

THE AMERICAN PREMIERE OF
THE DANCE OF DEATH

BY AUGUST STRINDBERG | IN A NEW VERSION BY CONOR MCPHERSON
DIRECTED BY HENRY WISHCAMPER
FEATURING SHANNON COCHRAN*, PHILIP EARL JOHNSON*
AND LARRY YANDO*

NOW PLAYING
at 664 Vernon Ave., Glencoe
Minutes from Chicago on the Edens or Metra

WT
WRITERS
THEATRE

FOR TICKETS: WRITERSTHEATRE.ORG | 847-242-6000
*Denotes Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

PICTURED: SHANNON COCHRAN.
PHOTO BY MICHAEL BROSLIOW.

LGBTQ NIGHT IS FRIDAY, MAY 2!

HOW TO SUCCEED
IN BUSINESS WITHOUT
REALLY TRYING

April 26 - June 1

Use the code LGBTQ when ordering tickets and join us at 6 p.m. for drink specials and complimentary hors d'oeuvres at the PourHouse and reserved seating at the 8 p.m. performance.

EQ IL

porchlight
1225 W Belmont Ave
PorchlightMusicTheatre.org

Cynthia Bond dusts off 'Ruby' slippers in first novel

BY SARAH TOCE

Openly bisexual author Cynthia Bond has crawled on her hands and knees through the trenches of turmoil—first as a child of abuse herself and then, heroically, as a fortress of comfort for the young suffering from addiction. Her story is far from a picnic in the park on a sunny Sunday afternoon, but she's making her offerings known in a new book called Ruby.

Sprinkled throughout the bindings are memories—both real and imaginary. Love, heart-break, loss, and survival make up the meat of the story.

"Ultimately, this is a book about love. It's a love story of the heart," she said.

It's a story of the heart rooted in deep tragedy.

Bond's aunt was involved with a white man in the 1930s and was subsequently murdered by the Ku Klux Klan. The history of that day has seeped into her bones, and it's a tale her family has never fully recovered from. To this day, her aunt's killer has not been named. "It's really like a great thorn gets wedged into your heart. ... It lives in me. It just sort of seeps into the DNA. It's a part of who you are," she said.

It is so much a part of who she is that Bond has decided to share parts of her past with the world. Cloaked in authenticity, Ruby is unlike anything else out there right now.

"I didn't even know it was a book, I just thought I was doing a writing exercise," she said.

But it was much more than a writing exercise. It was a cathartic experience—and she didn't want to keep it all to herself.

"I started working on this book quite a while ago and it came about as a result of some of my own experiences of abuse that I had...things that I had been through," she said. "Also woven into that was basically my family history and my aunt being murdered in Texas."

To be clear, not all events are true in Ruby. Many of them are not.

"I'm a fiction writer. What I've done often within the novel is translate my own emotions into the work so that they are sort of all swirled together with all of the stories that I've heard and what was produced was this larger arc of this story. So, the emotions that are in the novel are many things that I've felt; the things that have happened are really just sort of wafting together. It's almost like it's been in this huge pot, like of gumbo or something. And all of these different ingredients have come out and the taste is flavored with truth, but it is a work of fiction," she said.

Bond is currently working with young people overcoming addiction at Paradigm Malibu Adolescent Treatment Center. "It's all about helping young people have a voice and telling their truths," she said.

Telling one's truth requires a steady voice, something Bond knows all too well.

"I spent many, many, many years recovering from my personal story. It really was such an in-depth process and some of it was writing down the [experiences]. In the novel, Ruby lived for 11 years wandering the red roads of East Texas. And although I never wandered the red roads of East Texas, it certainly felt that way at times," she said.

Then added, "It really is that I have talked about this ad nauseam in my therapy, in recovery groups, and I don't have - it's almost not good for me to talk about my own story. Only because I feel that the healing is done and really the message is that it is possible to heal. I don't want to focus on me. And I don't want to make it about me. It's really this larger arc

of what so many people are experiencing and just sort of to be this person who just says it's possible to heal, it's possible to heal."

Before her work at Paradigm, Bond offered her services to the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center helping homeless youth.

"I worked for many years with homeless youth on the streets of Hollywood. And many of them were involved in prostitution - some had [become involved in prostitution] when they were children. The issue of human trafficking was very important to me [in Ruby]," she said. "I was working at the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center in Hollywood when I worked with homeless kids. A lot of them had been thrown out of their homes because they were gay and lesbian, they were different, and their parents had thrown them out," Bond remembered.

When asked if she had any insight regarding



Cynthia Bond.

the homeless populations in cities like Chicago, New York and L.A., she offered a few thoughts.

"Well, I think that youth are voiceless. ... They certainly don't have any kind of coalition. They are really the most vulnerable in our society whether you're gay, lesbian, trans, bi, straight, or questioning," she said. "I think that young people are the most vulnerable members of society. I ran a youth arts and writing program in L.A., and one of the things we did within that program was to try to help the youth have a voice. We had all kinds of kids in there—we had kids who identified as gay and lesbian, and trans, and bi, but we also had straight kids, too. It was just a hub for kids who were on the street to come and get help and to refer them to other organizations. But I think the problem is more general than within our community—I just think it's easy to forget young people."

Have we as a community forgotten our young counterparts in the fight for freedom?

"I believe there's been a pretty concerted effort [to remedy the youth homelessness situation]. But as far as a political movement to help that, I just think that other things have probably been on the front burner," she said.

Turn to page 28

YOU ALREADY KNOW
YOU'RE GONNA LOVE IT!



BENNY ANDERSSON & BJÖRN ULVAEUS'

MAMMA MIA!

THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE SONGS OF ABBA®

BEGINS TUESDAY!

ONE WEEK ONLY | MAY 13-18

Cadillac Palace

800-775-2000

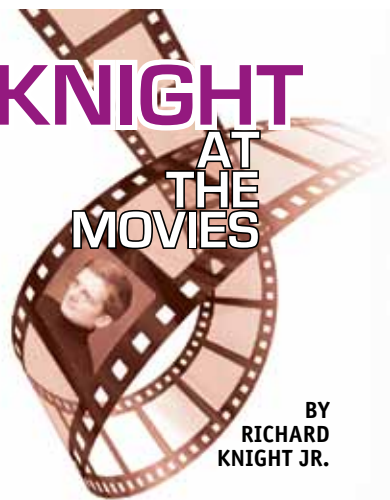
GROUPS 10+ 312-977-1710

BROADWAY IN CHICAGO.com

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ALL BROADWAY IN CHICAGO BOX OFFICES AND TICKETMASTER RETAIL LOCATIONS

Mamma-Mia.com Follow us on facebook.com/MammaMiaOnTour

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT JR.

Neighbors; Stage Fright; film notes

How many dick jokes can you get into one frat comedy? That's like asking how many clowns can you get in one clown car or how many crazed frat guys can you stuff into one phone booth. (Anyone else remember phone booths?) The latter analogy is particularly apt in reference to Nicholas Stoller's new movie **Neighbors**, the latest in a long line of frat-house comedies that desperately wants to be crowned the long lost grandson of *Animal House*—and chugs down in anticipation.

What seemed unspeakably crude in 1978 when John Belushi and his band of merry cohorts cavorted across movie screens, wreaking havoc and hilarity as they kicked off what would become a new genre would by now seem as tame and wholesome as a snack of graham crackers and milk. Raising the gross-out bar (and the dick-joke quotient) ever higher in the ensuing years has been the goal of these raunchy, often-witless and, at times, admittedly funny comedies. From *Van Wilder* to *American Pie* to *Old School* to *Project X*, we now find ourselves at such a debauched level that perhaps only a movie simply titled *Dick Joke* is left to be released. After the endless sight gags and penis references in Stoller's movie, that might not be a bad alternate title for *Neighbors*.

The plot revolves around Mac and Kelly, a once-hip couple (Seth Rogen and Rose Byrne) who are forced into being responsible adults by the arrival of their darling new baby. One day they spot a gay couple with a baby chatting with a realtor next door and assume they'll

soon have clone versions of Neil Patrick Harris, David Burtka and their twins moving in. Alas, it's not to be and soon the couple is stunned to find a host of college kids instead, led by the anatomically impressive Teddy (Zac Efron). ("He's like something designed by a gay guy in a laboratory," Rogan exclaims in genuine awe as he gazes at Teddy's stunning physique.) Mac and Kelly, worried about noisy parties waking up their baby, take the bull by the horns and stop by, introducing themselves to "the kids" and confronting the issue head on. Teddy promises that the frat will behave but, of course, all promises go out the window and before you can say "Bluto Blutarsky," WWII has ignited.

The gimmick here is that Mac and Kelly, as recent latent adolescents themselves, are still pining (pretty heavily) for the life of irresponsibility and hardcore partying they've just left behind. So as the movie's dick jokes pile up (and they include visual ones, too), the duo tries hangin' out with the frat dudes (a la *Old School*) in order to change their behavior. But that doesn't work and by the final bacchanal (which is always the climax of these pictures), Mac and Kelly will have resorted to a lot more outrageous stuff to get rid of their noxious neighbors.

Neighbors is schizophrenic in tone (if ever a movie gave off mixed signals....) because of that gimmick that keeps the picture veering between being heartfelt and over the top gross and its basically one joke premise wears out its welcome long before the finale denouement. But the intermittent laughs, Rogan's sunny nature, Byrne's surprising comedic moments and a nicely shaded performance from Efron are all welcome. And, boy, that Zac—who is shirtless through much of the movie—is easy on the eyes and a nice distraction when the wilted comedy slumps (and his best bud, played by perennial teenager Dave Franco, ain't so bad either). Lisa Kudrow also has a fun cameo as the head of the college. As with all these dick jokes, uh, frat comedies, you either agree to partake in the beer pong of a plot before laying down your money or stay home—with the aforementioned graham crackers and milk.

Briefly noted: Stage Fright, which is available on VOD, is also more than a bit schizophrenic in tone. The film is a mixture of Todd Graf's *Camp* and the *Friday the 13th* film series, with musical-theater campgoers (that look to be from grade school right through college) being hacked apart by a demented, Phantom of the Opera-style serial killer. After a gory prologue that introduces Minnie Driver as a promising musical-theater star brutally slashed to death on her opening night and Meat Loaf as her pumped-up producer, the action moves forward



Zac Efron stars in *Neighbors*. Photo by Glen Wilson

10 years. Driver's daughter and her son are now the cook and dishwasher in a musical-theater camp run by Meat Loaf, whose reputation has clearly hit the skids.

The arrival of the theater geeks who perform a delightful original song as they arrive at the camp sets expectations high but the subsequent action—which purports to be a quasi-Phantom of the Opera—quickly dissolves from promising parody into stale slasher movie. *Stage Fright* might have worked with less gore or more camp, but the two make for strange bedfellows, and both genres are pushed to the limits. The gore is really, really gory and the songs are really, really campy. (A heartfelt ballad would have been nice.)

It doesn't help that the leading actress warbles in a thin soprano that is grating, to say the least. (The reason for hiring her remains obscure until she finally appears in the camp's musical finale, complete with ample cleavage.) Long before the killer is revealed, said Phantom's identity is pretty clear and, in the meantime, all the fun promised in that opening number grows fainter and fainter as the body count climbs. <http://www.magnetreleasing.com/stagefright/>

Film notes:

—The Chicago Film Critics Association (of which I'm a member) is hosting its second annual **CFCA Film Festival** from Friday, May 9–Thursday, May 15. The fest—which is being held at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave.—is putting the spotlight on a slew of indie features and documentaries that have, naturally enough, been critical darlings on the film festival circuit. The 23 features and 14 shorts making their Chicago debuts during the fest include what appears to be a wide-ranging group—although I'm disappointed that I don't see a single film with queer themes or characters among them (an oversight I'm sure the group will address in subsequent years).

Yet even without any queer film offerings, there's still plenty of promising stuff in the lineup. A few of the titles that have piqued my interest: *Amy Poehler and Paul Rudd in They Came Together*; director and co-writer David Wain's parody of romantic comedies (the opening-night screening which Wain will attend); *Dead Snow: Red vs. Dead*, a sequel to the Nazi zombie horror comedy *Dead Snow* (with two actors from the film in attendance); *That Guy Dick Miller*, with what looks to be a breezy documentary profile of perennial film character actor Dick Miller, the always fantastic Brendan Gleeson, Chris O'Dowd and Kelly Reilly in the Irish drama *Calvary* about a troubled priest; *Mood Indigo*, a romantic fantasy from French director Michel Gondry; *Willow Creek*, a found footage horror entry focused on the Bigfoot legend from director Bobcat Goldthwait (who will be in attendance); and the closing-night selection, *Animals*, a Chicago-based film about the hardscrabble lives of a criminally inclined young couple (with writer-star David Dastmalchian and director Colin Schiffli on hand). Complete fest schedule and advance tickets at <http://chicagocriticsfilmfestival.com/>

—Get out the disco glad rags for yourself and mom and prepare to sing "Dancing Queen," "The Winner Takes It All," etc., etc. along with Meryl and her co-stars when the Music Box presents a special screening of out director Phyllida Lloyd's 2008 musical comedy hit **Mamma Mia!** on Sunday, May 11, at 12 p.m. Celebrate Mother's Day with *Mamma Mia!* in this special screening event that will feature a fabu-lush '70s pre-show costume contest, an interactive audience guide and all those Abba tunes. A fancy boxed brunch (complete with mimosa or Bloody Mary) and preferred seating are available. My alter ego Dick O'Day will host. www.musicboxtheatre.com

—Three more faves from the 2013 LGBT film fest circuit are hitting DVD this week: the sexy and surprisingly thought provoking **I'm a Porn Star** (from out actor-producer Charlie David, making his directorial debut); the gay crime melodrama thriller **Truth**, which stars Sean Paul Lockhart (former gay porn actor Brent Corrigan) and Rob Moretti (who also wrote and directed); and out actor Doug Spearman's guilty pleasure **Hot Guys with Guns**, a very gay send-up of private-eye genre.

Tony nominations announced

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder led this year's Tony nominations (announced April 29) with 10, followed by *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, which stars Neil Patrick Harris in the title role, according to *The Wrap*.

Best Play nominees include *Act One*, *All the Way*, *Casa Valentina* (which Harvey Fierstein wrote), *Mothers and Sons*, and *Outside Mullingar*. Best Musical nominees are *After Midnight*, *Aladdin*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*.

Nominees for Best Revival of a Play are *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Twelfth Night*, while *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Les Misérables* and *Violet* received Best Revival of a Musical nod.

Among the many actors nominated for Tonys are Harris, Bryan Cranston (*All the Way*), Audra McDonald (*Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*), Cherry Jones (*The Glass Menagerie*), Tyne Daly (*Mothers and Sons*), Sutton Foster (*Violet*), Stephen Fry (*Twelfth Night*), Idina Menzel (*If/Then*), Anika Noni Rose (*A Raisin in the Sun*) and Kelli O'Hara (*The Bridges of Madison County*).

The nominees were revealed live by Lucy Liu and Jonathan Groff (with host Hugh Jackman dropping by), CBS News noted. The awards, which honor the best of this year's Broadway season, will be handed out June 8 in a ceremony that Jackman will host live on CBS.

THE HOUSE
THEATRE OF CHICAGO

"Crowd-pleasing show with strong LGBTQ interest...
...the dancing beautifully captures the dramatic moment, like the deadly and very homoerotic duel between [Cole] Simon as Dorian and Patrick Andrews as the artist Basil."

CRITICS' PICK
-Windy City Times

BY BEN LEAPHORES & TOMMY HAPLEY
DIRECTED & CHOREOGRAPHED BY TOMMY HAPLEY
ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL "THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY" BY OSCAR WILDE

TICKETS:
THEHOUSETHEATRE.COM OR 773.769.3032

DORIAN

A DANCE-FUELED THRILLER OF VICE AND VIRTUE

PHOTO BY [unreadable]



A.K. Summers.
Photo by
Vern Hester

'Pregnant Butch' author presents talk

BY VERN HESTER

In the final Artists' Salon show of the year presented at the University of Chicago, author and cartoonist A.K. Summers presented a talk on her recently published graphic memoir *Pregnant Butch—Nine Long Months Spent in Drag: A Graphic Memoir*. Last month, Soft Skull Press released the book, which has received wide acclaim from varied sources, including *Vanity Fair* and the *Comics Journal*.

Summers' talk navigated the tricky course of a woman who identifies as "butch" while carrying her first child to term. Her book hilariously deals with gender identity, sexual stereotypes, traditional family myths, body image and self-acceptance while skewering gender expectations and experiences.

Summers also spoke at length on her inspira-

tions for the illustrations (Herge's *Tintin* was an early model, along with fellow comics artists Lynda Barry and Alison Bechdel) and how the art form allowed her to express emotions, ideas and the confusion of dealing with a pregnancy, identifying as butch, and sorting through reactions from family, friends, and strangers internally. Summers said, "I think comics are ideal for autobiography. ... I just love the art form."

The show, composed of panels from the book will run until May 12 at 5733 S. University Ave. in the Community Room. For hours for the showing, call 773-702-9936.

The Artists' Salon of the Center of Gender and Sexuality presented the reception in collaboration with the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry and the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at the University of Chicago.

Gender Fusions marks 10 years

PROFILE BY MIKE LACKOVICH

On April 24, Columbia College Chicago held its 10th-anniversary performance of *Gender Fusions* at the Center on Halsted.

Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Kelly was on hand to greet guests on the outdoor roof terrace prior to the event. Amongst the social chatter in the spring afternoon sunshine, people were invited to make their own recycled paper.

While indoors, there was a pre-performance reception with food, drinks and live DJ. Students and family dancing to the beats anxiously awaiting the program's start.

"Normally, we have this event at the college," Mark Kelly said. "This year is the first year we are holding it at the Center on Halsted. Precious Davis is a native Nebraskan who graduated from Columbia College and became the first transgender woman to be on staff at the Center."

The *Gender Fusions* program gives LGBTQ and supportive students an outlet to perform queer productions. Music, interpretive dance, poetry and queer story reading were among some types of performances given over the show.

Some very intense performances were from students dealing with life experiences of home life rejection for coming out as gay to a beautiful interpretive dance of two men, joined together and torn apart at the ending.

These young adults definitely struck emotional chords in the audience repeatedly with many of the performances. They are clearly and distinctly getting their messaging across



Precious Davis at *Gender Fusions*. Photo by Mike the Great Photo Guy

through the varying mediums.

Hosts Alex Kessler and Precious Davis were equally entertaining and appealing to the packed Center theater. With their "off-the-cuff" style humor to Alex working his cape down the catwalk, the crowd was left in stitches by this improv duo.

This event is worth attending in future installations. Anyone who has grown up LGBTQ will definitely connect with the productions these youth put out.

More photos are at www.WindyCityMedia-Group.com.

CHICAGO COMMERCIAL COLLECTIVE presents THE INCONVENIENCE'S production of

"A spectacular piece of young, raw, impassioned Chicago theater"
- Chicago Tribune

"Fierce and funny"
- New York Times

Photo by Ryan Bourique, with Walter Briggs, Manny Buckley and Ryan Murphy

Written by **Ike Zolter** Directed by **ERIC ZOF**

HIT the WALL

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT • NOW PLAYING
THE GREENHOUSE THEATER CENTER • 2257 N. Lincoln Ave

Tickets: GreenhouseTheater.org or 773.404.7336

CHICAGO COMMERCIAL COLLECTIVE
THE INCONVENIENCE

CHICAGO COMMERCIAL COLLECTIVE PRESENTS THE NEW COLONY'S PRODUCTION OF

5 Lesbians EATING A Quiche

Written by ANDREW HOBGOOD and EVAN LINDER
Directed by SARAH GITENSTEIN

RESPECT THE EGG.

PHOTOGRAPH © 2011 DINE SHERIDAN, WITH THEA LUX, CATHLIN CHUCKA, MICHEL FARMER, MEGAN JOHNS AND WYAN SUORA

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT STARTING MAY 1
THE CHOPIN THEATRE
1543 W. DIVISION STREET

CHICAGO COMMERCIAL COLLECTIVE
THE NEW COLONY

Tickets: 5LesbiansEatingAQuiche.com or (773) 404-7336

NUNN ON ONE

Talking with the 'Popular' Kristin Chenoweth

BY JERRY NUNN

Singer-actress Kristin Chenoweth continues to have an award-winning career, taking home an Emmy, a Tony and several others. She won her Tony her role of Sally in Broadway's *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, along with Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Featured Actress in a Musical.

Her performance as Glinda the Good Witch in *Wicked* made her "Popular" on Broadway and helped ticket sales on *Promises, Promises*, starring with Sean Hayes.

The talented sprite has landed big roles in movies like *Bewitched*, *Running With Scissors*, *You Again* and *Four Christmases* along with television hits such as *Pushing Daisies* and *The West Wing*. Recently, she appeared in the 100th episode of *Glee* and the film *Rio 2*, and is appearing in an upcoming Jennifer Lopez project called *The Boy Next Door*. On top of all that, she recently returned to Carnegie Hall for the first time since her sold-out concert in 2004.

Nunn chatted up Chenoweth before her arrival at the annual Goodman Theatre Gala.

Windy City Times: Hey, Kristin. You are one of my favorite people to talk to because we both have been adopted from Oklahoma in common.

Kristin Chenoweth: That is crazy!

WCT: I tried to meet you the last time you were in town by the Cadillac Palace stage door after we had spoke on the phone but there were about a million fans back there.

KC: And you are like, "I'm going to rethink that decision..."

WCT: I thought they were going to have to fly you out of there on a magic crystal bubble, like your role as Glinda in *Wicked*!

KC: [Laughs] That's hilarious. I am very lucky with my fans. That night was crazy. I think that was a makeup concert because I had gotten sick before, which was a total bummer. I am always happy to be in Chicago and was happy to come back and do it.

WCT: Your show was spectacular. I loved the cowboys.

KC: Thank you very much.

WCT: So excited about you performing at the Goodman Gala.

KC: Me, too. It will be fun.

WCT: You performed for their gala in the past.

KC: I want to say it was like seven years ago, Jerry. I feel like it was in a ballroom but I just remember how it was set up. Isn't that sad that I remember my gigs by how they are set up?

I love everything that the Goodman does. The Goodman's reputation speaks for itself. Though I have never worked there I have always wanted to because it is very prestigious

as Broadway itself. I am excited and honored to be asked back.

WCT: How do you plan what you will sing?

KC: I always switch it up. Right now I am doing an amalgam of the past three concerts I have done. I did this show on PBS called *Dames of Broadway*. I did a Hollywood Bowl show that was pure Hollywood movie songs, well not every one of them, but that was the conceit of the program.

This kind of crowd will appreciate some of the lesser known songs but I will also throw in some songs that are very well known. It is kind of a new show actually.

WCT: It is very intimate in the Hilton's space there.

KC: Yes; I always want to know my audience and the room. I remember how appreciative people were there last time. That really means a lot to me. Obviously I am getting paid to come there but I don't ever take a gig for the money. That is not me. I think I wish it were me more because I would be a lot more rich! I always want to do things that matter to me and not just because.

WCT: Your buddy Matthew Morrison did the Goodman Gala one year.

KC: I love that. That makes me so happy! He's such a good guy. I love him.

WCT: How was it being on *Glee* again for the 100th episode?

KC: It was so fun because I was back with my kids. It felt like home. I was there in the beginning before any of them hit and before it had aired. I remember thinking, "Oh, don't anybody change." For the most part they are still the same people. That is what makes me so proud.

WCT: I spoke recently to Lea Michele, and she was different than I thought she would be. She seemed very sweet.

KC: She is. She's my little nugget!

WCT: I was worried she might be a diva but she wasn't at all.

KC: That's because people get jealous and they talk, saying mean things about people. If I believed everything that was said about me I would be in a straight jacket in a crazy farm. I think she is fantastic. I love that kid.

WCT: How was it being a part of *Rio 2*?

KC: Really awesome. Such a great franchise to be a part of. I love the story and the music. They wrote a song for my character. My character was new in this movie. I fell in love with her and the process. I really enjoyed it. I am happy it is doing so well at the box office. That is always nice when you love it and it does well.

WCT: What inspired your short haircut?

KC: Oh, I did a movie this past fall and I wanted to look different. I wanted the character to be different from how I had been looking



Kristin Chenoweth.

with long blonde hair. The star of the movie is Jennifer Lopez, and we were talking about it when she suggested I cut my hair. I wanted to but I was scared. We went online and looked at different styles. That is how it started.

I loved it and I thought it was perfect for the part. That is the main reason I did it.

WCT: Do you ever get starstruck with any of these people like J.Lo?

KC: At first I get starstruck but then I think, "Well, we have to work together," so I have to get over it. You have to be good. When you are starstruck or inhibited in any way, that stops your best work. Plus she makes you feel real comfortable. I can't say enough good things about that woman. I adore her in every way possible. I hope we work more together and continue on because she is such a professional and she is show business. Do you know what I mean when I say that? She gets it. There is not a lot of people like that still. I respect that.

WCT: Will *Pushing Daisies* be a musical?

KC: Well, they sure should make it a musical. Brian Fuller discussed it with me a few years back and recently again online. I just really encourage him to do it because it is a fantastic world and it would lend itself so well to a musical. I would love to see it. What more can I say? He better hurry up or I am going to play one of the aunts!

WCT: Are you going to be in *On the Twentieth Century* for your next musical endeavor?

KC: It hasn't been announced yet but I am certainly in final negotiations for that show. It is on my bucket list. I can't imagine leaving this earth and not having played Lily Garland. I have to do it. It is going to be quite challenging and it is a very difficult thing.

WCT: We have to get Hugh Jackman on it as well, since he did the reading with you.

KC: He did the reading and we would have been so lucky to get him but with his schedule

I would be one foot in the grave before he got to it! He told me I had to do that show. He said, "It's you and have to do it!" He is a really great encourager.

WCT: Have you seen a favorite recent musical?

KC: I have so many musicals that I have to go see. I want to go see *Pippin* because Annie Potts is in it. I want to see *If/Then*, Idina Menzel's new one. I still have not seen *Matilda*. I want to see *Bridges of Madison County* because Kelli O'Hara went to my university. I'm proud of her and want to go support her. I want to see these things.

WCT: Thank you for all of your support in the gay community.

KC: First of all, you are welcome. I would do it for anybody that was persecuted against. It is a big civil-rights issue. I think we are making steps in the right direction, which makes me happy.

I foresee lots of great changes in our future. I just pray that it continues because I don't even think it should be an issue. I am in a quandary about it. I realize it's the "fly over states" as they are calling it but I don't understand. Even if you are against gay marriage or a gay lifestyle, I don't understand what it has to do with you. You know what I mean? So what? It has nothing to do with you!

I want all equal rights for all and anything I can do or seek out or say, I will.

WCT: I will see you at the Goodman Gala.

KC: Come say "hi," honey!

KC and her sunshine band will perform at the Goodman Theatre Gala benefitting their education and community engagement programs, Saturday, May 17 at The Hilton Chicago.

Visit www.goodmantheatre.org or call 312-443-3811 ext. 586 for ticket details.



at Chicago City Winery on May 12

Host Elysabeth Alfano invites 3 celebs AND YOU to a dinner created by a known chef. Over food, wine, water, chocolate, artist performances & Twitter, the conversations & the unexpected flow at Chicago City Winery.

May 12: Chef Pete cooks for WILCO's Glenn Kotche, Kathy Hart of The Eric and Kathy Show, actor Marc Grapey, host Elysabeth Alfano and YOU! Plus, Mischa Zupko.

BUY TIX @ Citywinery.com/Chicago JOIN US May 12!



WINDY CITY TIMES

VOSS
arctic water bottling



SPLASH

DAVIDsTEA
Arts

Kendall College
RIVERFORD CAMPUS - CHICAGO

Neon Trees' Tyler Glenn on coming out, 'Mean Girls'

BY JERRY NUNN

The Utah rock band Neon Trees has built a successful fan base with a string of hit albums. The band's first single "Animal" climbed the charts quickly, with "Everybody Talks" on the next record doing well again. Both were featured on the television show Glee.

The line-up includes Tyler Glenn, Chris Allen, Branden Campbell and Elaine Bradley and the name stems from the light up trees on the In-N-Out Burger signs.

The new record Pop Psychology dropped last month, complete with a slew of new colorful videos.

Glenn came out of the closet publicly this past March in Rolling Stone. Windy City Times got the opportunity to talk with him about it before he landed in Chicago.

Windy City Times: Hi, Tyler. Where did you learn your moves in these live performances?

Tyler Glenn: They have developed over time. My parents had me in ballet from ages 4 to 12 so I had that classic training when I was little, but then I never explored it or anything past that young age.

I think since we have been playing bigger stages I needed to find movement and I started doing that stuff. When I first started doing those moves the band asked me where all of it comes from and even made fun of it a little bit. They didn't really get the new me. I was just trying to find my place onstage as an

entertainer and that is what it has become, so that is that!

WCT: It is enjoyable to watch. How do you not get hurt by the microphone cord when you are swinging it around your neck?

TG: I know. Probably twice I almost wound up choking. Most of the time it is okay. I don't know how much more of the swinging I am going to do because we have switched to cordless mics. It is kind of disappointing. I think we need at least one moment with the cord!

WCT: Are there certain music artists that you have admired for their live performances?

TG: Michael Jackson was my first superhero, rock star guy when I was young. I fell in love with his energy and type of performance. How Freddie Mercury commanded the stage is always inspiring. Gwen Stefani is another one, so a blend of them. Karen O. from Yeah Yeah Yeahs has always rocked me, too.

WCT: You wore one of Gwen's outfits in your "Sleeping With a Friend" video.

TG: Yes, I wore a L.A.M.B. suit in her line that was coming out in our new video. I didn't even know she was aware of it then she retweeted the photo. I definitely had a fanboy moment. I usually don't have those that often but I flipped out a little bit.

WCT: Do you have a stylist that puts you in these outfits?

TG: A lot of it is me and a lot of it is the band. For events we will hire someone to dress us all up but most of the time it is just us.



Neon Trees' Tyler Glenn. Photo by Andrew Zaeh

For this tour coming up it is some stuff that I found in shops or had my mom make.

WCT: I look forward to seeing what you will wear. Is the name of the new album Pop Psychology inspired by personal issues?

TG: I had the name right after a month of doing therapy. I still am in therapy now. The first few weeks were brutal. I found out a lot about myself and did a lot of crying, which happens, but through that darkness comes a light. I started feeling happy and whole again. I knew we needed to start writing for the next record and we were touring. I didn't want to take off from touring. I remember we were on the Maroon 5 tour and I thought Pop Psychology sounded really cool and sounded like a defin-

ing era title—sort of like Violator for Depeche Mode. It might be something where people say, "Oh, I saw them on the Pop Psychology Tour." I thought it sounded neat, and went with the theme and vibe of the record we were making. I think the title came before the music. That was really different for us.

WCT: Did it make it a more personal record? Songs like "Voices In the Halls" are a different sound for you.

TG: There have been introspective moments on every album, but this one came from a place where I was pretty broken. Because of its evolving in the year before we recorded it, I think it ended up becoming a celebration. The record, thematically, it is on its own in that way but, sonically, it is the most upbeat record we have put out as a whole. It is interesting in that way.

WCT: In the video for "I Love You (But I Hate Your Friends)," what was the pink stuff they poured on your head?

TG: It was Pepto-Bismol! You are the first person to ask about that. [Laughs]

WCT: That is what I guessed, so I win the prize.

TG: It was disgusting and it stung your eye really bad when it got in it.

WCT: What has the reaction been from coming out of the closet recently?

TG: My whole psychology behind it has been that I didn't feel I was terribly in the closet all the time. To my family and friends I just wasn't open, saying I didn't like women or saying I was seeing this guy. That was the part of me that was holding that dynamic inside of me. I was one identity to other people; then I was another identity to myself. That is the part that starts to tear you up. I am 30 so that is a long time of balancing lives.

Just being able to tell my family and friends then have them come back with real genuine love just rocked my world because I have never associated being gay with good or happy

Turn to page 28

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
HENRY V
DIRECTED BY
CHRISTOPHER
LUSCOMBE

"Once more unto the breach,
dear friends, once more!"

chicago
shakespeare
theater
on navy pier

NOW PLAYING
312.595.5600
chicagoshakes.com

"Dye's voice is most definitely authentic
and his understanding of trauma and loss palpable."
- CHICAGO TRIBUNE

ROUTE 66 THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS
CICADA
by Jerre Dye

ROUTE 66 transports you to the rural South
for what critics are calling:

"poignant,
relevant, and stirring."
- WINDY CITY TIMES

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- CHICAGO READER

★★★★ - TIME OUT CHICAGO

JEFF
RECOMMENDED

"...a magical journey,
expertly directed
by Erica Weiss."
CHICAGO STAGE STANDARD

photo by Joe Mazza

Now playing thru MAY 25
at Greenhouse Theater Center
for tickets: cicadatheplay.com

Gay 'Biggest Loser' star to participate in Ride for AIDS Chicago

BY ROSS FORMAN

Raheel "Bobby" Saleem is ready to tackle his next physical challenge, anchored by the confidence he found within during his just-completed season on *The Biggest Loser*.

Saleem, a gay man who turned 29 last November and lives in west suburban Elmhurst, lost 188 pounds (52 percent of his overall body weight) during the nationally broadcast TV show. He appeared at the finale weighing 170 pounds. He now weighs 180 to 185, and is brimming with enthusiasm, excitement and energy.

But he's admittedly nervous about participating in the 11th annual Ride for AIDS Chicago (RFAC)—pedaling 200 miles on a bicycle over two days this summer.

"When I first heard about the Ride, I was totally on board. I love to spin, and competed in a triathlon on the show; in fact, my strongest part of that tri was the bicycle ride.

"I just thought, why not [participate]? It's fitness-related and for a great cause."

Saleem will ride for the Chainbite Gang.

"I'm excited and really looking forward to that family atmosphere, as we had on the show—people all working together for the



Bobby Saleem. Photo by Trae Patton/NBC

same cause," Saleem said. "It's a cause that I believe in, and I know it's going to be a remarkable event. It's unfortunate that [HIV/AIDS] has really impacted [the gay] community so much, so, if I can give back any way, I definitely will do that.

"Riding 200 miles in two days is going to be crazy, but I learned so much from *The Biggest Loser* and my confidence has grown so much, so I know I can do it, can get through it ... and that my butt is going to hurt at the end of the Ride.

"I'm really excited to finish."

The RFAC benefits the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) of Chicago.

"There's nothing I can go through [during the Ride] that's worse than what those [im-

pacted by HIV/AIDS] endure—and I'm always mindful of that," Saleem said.

"Even outside of *The Biggest Loser*, my life hasn't exactly been a cakewalk. I'm used to grinding things out and have been goal-oriented. That's the mentality I will have through this ride, which I know will be difficult and I know there will be points where I want to stop. I'm kind of like *The Little Engine That Could*. I know every mile will be difficult, but every mile [completed] is that much closer to 200 [completed]."

"Nothing is going to stop me. Sure, it might not be pretty and it might not be the fastest time, but I will complete the race."

Richard Cordova, TPAN's director of athletic events, said, "The *Biggest Loser* is about the triumph of the human spirit. Bobby and the other contestants have shown that if you set your mind to something, you can accomplish it. The Ride for AIDS Chicago is no different."

Saleem is truly a success story from *The Biggest Loser*, dropping from a size-42 pants to 32s. Plus, he previously wore 3XL shirts, and now wears large tops.

"In a way, I still haven't appreciated everything that I've done on the show and haven't really realized that I have a new body. I still feel and move a little bit like my heavy self," he said.

Saleem graduated from Proviso West High School in 2003 and Loyola University in 2007. He is now a lawyer—with a new knowledge of nutrition, stamina and training, from *The Biggest Loser*, to lead his training for the Ride.

"Knowing that I've gone through the physical torture in *The Biggest Loser* is something that is aiding me toward this next event," he said.

"It's been crazy over the past eight months, a whirlwind.

"Sure, I was a groupie of the show for years, mostly because, I've always had a weight issue. The show always motivated and inspired me for different weight challenges. I would always lose weight during the show, but then gain weight [when the show was not on the air.] *The Biggest Loser* has always been an inspirational show for me."

But also heartbreaking at times, too.

There were, for instance, seasons when he stopped watching because "I just couldn't bare to watch anymore because I was still consistently overweight, while I saw others change their lives," he said.

So, when Saleem finally appeared, he was ecstatic.

"I can't believe I was part of the show and can't believe I did it," he said. "When I first got on the show, I had no expectations whatsoever. I just knew I was in a desperate situation."

Saleem knew he needed to drop some weight, a lot of weight, as he tipped the scale at 356—and he knew he was en route to 400 pounds.

Saleem was not out during casting and the early part of the show. He came out on national TV.

"I'm generally a very private person, so, for me to actually take the step to be on a national television show, it just showed how desperate, hopeful I was," Saleem said. "The first few weeks were completely difficult; I didn't think I was going to make it. It was the most physically taxing experience of my life—and I didn't think it would be that way.

What I expected before the show, and what actually happened, those were two completely different things."

Saleem entered the show with a torn ACL, though the intense trio of trainers—Jillian Michaels, Bob Harper and Dolvett Quince—were not going to ease up. He thought they'd make modifications for him, based on his injury, but that didn't happen.



The *Biggest Loser* finalists David Brown, Rachel Frederickson and Bobby Saleem. Photo by Justin Lubin/NBC

"The first three weeks were a completely difficult process," said Saleem, who quickly adopted a day to day plan, as opposed to a big, long-term weight-loss goal.

"As time went on [during the show], and as the workouts got more and more difficult, I became more confident in myself and confident in my physical capabilities.

The show also helped define myself as a person, as a man."

Saleem said his coming-out has "been a largely positive experience."

"My parents love me, and I have such great friends and family. Just knowing that I have that support, unconditionally, has really helped bolster my confidence as a person.

"I'm just so overwhelmed with how positive of an experience I've gotten [since coming out]. I've gotten my physical healthy back, but also my emotional well-being has improved 100 percent."

More from Raheel "Bobby" Saleem:

—Since losing all the weight: "I have to say, I have gotten a lot more attention; I will say that. And I'm much more comfortable. Before the show, I didn't venture out into the gay scene too, too much. I was too embarrassed, too insecure at what I looked like."

—On same-sex marriage in Illinois: "I am so pleased that Illinois is now allowing same-sex marriages; it's really opened up a path for me that I never saw coming. The ability for me to have a husband, get married in Illinois, and have that life I never thought I'd have ... that's truly amazing."

—On *Biggest Loser* (season 15) winner Rachel Frederickson: "I mean this from the bottom of my heart: if I was to lose to anybody, I wanted it to be Rachel because she consistently won all of the challenges on the show; always did well on the weigh-ins; was a workhorse in the gym. She deserved [the title] from day one."

—On Rachel's shocking weight loss at the finale (dropping 59.62 percent of her body weight): "Did she get too thin? Perhaps, but I think that's more indicative of her competitive drive than anything else. I know she'll get to a comfortable weight, as all of us."

—On trainer Dolvett Quince: "Unfortunately, I never got to work with Dolvett too much, mostly just that first week [on the show]. He's a great man and always been very supportive of me."

—On trainer Jillian Michaels: "I'm sure she'd be the first to admit it: she didn't really like me, especially the first week. I think she truly believed I was not going to last very long, and in retrospect, I agree with her. Yes, there is a method to Jillian Michaels' madness. She is one of the most beautiful people I have ever met,

on the inside and the outside. She really, truly cares about the contestants. I owe so much to Jillian; she's really changed how I view myself and the things that I feel I deserve. I owe a lot to Jillian; she really helped me, especially the last few weeks of the show. I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would become a finalist, and it only was because of [Michaels] and her participation over the last few weeks of the show that made me realize that, yes, I could be a finalist, and not only that, but that I could win the show."

—On trainer Bob Harper: "I don't think I would have lasted on the ranch, particularly those first few weeks, if I had another trainer [instead of] Bob. Bob modified all of my workouts, made it intense but not as grueling on my bad knee. To share my personal story with him, and him to share his personal story with me, [that] was a beautiful moment. I hope that moment will help at least one other person who was/is going through the same struggle that I've gone through, and Bob too. Bob really helped me physically, and emotionally too; he helped me be comfortable as a gay man. He was an example, a mentor for me as a gay man himself."



Mark Zubro.

Lambda Award finalists at Sulzer Library on May 14

The Chicago Public Library's LGBT Committee, in cooperation with the Lambda Literary Awards, will present book readings and discussions from seven Chicago-area nominees for the 2014 Lambda award.

The free program takes place on Wed., May 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave.

The finalists who will be present include Laura Krugoff (*My Brother's Name*), Elizabeth Lindsey Rodgers (*Chord Box*), Mary Anne Mohanraj (*The Stars Change*), Mark Zubro (*Pawn of Satan*), Barrie Jean Borich (*Body Geographic*), L.A. Fields (*My Dear Watson*) and Edmond Manning (*King Mai*).

Visit chicagopubliclibrary.org or call 312-744-7616 for more information.



State rep Jakobsson honored at Chicago House show/brunch

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSDEFER

Illinois state Rep. Naomi Jakobsson was the recipient of the Chicago House Spirit Award and an impassioned standing ovation from guests at the sold-out 27th Annual Vivid 2014 Spring Brunch and Fashion Show fundraiser for the Chicago House held at Harold Washington Library's Winter Garden ballroom on May 4.

Honored for her work and such heartfelt support of the marriage-equality bill (she left the Champaign hospice bedside of her late son in order to travel to Springfield to cast the deciding vote), Jakobsson's award was presented by state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz. "I'd been waiting for decades to be able to press the green button on voting for marriage for my colleagues, my neighbors, my friends and everyone in this room," Feigenholtz said. "But the vote was very close. Naomi made a courageous and very difficult decision with her husband because they believed that what's important in life is not just what's going on at home, but the future."

"I'm truly honored and humbled," Jakobsson said. "It feels good to be able to say this, but for the very first time at the Chicago House

Spring Brunch and Fashion Show, we can all celebrate and get ready for wedding season!"

Former Oprah Winfrey Show producer Sally Lou Loveman introduced fashion lines that included presentations by students of Columbia College Chicago's Fashion Studies program, Mira Couture, Monarch, Roam and Cram.

"This is a historic year for us," Chicago House CEO Stan J. Sloan told Windy City Times. "HIV may be getting more manageable, but LGBTQ poverty and economic disparity is on the rise. We are still focused on HIV but we are also about helping to bridge the LGBTQ economic gap."

Sloan added that Chicago House will be addressing LGBTQ poverty and homelessness across the board in the coming years. "If you're LGBTQ, you're almost twice as likely to live in poverty," Sloan said. "Thirty percent of LGBTQ people need food assistance on a monthly basis and that's just not OK. We can do a better job of taking care of each other and we're going to be focusing on that."

For more information or to donate to Chicago House, go to <http://www.chicagohouse.org/>.



CIVIL UNIONS & WEDDINGS AT THE KEITH HOUSE



HISTORIC EVENT SPACE

The Keith House is among Chicago's oldest grand houses, in the heart of the renowned Prairie Avenue Historic District, 10 minutes from downtown Chicago. It resides next to the beautiful Chicago Women's Park and Gardens, which is perfect for pictures.

We can accommodate up to 90 people for cocktail style reception and 60 for a sit-down in a single room. Also available for corporate events, retreats and meetings.



WWW.KEITHHOUSECHICAGO.COM

1900 S. Prairie Avenue
Chicago IL 60616-1321

Phone: 312.907.7909
events@keithhousechicago.com

GLHF GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME 2014 CELEBRITY BOWL FUNDRAISING EVENT

Saturday, May 10

Registration: 10-11 a.m.

Bowling: 11 a.m.-noon

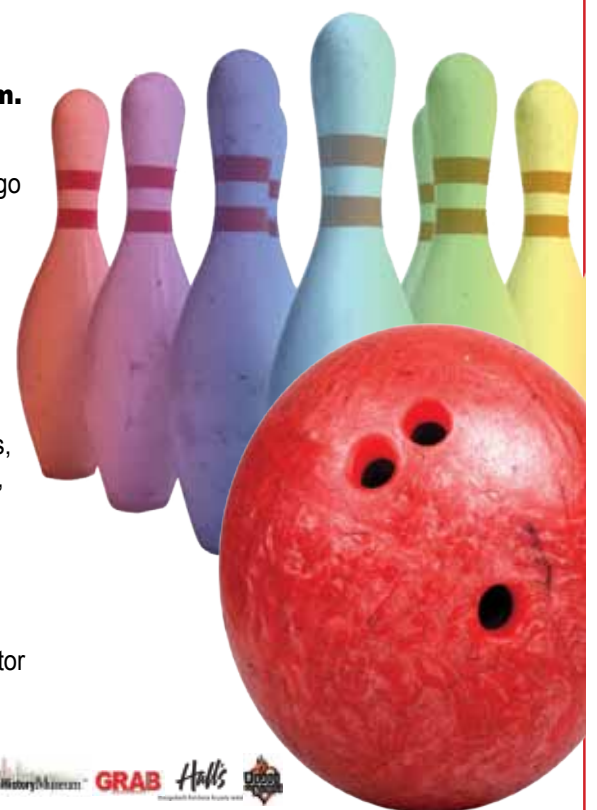
Wrap-up: Noon-12:30 p.m.

Waveland Bowl

3700 N. Western Ave., Chicago

This event is FREE and open to the public. Come cheer on over 20 celebrity bowlers including Ald. James Cappleman, Ald. Tom Tunney, Suzi Arnold, Gary Chichester, Tarrina Dikes, Mel Ferrand, Andrew Favreau, Tico Valle, Vera Washington and Zander Mander.

For sign-up info to become a Celebrity Bowler, please call the event coordinator Dick Uyvari at 773-769-5115



The 2014 Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Celebrity Bowl is sponsored by Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, 3712 N. Broadway, #637, Chicago, IL, 60613-4235; www.GLHofFame.org. Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame is a 501(c)(3) Illinois not-for-profit corporation.

the DISH

WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

Baconfest 2014; Naansense

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The UIC Forum was unofficially the happiest place on earth April 25-26, when **Baconfest 2014** (<http://baconfestchicago.com>) took place.

Hundreds of patrons paid \$100 a ticket to sample offerings from dozens of restaurants, catering companies and similar establishments (although there were also businesses that sold novelty items as well—bacon body wash, anyone?).

One of the biggest changes regarding this year's event was that it expanded into three sessions over two nights. (Previously, it was a two-session, one-day affair.) Still, the event

sold out—attesting to the fact that this city takes its bacon seriously.

Savor attended the Saturday lunch session on April 26, and there was an impressive line-up, indeed. Among the standouts were Carlucci's gnocchi bolognese with powdered bacon, Telegraph's double-smoked bacon sausage, Jellyfish's BLT roll, and Bacaro's meaty take on S'mores (smoky graham cracker, bone-marrow fudge, chocolate bacon, bacon mousse and bacon sea salt).

Regarding this year's event, co-founder Seth Zurer emailed Savor that "[o]n a personal level, I am super-happy with how the event went. Our chefs, guests, volunteers and partners all had a bacon blast and we're excited that we were able to expand the event while keeping the experience fun for everyone involved. It's all in the service of bacon and the Greater Chicago Food Depository!"



Baconfest 2014. Photos by Ed Negron



Naansense. Photos by Andrew Davis



Restaurants sometimes employ punny names to amuse or provide insight into the eatery's cuisines—and sometimes those same places have some sad items to offer. Thankfully, the Indian-centric place **Naansense** (171 N. Wells St.; <http://www.eatatnaansense.com>) has many delicious items for patrons to enjoy.

Actually, Naansense (which now offers dinner service at 5-8 p.m.) offers a combination of Indian and non-Indian items. For example, the lamb naanwich incorporates cabbage slaw, tomatoes, cucumbers and chickpea noodles, with toppings of korma sauce and apple tamarind chutney. The pork roti roll has pickled onions and cabbage slaw, with garlic yogurt chutney and vindaloo sauce serving as toppings.

A media preview of Naansense's dinner service exhibited some incredibly tasty items.

Chicken was presented in varying degrees of spiciness; the vindaloo definitely made me sweat—but fortunately the accompanying yogurt cooled me down. Even the saag aloo (a side dish incorporating everything from spinach to dandelion greens) put a soft spot in this carnivore's heart. Also, the dumpling-like gulab jamun (with pistachio gelato) was great—and not that sweet at all.

Lastly, if you want any more proof of Naansense's quality, my friend (who happens to be Indian-American) was very impressed with the selection. She said she would definitely return.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANTIQUES

ZURKO PROMOTIONS
ANTIQU
& Collectables Markets
May 10th & May 11th
 Hours: Sat. 10am - 4pm
 Sun. 8am-3pm / \$7

Plus! GARDEN ACCENT

Early Buyers: Sat. 8am - 10am / \$25
Lake County Fairgrounds
GREYSLAKE (1060 E. Peterson)

NEW VENDORS WELCOME!

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

CLEANING SERVICES

CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES: We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. **Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com (11/20/14-52)**

WHIT'S CLEANING SERVICE - Established 14 year cleaning service. Single individual will come to your home or business. Reliable, consistent, self-motivated and offering flexible scheduling for your cleaning needs. (Chicago service only) Refs. avail. **Please contact Whit @ (773) 567-7106 or whitensong@gmail.com for more info. (5/28/14-4)**

COUNSELING

LIVING WELL MINISTRIES

LOVE FROM THE CENTER OF WHO YOU ARE

Life Coaching • Ceremonies
 Office & Phone Appointments

Rev. Jacki Belile, CEC
 Nurturing Pride & Faith for 20 Years
773-655-4357
www.livingwellministries.net

PRE-NUPTIAL COUNSELING FOR LGBT COUPLES. To celebrate the Marriage Equality Act, Dr Kiya is offering special rates for any LGBT couple who would like pre-nuptial counseling. **Call for a FREE phone consultation: 773-880-5492. www.drkiya.com (6/4/14-26)**

DECK CLEANING

CEDAR PRO, Deck cleaning, staining, and restoration. Protect your wood, keep it hard. Complete preparation, oil stain, beautiful finish. **Call for a free estimate. 847-414-3422 (6/4/14-13)**

HELP WANTED

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE CSR needed for moving company based in Skokie. Must be flexible and able to work rotating weekends. Experience a plus - but willing to train right person. **Please submit resume to: info@joesymovers.com NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE (5/14/14-2)**

HOME IMPROVEMENT

MAKE YOUR HOME LOOK FABULOUS! Winter is a great time to fix up your home. Add crown molding, a fresh coat of paint, or a facelift for your bathroom. "A+" with BBB. Licensed-Bonded-Insured, One year Warranty. Free Estimates! **Andy OnCall 773-244-9961. 847-328-3100 www.getandy.com (9/10/14-26)**

GAY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 35 YEARS - carpet, tile, wood flooring, window treatments, granite/stone countertops, complete remodeling services, custom backsplash and shower tile designs - free

estimates and design consultation - see our ad in "Connexions" - serving all of Chicago and Suburbs - **HOM, 847-541-4848, www.hombyrayandson.com, john@hombyrayandson.com (2/11/15-am)**

LEGAL SERVICES

The Law Office of Alexander Weaver
312-588-5005
 email: violaw@rcn.com

A Full Service Law Firm for the Community since 1988

410 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 628, Chicago

WEDDING OFFICIANTS

Meaningful Moments
 Commending the Love, Blessing and Honor of Marriage

Weddings and Ceremonies for Couples
 Marguerite H. Griffin / Life Cycle Celebrant™
 Meaningful Moments / 773-919-1333
www.meaningfulmarguerite.com

WINDOW TREATMENTS

WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE WINDOWS?: Call me! I take care of it all from design through installation, customizing to your needs. **JOSEPH RICE Interiors, Inc.** Full Decorating Services with a specialty in window treatments for over 25 years. **773-271-2361. www.JosephRiceInteriors.com (6/4/14-13)**

GAY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 35 YEARS - certified Hunter Douglas® priority dealer, custom window treatments, free estimates and design consultation - see our ad in "Connexions" - serving all of Chicago and Suburbs - **HOM, 847-541-4848, www.hombyrayandson.com, john@hombyrayandson.com (2/11/15-am)**

REAL ESTATE

RELOCATION / MOVING

RELOCATION / MOVING? FREE Relocation Kit + FREE Buyers Representation! On-line: **WWW.GAYREALSTATE.COM** or Toll Free 1-888-420-MOVE (6683). **No Cost or Obligation to be Represented by the Nation's Top Gay & Lesbian Realtors. (8/6/14-26)**

CONDO FOR SALE

MALIBU CONDO, 22ND FLOOR. 3-bed, 2 bath, rehabbed with new hardwood, new windows, granite kitchen, marble and travertine baths. 3 private balconies. 22nd floor with amazing SW views, overlooking Hollywood Beach. **Broker owned for 17 years. \$369,900. 773-573-4785 (5/14/14-2)**

The Renaissance A Vintage High-rise



5510 N. Sheridan Rd., 60640 Unit 12B



\$729,000
MLS# 08552103
 340° lake views, city & park.
 4BD, 3.1 BA (easy 4th)
 Meticulous renovation. Chefs kitchen, barrel ceilings, Period molding & lighting. En-suite baths, gallery & family room.
 2 units per floor with private entry. Parking



Gaskin Realtors Inc.
 817 Main St.
 Evanston, IL 60202
 847-869-1669

www.GaskinRealtors.com

The Donation of Constantine: A Novel

by **Simon LeVay**
\$16.95; Lambourn Press; 422 pages
 BY CARRIE MAXWELL

In his second novel, *The Donation of Constantine: A Novel*, Simon LeVay explores the intricacies of the Catholic church and the power it exerted over Europe in the middle of the eighth century.

LeVay intertwined the lives of historical figures with fictional characters to tell the story of a transformative time for the Catholic Church.

The book is a captivating story of Pope Stephen II's papacy and his desire to save Rome from the Lombards; subterfuge between Deacon Paul (Pope Stephen's brother) and Sister Leoba (a Vatican scribe) surrounding the Donation of Constantine; the role that Omar (a Muslim who crafted and sold Christian relics) plays in that subterfuge, Zaid (Omar's son) and Lenora's (a Christian neighbor of Zaid's) unlikely love story; Pope Stephen II's travels to secure the support of the Frankish King Pepin; and the war between Pope Stephen II and the Lombards, which King Aistulf led.

The book is peppered with just enough detail about Catholic traditions, rites and prayers for readers to understand the inner workings of the Catholic church during this era.

The best parts of the book feature Zaid's and Lenora's joint and separate paths, and Sister

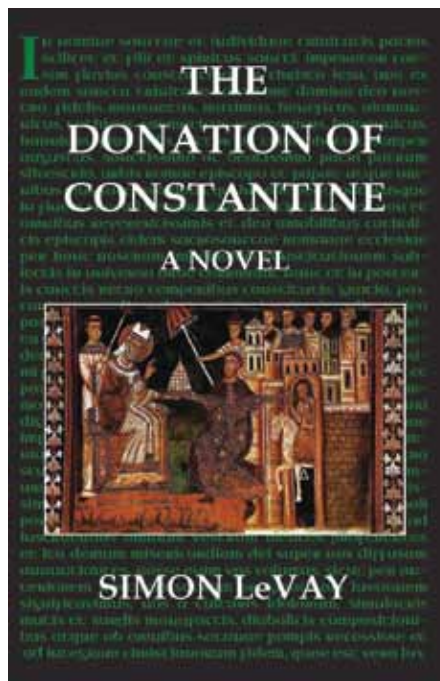
Leoba's story.

Although you might disagree with a character's actions, the reasons behind them are made clear with the way LeVay describes the feelings and motivations of each. This is where LeVay shines as an historical fiction author.

Aside from the anachronistic use of floozy and rascal in the beginning of the book, LeVay does a great job of transporting the reader back to a time when travel was time consuming and arduous, relics were held in high regard, and Rome was in a period of decline.



Simon LeVay. Photo courtesy of Jason Reed



LeVay includes an afterword where he explained who the fictional characters were as well as additional information about the historical figures and events that took place. He also explained how he embellished some of their stories or merged events to streamline the overall story.

The *Donation of Constantine: A Novel* is a gripping, suspenseful and intricate tale. For readers who love history and historical fiction, especially how the inner workings of the Catholic church affected the landscape of Europe during the medieval era, I would highly recommend this book.

'Legends of Oz' film out May 9

Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return, a new family-friendly animated feature, opens May 9 in theaters.

The film is based on *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* novel by L. Frank Baum and the continuing adventure books by his great-grandson, Roger Stanton Baum—both Chicago natives. The movie features the vocal talents of Lea Michele (*Glee*), Dan Aykroyd, Jim Belushi, Bernadette Peters and Kelsey Grammer, among others.

'Aqua Girl' in Miami Beach May 14-18

Aqua Girl—advertised as “the largest charity event for the LBT community in the nation”—will take place in Miami Beach, Florida, for the 15th consecutive year.

Attendees will enjoy appetizers from award-winning chef Robyn Almodovar. Also, for the second time, *Aqua Girl* will be holding a VIP cocktail reception in Ft. Lauderdale to start things.

In addition, for the crowd of ladies who like to sample the local scene and experience the music culture of Miami, *Aqua Girl* will be featuring a live music event at Grand Central. The event also will feature “Sip and Savor!,” when patrons can sample various wines and artisanal cheeses while on the rooftop of the Betsy. Among the other happenings are “Happy Hour at The Catalina,” “Miami VIP Cocktail Reception” and the dance event “Traffic Jam.”

Visit www.AquaGirl.org.



3160
Sun., April 27

(L-R): Judges Richard Knight, Jr., Robert Hughes, and James Gavin; Creagh of Creaoke; finalists Trish, Samantha, and JD; host Sofia Saffire. Photos by Kirk.



BOBBY LOVE'S
Thu., May 1

(L-R): Judges Robert Hughes, Maria Pahl, and James Gavin; finalists Nomar and Velicity; host Sofia Saffire; Creagh of Creaoke. Photo by Jerry Nunn.



Look for photos from Windy City Gay Idol at Crew in the next issue of Windy City Times.



TWELFTH ANNUAL

PHOENIX
BAR & NIGHTCLUB

THURSDAY, MAY 22
 1932 E. HIGGINS RD, ELK GROVE VILLAGE,
 8 P.M. SIGN UP, 9 P.M. START

COME SEE OUR ONE OF A
 KIND LED DANCE FLOOR...
 OUR ALL-NIGHT OUTSIDE BAR AND PATIO...
 AND DISCOVER OUR ALL NEW LOOK!

COMPLETE RULES AND REGULATIONS AT:
 GAY LESBIAN BISEXUAL TRANS BREAKING NEWS
WWW.WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM

CALENDAR

Brought to you by the
combined efforts of

WINDY CITY
TIMES

nightspots

Wed., May 7

Spring Wine Tasting Party Sample more than 99 wines, plus purchase bottles for your summer parties. \$20 donation goes to Equality Illinois. 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

Affinity Forty Plus Meeting Includes but is not limited to individuals who identify as lesbian, bisexual, or transgender women who are at least 40 years of age. Led by Glynis Morris. Activities defined by participants. Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month. 7:00pm, <http://www.affinity95.org>

GenderQueer Chicago GenderQueer Chicago is a grassroots, peer-led group that works to create safe spaces for all of us to talk about, think about, explore, and express gender. They are open to those who wish to talk and think about gender. GenderQueer Chicago meets every Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00PM. Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St. <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Lesbians Who Tech (and friends) May // Chicago Happy Hour Lesbians Who Tech is global community of over 3,000 queer women in and around tech. Whether you work at a tech company, have a technical job or just love technology. Yes, even if you're just obsessed with every new app that comes out. We want you to join Lesbians Who Tech and: Get geeky with techy folks just like you Enjoy tasty adult beverages Land gigs, make new friends & connections 7:00pm - 9:00pm Vertigo Sky Lounge 2 W. Erie St., Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/lesbians-who-tech-and-friends-may-chicago-happy-hour-tickets-11368865583?aff=efbevent>

Janice Clark author The Rathbones The Odyssey meets Edgar Allan Poe. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N Clark St., <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Thursday, May 8

Clio on the Margins: on the Developments of Women's and Gender History in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe Talk presented by Krassimira Daskalova, professor of modern European cultural history at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, in Bulgaria. 4:30pm Franke Institute for the Humanities, 1100 East 57th St., JRL S-118, Chicago

Lesbianography: Lesbians and Sex Gender

borders? Forbidden fantasy? Intersections of race, powers, and queer desire? Check, check, check. Scholars Juana Maria Rodriguez of UC Berkeley and LaMonda Horton-Stallings of IU Bloomington lead an evening of provocative conversation, performance, and plenty of audience Q&A. \$20, \$15 for members (Includes open bar reception) 5:30pm - 9:00pm Chicago History Museum 1601 N Clark St., <http://www.chicagohistory.org/planavisit/upcomingevents/out-at-chm> Tickets: <http://www.chicagohistory.org/planavisit/upcomingevents/out-at-chm>

Parents of transgender individuals For decades, PFLAG has been proud to be a resource for transgender and gender non-conforming people, their families, and friends. For more info: parentsoftransgender@pflagillinois.org 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted <http://community.pflag.org/transgender>

Dustin Lance Black Openly gay and Oscar-winning screenwriter (Milk, J. Edgar and the play 8, which portrays the closing arguments in the federal trial that led to the overturning of California's Prop 8 and the establishment of marriage equality in the nation's largest state) 7:00pm Frick Center, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst http://public.elmhurst.edu/cultural_events

Romeo & Juliet New dance version featuring longtime Joffrey dancer Matthew Adamczyk, gay and macho, dancing Juliet's father, another bastion of solemn, masculine energy, through Sunday, May 11, Adamczyk also has an art showing the Center on Halsted through May 27 7:30pm The Joffrey Ballet 10 E Randolph St., 800-982-2787 <http://joffrey.org> Tickets: <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

Friday, May 9

Studs Terkel festival, Let's Get Working, Three-day festival includes concerts, discussions, listening stations, performances, screenings, and soapbox debates. Free. Opening Reception for "Let's Get Working: Chicago Celebrates Studs Terkel", hosted by Master of Ceremonies, Rick Kogan. 6:00pm - 7:00pm UChicago's Logan Center for the Arts <http://studs.uchicago.edu/event/test-all-day-event/>

AstonRep Theatre Presents WIT The story of Vivian Bearing, Ph.D., a renowned professor of English, a specialist in the metaphysical, life and death themes of John Donne's Holy Sonnets, who finds herself

the subject of research designed to try to save her life as she is being treated for stage IV metastatic ovarian cancer. Vivian comes to reassess her life and her work with a profundity and humor that are transformative both for her and the audience. Through June 7. 8:00pm Raven Theatre East Theatre 6157 N Clark St 773-828-9129 Tickets: <http://www.astonrep.com>

About Face Theater's Wonka Ball About Face Theatre invites guests to "come on down" and celebrate its 18th year with a throwback to daily doubles, free spins and lifelines at WONKA BALL 2014: The Gayme Show! at 8 pm (VIP Cocktail Reception at 7 pm) at Macy's on State Street in the 9th Floor Event Center, 111 N. State St. Tickets are \$150-\$200; <http://www.aboutface theatre.com>.

Pride Films and Plays' 2014 Gay Play and Musical Contest Gay Play Weekend through May 11, five finalists in Pride Films and Plays' 2014 Gay Play and Musical Contest. The scripts will be staged as enhanced staged reading. \$10, or \$5 for students and seniors over 62. 11:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>

Saturday, May 10

Celebrity Bowl annual fundraiser Registration 10-11am; introductions and bowling from 11am-12 noon; and wrap-up from noon to 12:30pm. Obtain pledges and come bowl (you'll be an automatic Celebrity!), or help an existing Celebrity Bowler to obtain pledges, all to support Hall of Fame activities during 2014. Pledges can be per-pin or per-bowler. Contact Dick Ulyvari at friends@glhalloffame.org to sign up. 10:00am - 1:00pm Waveland Bowl 3700 N Western

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Weekly Saturday meetings. A peer-led support and education group for people with mood disorders and family and friends. Ask receptionist for room number. 11:00am - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted 872-216-3272 <http://www.dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

The works of Matthew Adamczyk Adamczyk's work, paintings of acrylic on canvas, conjures a pop art style with a whimsical twist. Open on the second floor gallery through May 27 12:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Chicago Tribune Chief Theater Critic Chris Jones discusses his new book Bigger, Brighter, Louder: 150 Years of Chicago Theater as seen by Chicago Tribune Critics. Free lecture and discussion. Free and open to the public, limited seating. Reservations recommended. 2:00pm McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage 425 Fawell Blvd Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 630-942-4000 <http://AtTheMAC.org>

ACLU Bill of Rights Celebration Honors



HAVING A BALL

Friday, May 9

About Face Theater's Wonka Ball will be at Macy's on State Street.

Photo from 2013 by Matthew C. Clark

the ACLU Reproductive Rights Project's 35th Anniversary and Project Director Lorie Chaiten for vital work in protecting reproductive freedom in Illinois. Remarks from Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky. 6:00pm Westin River North, 320 N. Dearborn St., Chicago Tickets: https://www.aclu.org/secure/2014-bill-rights-celebration?etname=BRC+2014+v4+4_9_14&etj=1366482

Premiere party: Panda II: Rise of a Gay Asian Bear Catch the new webisode from gamTVusa.com of Panda II: Rise of a Gay Asian Bear. \$5 donation requested. Cash bar. 7:00pm - 10:00pm Downtown Bar and Lounge 440 N State <http://www.gamtvusa.com>

Sunday, May 11

PFLAG Mother's day Kisses from Mom Chocolate Hershey's Kisses with PFLAG info and real hugs from PFLAG moms (and other members). 3:00pm - 9:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St., <http://pflag.org>

Chicago Prime Timers Second Sunday of each month open social. Prime Timers are older gay or bisexual men (and younger men who admire mature men). Our members are men who choose to have their social lives enriched by the diverse activities in which our members engage. Those wishing to enjoy alcoholic beverages are asked to bring their own bottle. Set-ups are \$1. Social hour is followed by a dinner and a program at 7pm. \$20 for members or non-members. Non-members and guests are always most welcome. 6:00pm

Ann Sather - Belmont 909 W Belmont Ave <http://www.chicagoprimitimers.org>

Monday, May 12

Influence Our Future: On The Table Chicago Community Trust is marking its 99 birthday with a community wide conversation about our collective future. Join thousands to generate new ideas, spark partnerships and shape a public agenda 6:00pm - 9:00pm Various locations <http://www.onthetable2014.com>

Dinner Party: Chef Pete of The Gage will cook for percussionist/composer and Wilco-drummer Glenn Kotche, radio host Kathy Hart of The Mix's The Eric and Kathy Show, actor Marc Grapey, host Elysabeth Alfano and you. 8:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St., <http://www.citywinery.com> Tickets: <http://www.citywinery.com/chicago/fear-no-art-presents-the-dinner-party-5-12.html>

Tuesday, May 13

Quare Square: pen mic and performance for Queer Women of Color and allies. Participate in the larger queer literary community by providing a nurturing space for creative performance on the south side of Chicago. Every second Tuesday of the month. 7:30pm - 10:00pm Jeffery Pub 7041 S Jeffery Blvd., <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Quare-Square/463316023758355>

Wed., May 14

RUBY Author Cynthia Bond An Indie Next and Barnes & Noble Great New Writer selection 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St

Thursday, May 15

Windy City Gay Idol 12th annual talent search 7:00pm Crew Bar & Grill 4804 N Broadway <http://www.windycitymedia-group.com/pdf/Idol2014-8x10.pdf>

Friday, May 16

Queer Prom 2014 Dancing, food, information booths about LGBTQ youth & allies to celebrate fearlessly who they are, our communities, and prom. Tickets at door, Students/Youth \$10, Adult Youth Allies \$25 6:00pm - 11:00pm National Museum of Mexican Art 1852 W. 19th St. <https://www.facebook.com/events/205626449647358/>

The Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus Conversations Series Conversations: Retreat Style series. Through May 18. Retreats include discussions about sexuality and healthy living as a black gay/bi male in today's society. These all-expense-paid weekend experiences bring together men from across the Chicagoland area to build new relationships. 18+ Registration required. 10:00am - 10:00pm Contact for location <http://www.chiblackgaycaucus.org>

NEON from page 23

things. The minute I heard those reactions I knew this was something great and completely fine and a part of me. The initial weight was lifted. When the story came out in the magazine it was, like, "Oh, this is something that people know now." That is fine and the reaction has been really positive. There has been a little negativity every now and then but I haven't really sought it out. I am genuinely happy.

I am so excited to tour with this new headspace because it is exciting. It is exciting being able to really sing these songs and be able to feel what I felt when I wrote them. I think it will speak to the fans really well.

WCT: Now we can hit the gay bars after the show and there won't be any backlash!

TG: [Laughs] There you go—yeah, totally.

WCT: Being from Utah, have you seen Book of Mormon the Musical?

TG: I haven't. I want to.

WCT: I heard you are a big Mean Girls movie fan.

TG: Massive Mean Girls fan. It is actually the 10th anniversary today. It is Wednesday so we should be wearing pink, as they say in

the movie. I am a huge fan of Lindsey Lohan. Through all of her mess I still think she is rad. I know she is looking for work so I would love to get her in a music video. We should try to work on that.

WCT: That would be awesome. How did you feel about your songs being used on Glee?

TG: It's cool. I didn't get what the big deal was when certain rock bands were saying no to Glee to cover their music. I don't stop fans from posting their covers on YouTube so I am not going to stop a television show from covering the music. I think it is weird to put out music to the public [and] then get overly protective on where it gets played. We were just flattered that people of the show liked the music and thought it was decent.

I didn't realize how popular the show was around the world. Since it was covered we have been to Asia, Australia and Europe. We have seen a lot of people introduced to our music because of the show in those parts of the world, which is really fascinating.

I was a choir kid, too, so [the songs being on Glee] makes sense.

Neon Trees rocks out at Riviera Theater, 4746 N. Racine Ave., on May 13. More on the band can be found at www.fameisdead.com.

BOND from page 19

One topic in Bond's feature deals with incest. "Ruby has a relationship with her very distant cousin, but back then, East Texas, it was just like, whatever," Bond said. "But they form a relationship and it's her heart connection and Maggie, in many ways when I started working on the book, was really the narrator of the book. If you imagine that you interviewed someone and then you wrote a book, Maggie was the one who knew all the stories, really. And some of it was written first person from her perspective and then it changed over time."

Like Bond, Ruby is bisexual.

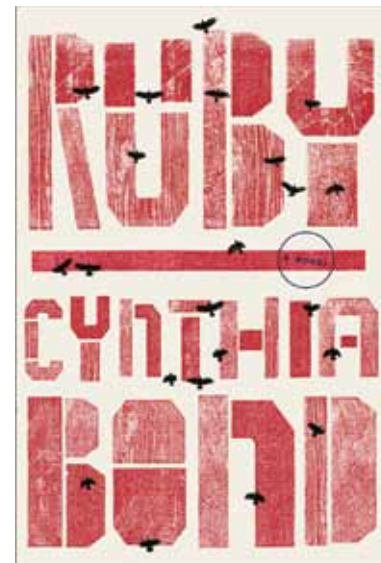
"Ruby is involved with men and with women, but at that time in East Texas, there were no labels associated with love. It was just people would be with people, and it was just where your heart took you and there was never any sense of a label or politicizing anything," she said.

As for labels, Bond said, "I believe there will be a day when [they] are not necessary, but there are civil-rights issues and I think that having labels can be helpful. I think there will be a time when love is love and people are not having to identify in any way. I also believe that there is a political necessity to labeling,

and that justice should be served and everyone should be viewed as equal and that we need to advance beyond them," Bond said.

Will she ever reveal herself entirely in literary format?

"I think that one day maybe I'll write a memoir, or maybe one day I'll do more investigation about my aunt's murder, but for now ... it's truth and it's fiction," she said.



BILLY MASTERS

"Great to meet the strong & brave young women from #PussyRiot, who refuse to let their voices be silenced in #Russia."—Hillary Clinton's tweet after meeting Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alyokhina backstage at the Women in the World Summit. Am I the only one who loves that Hillary is tweeting the word "pussy?"

Sometimes when I cover a story, I feel like the child of divorced parents—forced to take a side. This week, a story broke and various



Valerie Harper is in the middle of a legal battle, Billy says. Photo from Getty Images

news outlets had similar headlines: "Valerie Harper Sued For Not Revealing She Had Cancer To Employer." "Valerie Harper Sued For Forgetting Lines After Brain Cancer." What these stories would have you believe is that the beloved Rhoda actress was being sued by playwright Matthew Lombardo for dropping out of the tour of his play *Looped* once she found out she had cancer. But, of course, that's not the full story. Harper earned a Tony nomination during the play's brief Broadway run. She was in rehearsals for the national tour when she was diagnosed with brain cancer. The suit states that Lombardo and the producers had insufficient time to find a replacement for Harper and, therefore, are suing her for \$2 million. Casting a replacement (Miss Stefanie Powers) did indeed cause the tour to be delayed. Instead of opening in Hartford, Connecticut, it launched in Fort Lauderdale with Hartford being added later in the run.

So, what is this suit all about? One of the producers was Tony Cacciotti, Valerie's husband. According to Lombardo, when Harper dropped out of the tour, so did the couple's financial backing. Lombardo's attorney said, "It never would have occurred to Mr. Lombardo to sue Valerie Harper and he did not. He was, at the time, resigned to simply accept his financial losses and to celebrate Ms. Harper's renewed health along with her many fans. Sadly, a lawsuit was filed against him seeking compensation even through Ms. Harper never actually performed in 'Looped' on tour and even though her husband stopped paying all tour-related bills upon which the producers and actors had been relying." Showbiz. It's just showbiz.

As I told you a couple weeks ago, Pasadena City College uninvited illustrious alumnus Dustin Lance Black to speak at its commencement once officials discovered that nude photos of him engaging in unsafe sex were readily available online. This brings up an important issue that no one has addressed: How is it that Pasadena City College only recently heard about a sex scandal involving one of its alum-

ni, and yet everyone else knew about it since 2009? It's a moot point because the college re-invited Lance and he has responded: "I've said it before and I'll say it again. It will be my honor to deliver the commencement address for PCC's graduating class for 2014."

Of course, you never completely escape your past, as Barney Frank recently learned. The former Massachusetts Congressman is the subject of a new documentary called *Compared to What: The Improbable Journey of Barney Frank*. After the premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival, Frank and his husband, Jim Ready, expressed their disappointment that the film included mention of a sex scandal. Back in 1989, Barney hired a male escort to be his live-in driver and houseboy—as one does. What he didn't know was that the aforementioned hooker was running a prostitution ring while living in Frank's home (which sounds like it would make a helluva movie). Frank was fully investigated and found innocent of all charges—except of using his influence to fix some parking tickets, and who hasn't done that? Frank's hubby said, "I really felt that was irrelevant to put that in there. It's embarrassing. ... It's just kinda rude." Come on—do you think anyone would do a Clinton documentary without a passing mention of Ms. Lewinsky?

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Nigel in London: "I know you love British pop singers. What do you think of Ritchie Neville? When he reunited with his group *Five*, he pinged my gaydar. Any thoughts?"

My gaydar was off the charts! While us Yanks know nothing about *Five*, they were huge in the UK. Last year, the group reunited for *The Big Reunion* on UK TV, and it proved that age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety. What I'm getting at is he looked better than ever and sported a rockin' bod! We got to see more of that bod since he did a nude photo shoot for *The Gay Times*. So, he's gay, right? Wrong. "A lot of people did presume I was—men would come on to me all the time," Neville said. "But my mum's brother was a raving queen who was really flamboyant and funny, so I've been used to being around gay people all my life. I was raised with a very liberal attitude and gay has never been a dirty word in our house. But I've never been tempted to experiment with my sexuality; I've always been quite certain from an early age what I am." Gay or straight, he's too damn hot for me not to include him on *BillyMasters.com*.

Since we're discussing UK pop stars, I want to quickly weigh in on "Blue" member Lee Ryan. I recently reported that Lee came out as bi during his time on "Celebrity Big Brother" and has had relationships with both men and women (which would explain those penis pics we have on *BillyMasters.com*). But is that the whole truth? His now-former-model girlfriend Jasmine Waltz took to Twitter and posted this: "The minute I got home to LA, he cheated on me with a man! #admitUgay" She then said, "Wish this was a joke. Living a lie and dragging other pal into your life is selfish and disgusting... #bereal #manup." Lee's response to these posts was matter-of-fact: "The claims that I am gay don't faze me. I don't care if people think I'm gay. Why would I care? I would be proud. Sexuality doesn't need to be defended or justified." They probably should be defended to the person you're sleeping with.

When a Brit being bi is news, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Singing, dancing, politics, nudity, bestiality—we had a little bit of everything in this column. And that's what you'll find at www.BillyMasters.com—the site that never disappoints. If there's a topic you want me to tackle, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Sandy Duncan appears in the next tour of *Looped*! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

#MUSICAL MONDAY

Monday, May 12 • 10pm

Photo © Sandra Coudert



MICHAEL URIE brings his Drama Desk & Clarence Derwent Award winning performance in "Buyer & Cellar" to the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place thru June 15 (www.BroadwayInChicago.com)



Our friends at Porchlight Music Theatre present "How to Succeed in Business..." at Stage 773 thru June 1. Tickets at Porchlightmusictheatre.org

JOIN US AS WE WELCOME
MICHAEL URIE
"BUYER & CELLAR" "UGLY BETTY"
"THANK YOU FOR JUDGING"

Michael will be introducing a performance at Sidetrack from Porchlight Theatre's current production of...

HOW TO
SUCCEED
IN BUSINESS
WITHOUT
REALLY
TRYING

SIDETRACK

3349 N. Halsted
SidetrackChicago.com

LGBT artist Chittester at Elbo Room on May 10

Ohio-based singer-songwriter Diana Chittester—a member of the LGBT community—will perform at Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave., on Saturday, May 10, at 7 p.m.

Matt Anderson and Dan Fisk will also be on the bill.

After reaching a \$5,000 goal on Kickstarter, Chittester recorded her sophomore release in New Orleans with Andrew "Goat" Gilchrist, producing her first all-acoustic album. She has opened for such artists as Melissa Ferrick and Catie Curtis.

Admission is \$5; see <http://www.elboroomlive.com> or www.dianachittester.com.

Studs Terkel festival May 9-11 at UChicago

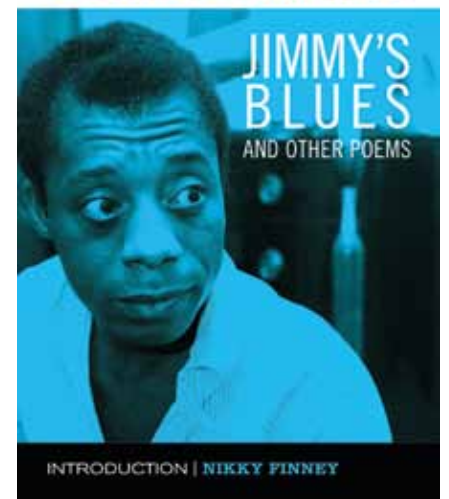
A full schedule is now available for "Let's Get Working," a new three-day festival honoring the life and work of Chicago legend Studs Terkel at the University of Chicago's Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60th St., on May 9-11.

Highlights include This American Life host Ira Glass on Terkel and the future of radio; and Dave Isay (StoryCorps) and Alex Kotlowitz (The Interrupters) on Terkel's influence as a storyteller, among other events.

As a writer, broadcaster and activist, Louis "Studs" Terkel (1912–2008) often served as the voice of Chicago.

Festival details and full schedule are at studs.uchicago.edu.

JAMES BALDWIN



Baldwin's poems re-released

In celebration of the late gay poet James Baldwin, Beacon Press has released *Jimmy's Blues and Other Poems*, a collection of all 19 poems from his original *Jimmy's Blues*, according to a press release.

The original "Blues" was published a year before his death in 1987 and is now several years out of print. The new collection also features six poems from a limited-edition art book titled *Gypsy*, of which only 325 copies were printed.

Chicagoans ride for a personal cause

BY ROSS FORMAN

When Logan Yves-Pauli learned he was HIV-positive, the emotions were no different from hearing any other bad news: fear, anger and sadness. However, Yves-Pauli has a tendency to deal with emotional spikes in a very simple, straightforward way.

It is the card dealt, he said, adding the popular phrase "It is what it is."

"HIV does not define me as a person [and] it actually hasn't altered my life much since [being diagnosed]," Yves-Pauli said. "I know this sounds strange, but I wouldn't change what happened to me ... it has made me a stronger person, a person with deeper sensibilities and it has shaped me into who I am today."

Yves-Pauli, 41—who lives in Lincoln Park and is a former executive for Sears Holdings Corporation—is using 2014 to educate about HIV/AIDS. His boyfriend of four months, Jaime Arroyo, is doing the same, as he, too, is HIV-positive.

Both are participating in the annual 545-mile AIDS LifeCycle, a bicycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles in June; then, it's the Ride For AIDS Chicago, a 200-mile bicycle ride in July.

"This will hopefully be my chance to change/alter [people's] perspective on looking at those living with HIV/AIDS," Yves-Pauli said. "There is definitely a subcommunity of guys I have met who I personally would love to change their point of view when they discuss or put their opinions out there when discussing guys living with HIV. Their comments have been very negative and offensive during our discussions. These friends [did not] know I am positive, so this may be my chance to not only come out to them, but also help change or alter their point of views."

Arroyo, 30, has been HIV-positive for about nine years—and he's been open and out about being gay and his HIV status for most of those years. Arroyo has done the ALC ride for the past two years and the Ride For AIDS Chicago for the past three years—and he's sported the orange bandana since it was first introduced to the RFAC, symbolizing an HIV-positive rider.

This is Yves-Pauli's first endurance ride of any distance, and his public coming-out about his HIV status.

"I love taking on new challenges," said Yves-Pauli, who once participated in a Tough Mudder running event. "I have always said I enjoy when people tell me 'You can't do something,' or infer that something is going to be 'too hard to take on...'"

"I gravitate to those moments and take on those challenges to prove to myself that nothing can beat me. The challenge for [both of

these] rides is less about physical stature and endurance and more about a mindset I hope to instill in those that mean a lot to me who look at people living with HIV/AIDS [in] a more positive point of view. This challenge of altering some pretty head strong people will be a feat in itself.

"Regardless [if] you are gay or straight, it is our responsibility to put ourselves out there and help those who are less fortunate or who are in a place in life where they are having difficulty overcoming life's challenges. I want to make the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS better ... these rides are just a small way of helping to accomplish this goal."

The two will pedal side by side during both events, plus the countless training rides building up to each. The miles will be memorable; doing it with a partner is priceless.

"This experience wouldn't be the same if I didn't have him to share it with," Yves-Pauli said. "At the same time, we will push each other to compete and finish; we will push each other to relax and have fun and, most importantly, keep reminding each other to make lasting memories so we can talk about this event 50 years from now when we are sunning somewhere on the beach during retirement."

Arroyo added, "I will rely on Logan a lot [during the events because] I want this to be a memorable summer of life-changing rides for us. I want to be there for him when he thinks it's too hot or too hard [to complete]. I want to come home from this ride closer and stronger."

"I do these rides because I can. [Although] I am HIV-positive, I refuse to let that stop me from living an absolutely above-average life, and I want to be the reason someone gets the help they need to deal with their HIV status."

Both know there are plenty in Chicago, and elsewhere, struggling with their HIV status, especially if it's newly diagnosed. Both want to help.

Yves-Pauli is quick to suggest to, get educated. "If you aren't being treated now, but know you are HIV-positive, get treated," he said. "Those of us who are living with HIV can have the same quality life, if not better and longer, than those who are not positive but taking care of ourselves."

Yves-Pauli also suggested finding people in the community who you can relate to, and be open.

"Don't let HIV define you. It is just something you live with, but not something that tells you how you should live," Yves-Pauli said.

Yves-Pauli has been a successful businessman who was a company vice-president at 24, a company CEO at 29, and an executive at a \$45 billion company at 36. His biggest fear has



Jaime Arroyo (left) and Logan Yves-Pauli. Photo by Ross Forman

always been a fear of failing.

"My life was about excelling and achieving goals in the business world," he said. "I have always made life decisions based on what it would do for my professional career. After my father's passing at age 64, I decided to stop living for my career and start living for me."

In July, it will mark one-year for Yves-Pauli to be retired ... sort of.

"I decided to take a year off from the grind. I am fortunate that I was able to take time off to find myself again and make new friends and recapture the innocence of living ... it was the best thing I could have ever done for myself," he said. "The challenge which I overcame, this fear of failing, was exhausting on my mind and my soul ... it wears you down and makes your perspective on life skewed toward a place of 'stuff' versus living a full life."

"I don't have a fear of failing any longer; I don't need to be the CEO of a company to feel accomplished and fulfilled in life. That said, I will always kick ass in the business world during my time at work; it is just who I am. However, I won't let my career shape and mold the way I live. I no longer live to work, but rather work to live."

The couple said their HIV status doesn't define them.

"Sure, I have been sad, heartbroken and disappointed [since the HIV diagnosis], but I can fortunately say I have never experienced that emotion or state of mind" of hitting rock bottom, Yves-Pauli said.

Arroyo, a server at Boka and a full-time student, said his major 2014 summer riding events will be "amazing and special," particularly since Yves-Pauli and other close friends will be along for the miles.

"The Ride For AIDS Chicago is special to me

because it benefits an organization—the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN)—which has greatly impacted my life," Arroyo said. "My goal this summer is to raise as much money and awareness as possible. My emotions were through the roof when I learned I was HIV-positive. I was so young and ignorant to the gay community, and HIV [then] only meant that I would die soon."

"I never planned on riding my bike for hundreds of miles each year, but I'm so glad that I do. I look forward to these rides each year and I truly love the challenges."

Anyone looking to donate to fundraising Yves-Pauli and Arroyo are doing in support of TPAN through the Ride For AIDS Chicago and the AIDS LifeCycle, go to: www.tinyurl.com/jaimeALC.

Hall of Fame Celebrity Bowl May 10 at Waveland

Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (GLHF) will host the 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Celebrity Bowl Saturday, May 10, at Waveland Bowl, 3700 N. Western Ave.

Registration is 10-11 a.m., bowling is 11 a.m.- noon, and wrap-up is 12-12:30 p.m. The Bowl is the group's major fundraising effort and provides vital support for the continuation of the Hall of Fame.

Those wishing to participate in the event by becoming a celebrity bowler (by raising funds through pledges), and those who want to pledge and/or receive additional information should contact Dick Uyvari at dickandjoe@comcast.net or by 773-769-5115.

The Law Offices of Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss & Associates



When experience counts...
In service to the community
for over 35 years.

- Bankruptcy
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Closings
- Premarital Agreements

33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60602
312-263-8800 RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM

We are a debt relief agency.

We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code.

Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

Tel: 312.985.5938 | Fax: 312.985.5985
rkoenig@clarkhill.com | clarkhill.com

CLARK HILL

ARIZONA ILLINOIS MICHIGAN WASHINGTON DC



We've Got You Covered Since 1967

ROOFING

• Flat & Shingle Roofs • Tear-Offs

GUTTERS, SOFFIT & FACIA

MASONRY

Tuckpointing • Chimneys • Lintel Repairs • Cement Work • Sidewalks etc.

Free Estimates

773-384-6300

www.SecondCityConstruction.com

Remember: "The Bitterness of Poor Quality Remains,
Long After the Sweetness of Low Price is Forgotten."

We Are Quality Crazy!

CONNEXIONS

MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

Call now for a free 30 minute consultation!
OR Refer 2 friends to receive a free treatment!

SPIRIT SEAL ACUPUNCTURE
 provides Oriental Medical therapies to the Chicago GLBT community.

Specialties include:

- Addiction
- HIV
- Fibromyalgia
- Mental Health (Depression, Grief, Anxiety)

CALL TODAY FOR AN APPOINTMENT
 Mathew Kulas,
 Licensed Acupuncturist
716.341.9040
www.spiritseal.com



CALL ME FOR A COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION



John Clinton Coleman, Broker
 Multi-million Dollar Producer & Top Producing Broker

773.895.4964
 JohnClintonColeman@gmail.com
 JohnClintonColeman.com

@properties

JOHN CLINTON COLEMAN
 YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD REALTOR™

PROVIDING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

 **GayInsurance.com**

Expert knowledge in the following areas for individuals and groups:

- Term Life Insurance and Permanent Plans
- Medical, Disability, Dental & Accident Plans
- Retirement Planning & Savings
- Long-Term Care
- And much more;

all to protect yourself and the ones you love

Contact us at www.GayInsurance.com

David Kulawiak **Paul Dooley**
 david@ocicinc.com paul@ocicinc.com
 773-828-5070 877-GAY-NSUR

OUR COMMUNITY INSURANCE CONSULTANTS

DR. DALE ZUEHLKE
 GREATER CHICAGO CHIROPRACTIC

“SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 25 YEARS!”

- Massage
- Physical Therapy
- Insurance accepted



561 W. Diversey Pkwy,
 Suite 221
 (773) 871-7766
GreaterChicagoChiropractic.com

iloilo



CUSTOM FRAMING
 Framing Chicago's art since 1991.
25% off Custom Framing!
 1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962



Bernadette Carter
 Broker Associate
 773-467-5339
 708-912-2769
 bernie.carter@cbexchange.com



Serving Chicago and Suburbs
“Let my 25 years of experience work for you”
PROUD MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY


HOM Inspired Interiors
 Ray & Son

Gay owned and operated for over 35 years
 Serving Chicago and Suburbs

- Carpet, Tile and Wood Flooring
- Hunter Douglas® Blinds Priority Dealer
- Custom Window Treatments
- Granite and Stone Countertops
- Complete Remodeling Services
- Custom Backsplash and Shower Designs
- Free In-Home Estimates
- Free Design Consultations

847-541-4848
www.hombyrayandson.com

TRANSGENDER LAWYER
 Joanie Rae Wimmer



EMPLOYMENT LAW •
 POLICE MISCONDUCT •
 DIVORCE •
 NAME CHANGE •

“Joanie obtained the first award in favor of a transgender person under the Illinois Human Rights Act.”

—The award in favor of cab driver Venessa Fitzsimmons totaled \$104,711.00—Fitzsimmons v. Universal Taxi Dispatch, Inc., ALS No. 09-0661

(630) 810-0005 or (630) 880-5005
www.joanieraewimmer.com

It's Your Home.
 Let Us Help You Stay There.



Call today to request your free information kit on home care services.
 (773) 340-3932 | www.cmsschicago.org

 **METHODIST SENIOR HOME CARE**
 A member of CHICAGO AND METROPOLITAN SENIOR SERVICES

The Most Extensive Senior Services Network on Chicago's North Side

Mr. Porch™
 “If it's not a Mr. Porch, it's just another porch.”

Call today for a **FREE on-site inspection!**

Call Mr. Porch at **877-677-6724** or email us at info@mrporch.com.

100% GUARANTEE
 SATISFACTION



Scan QR Code with smart phone to view more samples of our previous work!


For more information please visit: www.MrPorch.com



Building Porches and Decks in the Chicago Area for Over 15 Years

EXPERIENCED REPRESENTATION
 OUR COMMUNITY CAN TRUST

PRACTICE AREAS:
 FAMILY LAW, DIVORCE, CHILD SUPPORT, CUSTODY, DISSOLUTION OF CIVIL UNION, AND ORDERS OF PROTECTION



EDENLAWOFFICE LLC

Angie Eden
 161 N. Clark St. • Suite 4700
 (312) 924-0213 • angie@edenlawil.com



Susan O'Dell, PhD
 Down to earth, change oriented therapy

I see individuals, couples, children & families for crisis and ongoing work.

I also offer wellness support for persons living with chronic illness, including cancer and HIV-AIDS, their partners and families.

773.262.7010
 1422 W. THOME AVENUE, CHICAGO IL 60660



WINDY CITY
MEDIA
GROUP

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP PRESENTS

WINDY CITY
MEDIA
GROUP

TWELFTH ANNUAL

CHICAGO'S BIGGEST GLBT CONTEST NOW IN ITS 12TH YEAR!

CREW

4804 N Broadway

THURSDAY, MAY 15**9:30PM START**

Singers sign up at 8:30pm

PHOENIX

1932 E Higgins Rd, Elk Grove Village

THURSDAY, MAY 22**9PM START**

Singers sign up at 8pm

**\$100 to singer with most
votes each night!**

**Top Two Finalists advance
to the Semi-Finals!**

HOSTED BY SOFIA SAFFIRE

WILD CARD NIGHT AT

SPIN

800 W Belmont

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

9pm sign / 10pm start

SEMI-FINALS AT

SIDETRACK

3349 N Halsted

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

2pm door / 3pm start

FINALS AT

MAYNE STAGE

1328 W Morse

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

6pm door / 7pm start

FOR MORE, VISIT [FACEBOOK.COM/WINDYCITYGAYIDOL](https://www.facebook.com/windycitygayidol)
OR EMAIL [WCMGPROMOTIONS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:wcmgpromotions@gmail.com)

CREAKY

BROADWAY

KetelOne
VODKA

Don Julio

Tanqueray

THOMPSON
CHICAGO

CURAÇA

AA.com/rainbow

Speedoro Imaging

MINI

RAVINIA

MINI OF CHICAGO

* WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP INCLUDES WINDY CITY TIMES, NIGHTSPOTS, WINDY CITY QUEERCAST AND WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM *