



KATHY BATES
TALKS LESBIANS,
'TAMMY'

PAGE 36

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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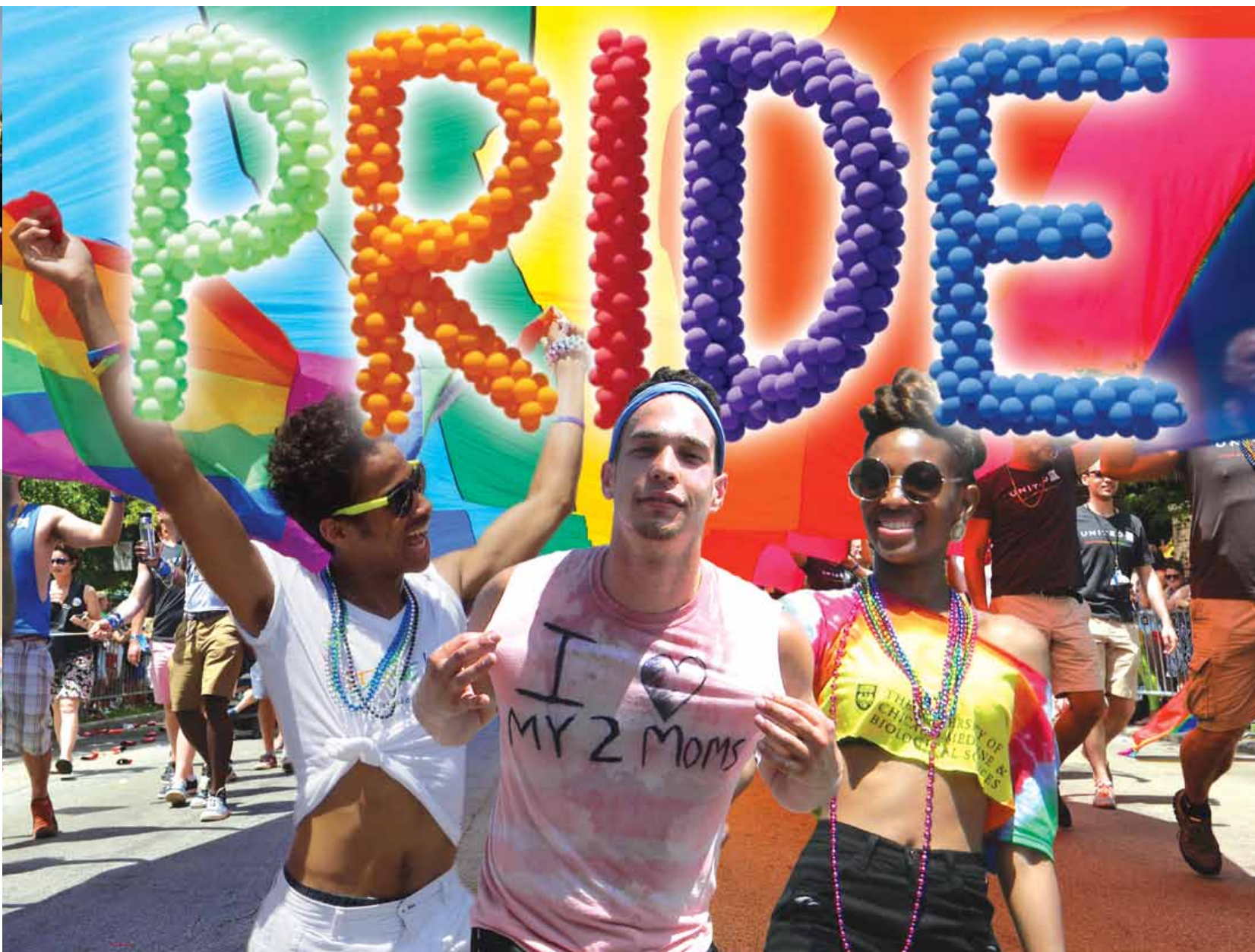
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DYKE MARCH
GOES THROUGH
HUMBOLDT PARK
PAGE 10



OPENLY GAY NFL
PLAYER MICHAEL
SAM APPEARS IN
CHICAGO
PAGE 37



Collage of photos by Tracy Baim, Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com) and Matt Simonette.



GEORGE TAKEI:
'OH, MY!'
PAGE 30

THIS SPECIAL ISSUE CONTAINS 200+ PHOTOS FROM:
THE PRIDE PARADE 🌸 **THE DYKE MARCH**
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Images on cover (left, from top): Photo of Kathy Bates from Warner Bros.; photo from Dyke March by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer; photo of Michael Sam by Ross Forman; photo of George Takei by Adam Bouska.



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DISC COVER

Campaign of Hate (left), Noah, Orange Is the New Black and Test are among upcoming/recent DVDs in Disc and That.



Entertainer
 Jenifer Lewis
 (here with
 Anthony
 Galloway)
 made a Baton
 audience laugh
 and think with
 some powerful
 words.

Photo by Darren
 Calhoun



Chicago House held
 its annual Birdhouse
 Art Auction, at
 Room & Board.
 Photo by Janean L.
 Watkins

PRIMARY COLORS

A report shows just how successful
 LGBT political candidates were in last
 week's primary races.

BALL GAME

Professor Carlos Ball talks about his
 book, Same-Sex Marriage and Children.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Find out the latest about Sarah
 Jessica Parker, Ellen Page and Stephen
 Sondheim.

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Supreme Court: Companies do not have to cover birth control

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Some LGBT legal activists say the June 30 decision in a U.S. Supreme Court religious-exemption case amounts to a “dangerous and radical departure from existing law that creates far more questions than it answers.”

Saying it is not providing a “shield for employers who might cloak illegal discrimination as a religious practice,” a five-to-four majority of the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a federal law may not require a closely held commercial employer to provide health insurance coverage for contraception if that employer claims that to do so violates his or her personal religious beliefs.

The opinion in the Hobby Lobby cases, written by Justice Sam Alito, also states that the decision applies only to a federal mandate that employers provide coverage for contraception and does not necessarily apply to coverage for other medical services to which some employers might raise religious objections.

Leading the dissent, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg called Alito’s opinion “startling.”

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, called it a “dangerous and radical departure from existing law that creates far more questions than it answers.”

“Thankfully, however, the majority recognized that even under its sweeping new rule, corporations cannot rely on claims of religious liberty to evade non-discrimination laws,” said Minter. “That limitation is extremely important and means that employers cannot exploit today’s decision to justify discrimination against LGBT people or other vulnerable groups, but we will need to be vigilant to make sure that principle is respected and enforced.”

Gary Buseck, interim executive director for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, said he was reassured by a concurring opinion from Justice Anthony Kennedy. In that concurrence, Kennedy said he does not believe the majority opinion has the breadth that the dissent claims it does.

Jenny Pizer, senior counsel at Lambda Legal, said the majority opinion “disregards decades of case law that drew a protective line between free religious expression and religious dominance of others.”

“It is a radically dangerous decision that invites more misguided actions contrary to essential protections for employees, customers and the public,” Pizer said. “It is imperative that the U.S. Congress amend the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act to withdraw the blessing the Court mistakenly has given these companies to impose their beliefs on working women.”

While Pizer, too, took some comfort from the majority’s statement that the ruling applies only to the contraception mandate, she said “recent mistreatment of LGBT people in employment and other commercial settings still makes this extremely troubling.”

“A business owner’s religious objection to a worker’s same-sex spouse or a customer’s LGBT identity is not acceptable grounds for discrimination,” said Pizer. “It is more important than ever that states and Congress enact strong, clear nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people.”

Justice Kennedy joined Alito’s decision, as did the court’s most conservative members, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, also joined Alito’s decision.

The court’s more liberal justices joined Ginsburg’s dissent, Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia

Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan. Breyer and Kagan also joined for a separate dissent.

Alito said the federal regulations prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services to implement the Affordable Care Act violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. That act, passed in 1993, prohibits the federal government from imposing a “substantial burden” on a person’s religious beliefs unless that burden is tailored narrowly to address a compelling governmental interest. While the majority concedes that the ACA regulations regarding contraception serve a compelling governmental interest, it believes “There are other ways in which Congress or HHS could equally ensure that every woman has cost-free access to the particular contraceptives at issue here and, indeed, to all FDA-approved contraceptives.”

The decision says closely held corporations—owned by a small group or family—should be treated the same as “religious non-profit corporations” when the owners have religious objections to contraceptive coverage.

“We do not hold, as the principal dissent alleges, that for-profit corporations and other commercial enterprises can ‘opt out of any law (saving only tax laws) they judge incompatible with their sincerely held religious beliefs,’” wrote Alito. “...HHS and the principal dissent argue that a ruling in favor of the objecting parties in these cases will lead to a flood of religious objections regarding a wide variety of medical procedures and drugs, such as vaccinations and blood transfusions, but HHS has made no effort to substantiate this prediction. HHS points to no evidence that insurance plans in existence prior to the enactment of ACA excluded coverage for such items. Nor has HHS provided evidence that any significant number of employers sought exemption, on religious grounds, from any of ACA’s coverage requirements other than the contraceptive mandate.”

“...In any event,” wrote Alito, “our decision in these cases is concerned solely with the contraceptive mandate. Our decision should not be understood to hold that an insurance-coverage mandate must necessarily fall if it conflicts with an employer’s religious beliefs. Other coverage requirements, such as immunizations, may be supported by different interests (for example, the need to combat the spread of infectious diseases) and may involve different arguments about the least restrictive means of providing them.”

But Ginsburg and the dissent say the “startling breadth” of Alito’s decision “holds that commercial enterprises, including corporations, along with partnerships and sole proprietorships, can opt out of any law (saving only tax laws) they judge incompatible with their sincerely held religious beliefs.”

Ginsburg says the majority “forgets that religious organizations exist to serve a community of believers. For-profit corporations do not fit that bill....By incorporating a business, however, an individual separates herself from the entity and escapes personal responsibility for the entity’s obligations.”

As for the majority’s claim that there was “no evidence that any significant number of employers” have sought exemption on religious grounds, Ginsburg wrote, “Hobby Lobby and Conestoga surely do not stand alone as commercial enterprises seeking exemptions from generally applicable laws on the basis of their religious beliefs.” She cited a number of cases, including the *Elane Photography v. Willock* case which the Supreme Court recently denied a petition to hear. In that case, a wedding photographer refused a lesbian couple who sought photography service for their wedding.

The highly anticipated decision came in the



Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito.

cases of *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores* (formerly *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby*) and *Conestoga Wood v. Burwell*—cases that did not involve any LGBT-related health coverage. But the decision is seen as having potential impact on whether employers might be able to cite religious beliefs to deny services of particular interest to LGBT people, such as alternative insemination, HIV preventive care, and gender reassignment treatments.

In both cases, the owners of large commercial stores were challenging the implementing regulations for the Affordable Care Act. Those regulations require employer health plans to provide women on their plans with the “full range” of “contraceptive methods.” ACA regulations allow an exemption for “religious employers” and “religious non-profit organizations that have religious objections to providing coverage for some or all contraceptive services.” And they define “religious employer” as a “non-profit organization described in the Internal Revenue Code provision that refers to churches, their integrated auxiliaries, conventions or associations of churches, and the exclusively religious activities of any religious order.”

The two stores challenging the regulations included Hobby Lobby Stores and Mardel. Hobby Lobby is a national chain of arts and craft supply stores; Mardel is an affiliated chain of Christian bookstores. Both stores, employing over 13,000 people, are owned by five people (referred to as The Greens) who excluded contraceptive coverage from the health plans, saying contraception goes against their religious belief that life begins “when sperm fertilizes an egg.”

Attorneys for the Greens argued that the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act prohibits government from “substantially burden[ing] a person’s exercise of religion” unless it needs to do so to address a “compelling governmental interest” and is applied in the “least restrictive” way.

The Tenth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled for the Hobby Lobby-Mardel, saying that, under the Restoration Act, The Greens count as “persons exercising religion” and that requiring them to provide contraceptive coverage does “compromise their religious beliefs.”

HHS argued the beliefs held by the owners of the two companies do not justify an exemption for the companies to a “generally applicable

law that regulates only those corporations and not their individual owners.”

The second case before the Supreme Court, *Conestoga Wood v. Sebelius*, is essentially the same, except that HHS won that case in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Conestoga Wood company is represented by the Alliance Defending Freedom, which has been involved in pressing a number of lawsuits opposing equal treatment of same-sex couples with marriage licenses. In its brief, the Alliance argues that the ACA is “requiring private citizens to buy contraceptive insurance coverage for other citizens.” Their arguments often echo those used to defend recent efforts to pass bills in various states to allow citizens to discriminate based on various categories (including race, sexual orientation, and gender identity).

“Because citizens exercise religion in every area of their lives,” wrote the Alliance in its brief to the high court, “this Court has recognized that individuals may exercise religion in business and that citizens may join together to exercise religion through corporations.”

A family of Mennonite Christians operates Conestoga Wood in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, employing 950 people making doors and cabinets. The family believes it is immoral to take a human life, including through abortion. The company filed suit, asking for an injunction to avoid the contraception requirement. The Third Circuit identified Conestoga as a “for-profit secular corporation” and said such corporations “cannot engage in religious exercise.”

Lambda Legal and two other groups filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the two cases, saying they agree with the Obama administration that the ACA’s contraception coverage mandate “serve[s] compelling interests in public health and gender equality.” Allowing these commercial employers to claim a religious exemption, said Lambda, “would open the door to increased use of religion to deny LGBT persons, those with HIV, and other vulnerable minorities equal compensation, health care access, and other equitable treatment in commercial interactions.”

Joining Lambda in the brief were the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association and the AFL-CIO group Pride at Work.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force signed onto a brief filed by the National Women’s Law Center.

U.S. Reps. David Cicilline (D-R.I.), Mark Pocan (D-Wis.) and Mark Takano (D-Calif.) joined a brief that 91 members of the U.S. House signed.

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Author Nancy Garden dies

Nancy Garden, a lesbian award-winning author of fiction for children and young adults, has died at age 76.

Her books included the lesbian teen novel *Annie on My Mind*. According to Amazon.com, the “book, first published in 1982, is the story of two teenage girls whose friendship blossoms into love and who, despite pressures from family and school that threaten their relationship, promise to be true to each other and their feelings.”

According to her website, among her other works are *Peace, O River* (1986), *My Sister the Vampire* (1992), *My Brother, the Werewolf* (1995), *Meeting Melanie* (2002), and *Hear Us Out: Lesbian and Gay Stories of Struggle, Progress, and Hope from 1950 to the Present* (2007). She was also behind the *Monster Hunters* and *Candlestone Inn* series.

She is survived by longtime partner Sandy Scott.

Judges find Ind., Utah bans unconstitutional; Ind. marriages on hold

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Marriage-equality supporters in Utah and Indiana got good news June 25 as federal courts issued two rulings with far-reaching implications for marriage equality.

In Denver, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit ruled that Utah's ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional, holding up a lower-court's ruling in December. Meanwhile, a federal judge ruled that Indiana's law banning gay marriage, and not recognizing out-of-state same-sex marriages, is unconstitutional, setting off a wave of marriages in county clerks' offices across the state.

In the two-to-one split-decision Utah ruling, the appeals panel wrote: "We hold that the Fourteenth Amendment protects the fundamental right to marry, establish a family, raise children, and enjoy the full protection of a state's marital laws. A state may not deny the issuance of a marriage license to two persons, or refuse to recognize their marriage, based solely upon the sex of the persons in the marriage union."

The judges stayed the ruling, but marriage advocates said it stands as a broad affirmation of rulings across the country finding gay marriage bans to be unconstitutional.

"Today's decision affirms what we all know to be true—the U.S. Constitution guarantees the basic civil rights of all Americans, not just some," said Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Chad Griffin in a statement. "Utah's ban on marriage equality does nothing to

strengthen or protect any marriage. Instead, it singles out thousands of loving Utah families for unfair treatment simply because of who they are. Our Constitution does not allow for such blatant discrimination."

However, a federal appeals court, on June 27, issued an order putting a halt to same-sex marriages in Indiana. The ruling came just two days after U.S. District Court Judge Richard Young handed down a decision that said the state's same-sex marriage ban was unconstitutional.

Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller appealed Young's ruling June 27 in the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago after his request for a stay on the original decision was not immediately granted, Indy Star reported. "Without a stay, any same-sex marriages granted now might have their legal validity questioned later if the United States Supreme Court eventually were to rule in favor of states in upcoming legal challenges to marriage laws," wrote Zoeller in the appeal filing.

County clerks in all but seven Indiana counties made marriage licenses available to same-sex couples following the ruling, and about 1,500 couples took advantage of the two-day window before Zoeller could complete the appeal. Marion County, where Indianapolis is located, reportedly issued more than 500 licenses.

Both sides must have briefs submitted to the court by Sept. 19, but a decision will likely not be handed down for several weeks or even months after that.

Puerto Rico court has first openly gay person

Lesbian attorney Maite Oronoz Rodriguez has become the first openly gay person on Puerto Rico's Supreme Court.

In a statement, Gov. Alejandro García Padilla congratulated Rodriguez on her Senate confirmation by the Senate as the new associate judge of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Padilla said, "During her confirmation process in the Senate, attorney Oronoz Rodriguez not only proved the quality of human being she is, but also showed that she has the temperament, the knowledge and wisdom required to belong to the highest court of the country."

Married same-sex couples to receive FMLA benefits

The U.S. Labor Department has stated that married same-sex couples nationwide will soon have access to emergency-leave benefits under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

Labor Department officials issued a proposed rule that would expand the definition of "spouse" under the FMLA to include all legally married gay and lesbian couples, regardless of their state of residence. Signed into law in 1993, the FMLA guarantees eligible private and public employees up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave per year in cases of serious illness or injury or to care for sick or injured family members, including spouses and their immediate relatives.

Hall of Fame accepting nominations

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame is accepting nominations for its 2014 class.

Interested persons can visit GLHallOfFame.org, click on the "Nominate" tab, download the application, have the nominee sign the form and mail as instructed. Another option is to visit http://glhalloffame.org/forms/nominate_2014.pdf.

The ceremony will take place Wed., Nov. 12, at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., 5:30-8:30 p.m.

ISU to host LGBTQA college conference in 2015

Illinois State University will host the 2015 Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference (MBLGTACC).

The event will take place Feb. 13-15, 2015, in Normal, Ill.

MBLGTACC is the largest LGBTQIA college conference in the country. It has been held each February since 1993 to promote leadership, activism, networking, diversity, health and empowerment among LGBTQA students, staff and faculty around the United States and Canada.

This year's conference took place Feb. 7-9 in Kansas City, Mo. Among the speakers were lesbian singer Chely Wright and transgender advocate Janet Mock.

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Million+ at Chicago's 45th Pride Parade



Photos on these two pages by Tracy Baim and Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com). See many more photos and videos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



BY MATT SIMONETTE

Marriage, youth and religion were but a few of the themes that were present in Chicago's 45th annual Pride Parade June 29.

According to Chicago Police, more than a million people attended and marched in the parade, which extended from Uptown, through Lakeview and ended in Lincoln Park at Diversey. Openly gay athlete and music artist Will Sheridan served as Grand Marshal.

Parade organizer Richard Pfeiffer said that the event transpired with few hitches. "We didn't see anything major. It was a celebratory day, seeing so many couples together in the parade, holding hands."

Mayor Rahm Emanuel led the parade, high-fiving the crowd along the way. Governor Pat Quinn did the same shortly after.

Numerous local politicians had entries. Legislators who played prominent roles in the fight for marriage equality in the state took part, among them state Reps. Greg Harris and Kelly Cassidy and State Sens. Heather Steans and John Cullerton. State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, draped in a Pride flag and "No Bruce Rauner" t-shirt, tossed beads to the crowd. County Clerk David Orr escorted David Wilk and Charlie Gurion, who were the first couple to wed in the Clerk's Office after a federal judge said that same-sex marriages could begin in Cook County last February.

Other politicians taking part included Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle; U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and Ald. Deb Mell, who marched with him; U.S. Reps. Jan Schakowsky and Mike Quigley; Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka; state Attorney General Lisa Madigan; Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon (who is running for Comptroller); Sen. Mike Frerichs (who is running for state treasurer); there was a contingent for Rep. Tom Cross, who is also running for treasurer; Sheriff Tom Dart; City Clerk Susana Mendoza (as well as her opponent in the upcoming election, activist Marc Loveless); and Aids. Tom Tunney, James Cappleman, Scott Waguespack, Bob Fioretti, Joe Moore, Danny Solis and Roberto Maldonado. State's Attorney Anita Alvarez's office also had a large float. Debra Shore, openly lesbian commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, rode in a float with other district representatives.

Young people played an important part in this year's parade, as students and staff from Nettelhorst Elementary School marched close to the front of the parade. They walked around a buggy inscribed with, "Love as 'easy as ABC,'" and were followed by students from Chicago Waldorf School. The PFLAG contingent was strong and well supported with chants and cheers.

Crowds also warmly welcomed contingents of LGBT veterans; when members of American Veterans for Equal Rights passed by, carrying a large American flag, onlookers began to chant, "U.S.A."

Dozen of local churches and religious organizations took part as well. Some were just represented by a few members carrying placards; others had marching contingents or elaborate floats. Among those represented were Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, Temple Shalom, Dignity/Chicago, Congregation Or Chadash, Saint Clement Church, Achurch4me Metropolitan Community Church and Bethany United Church of Christ.

The plentiful number of churches stood in powerful contrast to the number of anti-gay protestors, of which there were about ten. They stood in their usual spot at Diversey Parkway and Pine Grove Avenue, surrounded by police and counter-protestors. Their placards this year contained not only anti-gay slogans, but slogans praising female subservience as well.

Many LGBT and friendly sports teams also

Turn to page 7



PRIDE from page 6

took part, including the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago Bulls, plus roller derby women's teams, Chicago Gay Hockey Association, the Dragons gay rugby team, Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association, and the Athletic Alliance of Chicago (their float broke down at the start).

There were lots of "dykes on bikes," with two contingents, one from Dykes on Bikes, the other Organized Chaos. The bars were represented as well, including from Sidetrack, Roscoe's, Baton Show Lounge, and the new Phoenix nightclub.

Corporate America continued to enthusiastically partake in the Pride festivities. Among the companies represented were Sears, which celebrated gay weddings; BP, whose representatives wore colorful, Carnival-style balloons from Balloons by Tommy; Google, who clothed its Android mascots in wedding garb; American Airlines, represented once again by its miniature airliner; and Orbitz with a large balloon. Among the TV stations represented were WGN, whose iconic character, Bozo the Clown, was front and center on its float, and weatherman Tom Skilling was enthusiastically on board.

Among local and national organizations also taking part were Gay Liberation Network, Asians and Friends, Chicago Prime Timers, Gerber/Hart Library, Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, Equality Illinois, The Civil Rights Agenda, and Chicago Gay Men's Chorus. Lambda Legal and the ACLU, which both played critical roles in the marriage fight, had strong contingents, with Lambda featuring many of the couples who sued for the right to marry. There was also a unity float and contingent featuring several groups, among them Center on Halsted, Affinity and Test Positive Aware Network.

Members of Lakeside Pride Freedom Marching Band wore bright t-shirts reminding onlookers that they need new uniforms—the band is currently trying to raise \$25,000 to get members new uniforms.

Police issued a statement that "there were only a handful of issues, including eight arrests, one of which was for criminal damage to a police vehicle." Video footage of that vandalism, which took place at the corner of Halsted and Aldine streets, was posted online.

Despite the police's low arrest figures, sirens and emergency vehicles were frequently seen and heard throughout the parade. Pfeiffer said most of the medical cases were heat-related. At one point, Chicago Fire Department officials were letting overheated marchers cool off in a fire hydrant that had been opened at Surf Street and Broadway.

Montrose Beach was closed in the early evening after two women were shot nearby, according to Chicago Sun-Times. The area has been for many years the location of the Montrose Rocks post-parade celebration, which had—officially, at least—been cancelled this year. Nevertheless, thousands of people gathered there anyway once the parade began to wind down.

Chicago Sun-Times reported that the shooting happened at about 6:04 p.m. in the 4500 block of North Simonds Drive, and that the women were taken to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

Chicago Pride's post on the Aldine vandalism is at: <http://chicago.gopride.com/news/article.cfm/articleid/59210721>.

Chicago Sun-Times' article is at: <http://bit.ly/1nX3vkR>.



See more photos from the parade and other Pride weekend events, starting on page 31



Art Johnston speaks at the anti-Bruce Rauner rally. Photo by Matt Simonette

Protesters criticize Rauner's marriage views

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Politicians, activists and organization leaders were among those who gathered in Lake View at the corner of Halsted and Roscoe Streets to warn of negative consequences for the LGBT community, and marriage equality, should Bruce Rauner be elected governor of Illinois this November.

A large banner now at the corner shows a picture of Rauner and says, "Bruce Rauner on marriage equality: If I were governor, I would veto it." Many of the protestors wore T-shirts with Rauner's name and a red slash through it.

Equality Illinois co-founder Art Johnston called Rauner "an enemy of equality [who] is poised to become governor of our state." He added that activists would be using the upcoming Pride as an opportunity to "educate the public about the real Bruce Rauner."

Johnston said, "Most people know nothing about his social agenda. We want to make sure everyone knows where the real Bruce Rauner stands."

Rauner professes to have no social agenda, but has previously said that he would have vetoed the gay marriage bill since he thought the matter should have been decided by a public referendum. But marriage equality activists have been driving home the issue since early June, after Rauner trumpeted an endorsement from the gay Republican organization GOProud, which then dissolved just days later.

Rauner's running mate, Wheaton City Councilwoman Evelyn Sanguinetti, has also said that she believes in the "traditional definition" of marriage.

Johnston said June 26, "If [Rauner] had his way, thousands of LGBT citizens would be subject to referendum."

Rauner has "failed to articulate a welcoming vision that includes LGBT Illinoisans," said Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov, who added that Rauner spent \$150,000 on candidates who oppose LGBT equality. "You just need to follow the money."

Activist Theresa Santos-Volpe was finally married to her longtime partner, Mercedes, the day a federal judge ruled that gay marriages could begin in Cook County. Standing alongside Mercedes and their children, she asked, "How would Bruce Rauner feel if I vetoed his family? ... Rauner is not looking out for our family."

State Rep. Greg Harris, the chief sponsor of the Religious Freedom and Marriage Act, said that the LGBT community needs to be vigilant about whom they help elect: "Equality is not a destination. It's a journey, and I fear if we had Bruce Rauner for a governor, we would begin to walk backward."

Former state GOP Chairman Pat Brady spoke to reporters after the rally in order to give Rauner's perspective. He called the event a "disservice to taxpayers and to voters," and added, "we should be focused on fiscal issues. ... Bruce Rauner is a social moderate and a fiscal conservative, and what this state needs is a fiscal conservative."

But Harris told Windy City Times that the LGBT community has ongoing struggles, and "cannot just say we're done being vigilant about our rights. We have to think of LGBT youth and transgender rights. ... We've got to continue to protect the ground we've gained."

Among those also present for the rally were state Reps. Kelly Cassidy and Ann Williams, Ald. James Cappleman and Affinity Community Services Executive Director Kim Hunt.

Gov. Quinn signs anti-bullying bill

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Gov. Pat Quinn signed legislation June 26 that installs protections and procedures to help students bullied in Illinois schools.

"A child who is bullied is a child who is fearful of learning [and] fearful of coming to school," Quinn said at the signing, which was held at Skinner West Elementary School, 1260 W. Adams St. "We cannot allow bullying to take place within a school or outside a school. That's why the legislation that we're signing today is landmark legislation."

Quinn signed the bill surrounded by students attending day camp at Skinner. He added, "I feel that it's important that we lead when it comes to this issue. ... It's important that our kids understand that we must respect each other."

The bill, HB5707, puts into place uniform policies for school administrators once stu-

also spoke at signing, noting the indifference school officials showed when confronted with details of his abuse at the hands of classmates.

"Bullying happened, and it happened repeatedly over the years, by two people," Strugala said.

The end result was my son being beat up on the playground, and the end result, from the administration, was, 'two weeks of school left [and] Kyle is graduating.'

She moved Kyle to a new district, but the problems continued. School officials advised that he dress and act in a more conforming manner.

"I'm not going to ask my child to act like somebody else," she added. "I demand that they be true to themselves, and not fit in with what society deems to be acceptable."

After repeated problems, Strugala became vocal about her family's problems on social media. Kyle graduated a year early.



Gov. Quinn signs the anti-bullying bill. Photo by Matt Simonette

dents report being bullied, and calls for schools to report information on bullying incidents back to the state.

The bill's chief sponsor, state Rep. Kelly Cassidy, thanked and praised parents who shared with her their experiences about having a bullied child.

"Each one of them came to me with a different story and a different experience," Cassidy noted. "The things that were the same, however, were not having felt heard, not finding solutions for their children ... and unconditional love for their children. These people were willing to do anything to find safety and a safe learning environment for their kids. ... I wonder sometimes if the parents of the bullies had given their children the same unconditional love if the conversation would have been different."

An anti-bullying bill failed by just one vote two years ago. But Cassidy has said the new law is stronger. The data it accumulates is intended to prevent administrators from professing ignorance about bullying cases or procedures.

Cassidy was asked about the costs associated with the legislation, and answered that there were none—schools are required to collect data about certain matters already.

"This is using tools that they already have," she said.

Renee Strugala, whose son Kyle was bullied,

"What a lot of people will never realized is, how much was stripped from my son and my family," she said. "We have a saying, 'sticks and stones may break your bones, but words will never hurt you,' but that is not true. That is the farthest thing from the truth, and these kids need to be taught that at a very young age."

After the signing, a clown dressed as "Quinnocchio" arrived at the school, brandishing a sign that said "Lying about NRI," a reference to Quinn's troubles with the Neighborhood Recovery Initiative, which his Republican opponent, Bruce Rauner, has been vocal about recently.

Cassidy was not amused that the clown showed up to a signing for an anti-bullying bill, however, and voiced her displeasure on Twitter, writing, "Shame on @BruceRaunerHQ sending a clown to signing of anti-bullying bill. Does he think bullying is funny?"

State Sen. Heather Steans was the bill's senate sponsor. She was unable to attend the signing but said in a statement, "Every child deserves to be safe at school. Bullying behavior harms both the victim and the bully, and every school should be taking steps to stop the cycle and promote the wellbeing of its students. Most schools already do this every day; this legislation makes sure we're all moving in the same direction."

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HBHC’s HEALE program: Educating nurses about LGBTQ elders

BY LIZ BAUDLER

“When a person’s getting older and they’re faced with the prospect of going into long-term care, they’re being taken out of their home environment. Gay or straight: no one wants to do that,” said Cecilia Hardacker, geriatric trainer at the Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC).

Hardacker is one of the trainers of the HEALE (Health Education about LGBT Elders) program. The normal difficulties of aging can be compounded when sexuality comes into play. The HEALE program, in the words of a paper Hardacker coauthored about the program’s work, “target[s] nurses and healthcare staff and is focused on the treatment of LGBT elders, a population that is largely misunderstood and discriminated against in health-care settings.”

HBHC Vice President of Development and Communication Barbara Tieder mentioned a community meeting that HBHC hosted for older adults. “We heard a couple of folks in the group talk about the horrific experience they had being in assisted living or a nursing home.”

Hardacker told the story of a man who lost his support group of friends because of a caretaker’s perception of their sexualities. “We’re so aware of when someone’s attitude changes. It can be a look, it can be a comment, it can be something really off-handed that can just terrify a person.” Within a year, she said, his friends stopped visiting and the patient died alone.

According to Hardacker, this is common. “A lot of [older adults] will say, ‘I’ll go back in the closet’ or trans people will say, ‘I’ll wear those

other clothes” to protect themselves, because there’s nobody there to protect them.”

“Nurses are supposed to be advocates for your health,” Tieder said. “They’re the people that see you every day. A doctor will interact with you for a certain period of time, but a nurse is there for however long that shift is. If they’re not your advocate, how do you feel comfortable in getting that care?”

The program travels to many Chicago area long-term care facilities, hospitals, and nursing schools, including Rush’s College of Nursing, Illinois Masonic, and all the Veterans’ Affairs (VA) hospitals in the Chicago area. They’ve even trained nurses in Minnesota and New York. HEALE has several modules, or areas of study, including a general familiarization with the LGBTQ community and clinical information such as particular health issues a certain group might face, including a whole module about trans health.

“It really does make a dramatic impact on people,” Hardacker said, “We hear stories from people saying, ‘Gosh, it’s made such a difference, we had such and such a patient come in and we had a really excellent experience with them as opposed to back in the day when we had people who would whisper about it.’” At a hospital where Hardacker has run trainings for the past three years, she said nurses tell her that they feel empowered not only to help LGBT patients, but to correct others’ inappropriate behavior towards those patients.

This anecdotal evidence is borne out in a research paper Hardacker and others at Howard Brown published in a 2014 issue of the Jour-



Cecilia Hardacker. Photo from Hardacker

nal of Nursing Management. The program and training is funded through a three-year grant gained because of HEALE’s research basis. Not only has Hardacker’s team, in her words, “annihilated our numbers” when it comes to trained nurses, they demonstrate statistically significant gains in nurses’ knowledge when it comes to LGBTQ issues both clinical and cultural.

For the next grant cycle, Hardacker is excited about the partnership HEALE has with the VA hospitals. “These hospitals are in fairly metropolitan areas and have access to the collar areas,” she said. “It’s the biggest healthcare network in the nation. If we can start to have an influence with that group of healthcare providers, that’s awesome.”

With the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” the VA is starting to support LGBT veterans and their partners. According to Hardacker, for trans patients the VA will cover everything up to a gender affirming surgery and post-op care afterwards. But not having prior experience with these surgeries, staff will need more trainings, she said.

Education is valuable in places like Iron Mountain, Michigan, where there’s a small population but a large VA hospital. “People would ask questions like, ‘so do you think if a same-sex couple has kids, that those kids will be gay?’ They’re asking that in all sincerity, they just have not been exposed to it,” Hardacker said. “The fundamental getting up in front of people and having them ask us any question is what makes it worth it. On the rare occasion where we get a question that makes us scratch our head a little bit, we think, ‘how can I best answer this question to help open this person’s mind to what they’re really asking?’”

Even in Chicago, there are still knowledge gaps. “I get invited back to one of the inpatient mental health facilities here in Chicago often because they have particular issues with trans patients,” Hardacker said. “It shocks me sometimes that that would be a place that would have that problem, but they continue to invite us back to help them and to train their staff.”

Hardacker and her fellow trainers, Hector Salgado and Brian Jauregi, hope to get their grant renewed. For her, it’s about connections beyond the training. Occasionally she’s able to advise trainees about LGBT issues, or connect patients with resources at Howard Brown and elsewhere. “We’re ambassadors for Howard Brown, for the healthcare that we provide,” she said. It’s clear, not just from nurses’ comments and statistics, that HEALE has an impact. “Places keep inviting us back,” Hardacker said, “which tells us, number one, that we’re doing something right but, number two, that they really value the training.”



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Dyke March and Latina/o Pride Picnic celebrate unity

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSDELFER

There were no barriers between the more than 1,000 people (according to organizers) who represented each of the multifaceted elements of the LGBTQ community and its allies at the 2014 Dyke March and Latina/o Pride Picnic at Humboldt Park on June 28.

Led by a division of Dykes on Bikes, they walked hand in hand—lesbian, gay, straight, queer, trans* and gender non-conforming, from all racial and economic backgrounds—along a one-mile route from Roberto Clemente High School down Division street toward the Humboldt Park boathouse. There was no division to be found between cultures, genders, immigrant and citizen, rich or poor. There was no shame in body type, no boundaries in expression. There were no floats, no politicians, no corporate sponsors. There was just a message of unabashed unity and fortitude that was called out along the route to enthusiastic onlookers who shouted back their support or pressed on their car horns.

For Devan Cameron—who carried a sign saying “Reclaim Dyke”—the march and the message gets more empowering every year. “I just think the word ‘Dyke’ has been a derogatory term for so long that it’s about time we reclaimed it and took away its negative power,” she said. “This is an amazing day. I wouldn’t have missed it for the world.”

Kate Ekman represented Pride at Work, a coalition of LGBTQ people and allies seeking to build power within the labor movement. “Our organization is just about a year old so this is our first time at a march,” she said with a laugh. “We want people to know that coming out at work is something people can feel supported doing.”

There was also a huge contingent of support for immigrant justice. One sign read “LGBTQ and Immigrants Unite to Smash Bigotry.” It was carried by Joshua Back and Jim Rudd, both participating in the Dyke March for the first time.

“We’re out here to show solidarity between the LGBTQ and immigrant communities,” Rudd said. “Both of them are always under attack by the right wing and by the state. We need to change immigration policy and challenge the abuses of transgender immigrants.”

At the close of the parade route, under a late afternoon sun, the marchers enjoyed grilled hot-dogs, chicken and burgers and perused information tables from over 30 participating organizations including Lambda Legal, The Trans-Life Center at the Chicago House, the Transformative Justice Law Project, Howard Brown, the Sex Worker Outreach Project of Chicago, the Association of Latinos as Motivating Action (ALMA), the Illinois Choice Action Team and StoryCorps.

The afternoon’s entertainment was hosted by Project Fierce co-founder Jackie Boyd and Gay Agenda co-presenter LaTony, who began with Gloria Gaynor’s statement, “Life’s not worth a damn, till you can say I am what I am.” They introduced acts ranging from the all-female percussion ensemble dedicated to the growth of Puerto Rican culture “Las BomPleneras” to the jazz punk of “Sick Sad World” and the dynamic vogue performance of the “House of Ninja.” For the kids, there was a magician, face painter and plenty of piñatas on hand.

The decision made by the Chicago Dyke March Collective (CDMC) to join forces with the Orgullo en Acción (OEA)-organized Latina/o Pride Picnic was one of a confluence of both events occurring in the same neighborhood. “We knew that the picnic was going on and they approached us as a way of building community,” Juana Peralta—an organizer with the CDMC—told Windy City Times. “The partnership has proved to be amazing and really powerful for the community.”

This year marked the ninth year for the picnic which began as a Boystown event and moved to Humboldt Park for its second year in order to be in the heart of the Latina/o community. OEA board member Dulce Quintero was at the first picnic along with about 50 other people. “It’s been growing every year,” she said. “There’s a lot of history with both the Dyke March and the Pride Picnic. It didn’t make much sense to have two separate events in the same location instead of uniting and bringing our communities together.”

Including entertainment and activities for children at this year’s picnic was of significant importance to Quintana and OEA organizers. “When people try to marginalize the LGBTQ community, they do so saying that children and families do not exist in our lives,” Quintana said. “We wanted to counter that and create an inclusive space for adults and children, for everyone!”

Strong community ties and collaboration are also essential components of the CDMC as it moves through each new neighborhood. “It’s not just about having a rally and performances,” organizer Emilia Chico said. “It’s about getting the word out. It’s about saying ‘come and join us and let’s be visible!’”



Photos by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer, Vern Hester and Tracy Baim. See many more photos and videos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



Naya Taylor on love, health care and acceptance

BY JENN STANLEY

Windy City Times received word from Lambda Legal that Naya Taylor passed away June 20 unexpectedly after complications from a heart attack. Lambda Legal was representing Taylor, a transgender woman, in an unrelated federal discrimination lawsuit because she had been denied medical care that is routinely provided to non-transgender patients.

The WCT profile below is one of the last interviews she gave.

Naya Taylor, the transgender woman who filed a discrimination suit last month against her primary-care physician, has lived in the small town of Mattoon, Illinois, for about 28 years. For the past 20 of them, she's been fostering disabled and special needs dogs.

"I only take the ones that no one else will take the time to love and care for," Taylor said. "Many people don't care for those who are different."

Taylor, now 45, first remembers talking about her gender identity at the age of 4, but she says she's always known she was a girl.

"I never saw myself as a little boy," Taylor said. "I started wearing makeup at 14. I was just me. I just lived it."

Still, she hasn't always felt accepted. Her parents were pentecostal preachers and rejected her early assertions of femininity.

"My mom asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up and I said, 'I want to be a mommy and a wife,'" Taylor said. "I mean, that didn't go over well because I was raised in that area and time of, you know, WHAP."

While for some, the pain from years of discrimination and inequality ferments into anger, for Taylor, it germinated and grew into compassion and strength. The spirit that drove her to foster special needs dogs also drove her to file the lawsuit against Dr. Aja Lystila in April.

The Affordable Care Act, or the ACA, is the first federal law to prohibit discrimination based on sex in the context of health care. These civil rights extend to transgender men and women, though many trans people still have trouble accessing medical treatment.

After Lystila denied Taylor hormone-replacement therapy, Taylor confronted the clinic in an attempt to advocate for herself. According to her lawsuit, the clinic responded by saying, "We don't need to treat people like you."

Some states have their own civil rights protections for transgender people—Illinois happens to be one of them—but before the ACA there were few options for trans patients who weren't fortunate enough to live in one of those states. Even since the ACA passed, trans-



Naya Taylor. Photo from Lambda Legal

gender health care can be hard to come by for many Americans.

Taylor wants equal access to health care for all transgender men and women, and hopes this suit will help.

"One of the reasons we chose to bring it as a federal law suit instead of a private complaint is that we wanted to do some public education," Ken Upton, one of Taylor's lawyers at Lambda Legal, said. "We wanted it to be visible and get the argument to be out in the open."

Taylor has a new doctor now, Dr. Ranchero, a family practitioner in nearby Charleston who specializes in transgender health. Last week, she returned home from his office to discover that one of her dogs had attacked and killed another.

"The dogs fight sometimes, but they don't go after each other with the intent to kill," Taylor said. "I think he just grabbed him by the neck in a bad spot."

A few days earlier, another one of her dogs died from a frontal brain lesion. This dog, like all of Taylor's dogs, had been sick for a long time, so it wasn't a surprise.

Although it had been a difficult week, she said she was confident she'd get through it. Taylor has a lot of love in her life now. Her neighbors are supportive and friendly, and she's been happy in Mattoon.

"It's a little bitty country town," Taylor said. "You have your parks where people stay out and talk. You talk to your neighbors and you

July 2, 2014

have a drink with people on the block. It's just a homey little town."

Her friend, Jason, and his 5-year-old son, Zachary, also live in Mattoon. Taylor has helped care for Zachary all his life and has acted as a mother to him.

"I don't think just blood makes you related," she said. "I love him and consider him a son."

Taylor takes on the empowering mother role regarding the lawsuit as well. She's hoping that others will take her lead and assert their rights.

HBHC establishes advisory board

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) has established its newest community advisory board (CAB), which provides feedback on the center's current programs and advises the organization on its future developments.

The new members include Jesse Gauger-Kiraly, Kenneth Humphrey, Andy McCrea, Armando Ramirez, Rich Scintie, Ron Sy, Ginger Tanton and Joseph R. Varisco.

Returning members include Riley Johnson, Brian McIntosh, Patricia Pratt, Oli Rodriguez and Charles Samuel.

A press release adds, "Members represent a variety of educational and income levels, race and ethnic identities, and sexual and gender orientations. And like many current patients, some CAB members received treatment at HBHC while uninsured."

Prime Timers regional event July 17-20

The Chicago chapter of Primer Timers International, a club for older gay men, is sponsoring the first-ever regional gathering July 17-20.

Some 150 participants from all over the United States and Canada will be in attendance.

Among the scheduled events are a cruise on the Chicago River and lakefront, and a Friday night visit to Boystown.

Participants will stay at the Crowne Plaza Metro Hotel. Visit www.ChicagoPrimeTimersRegionalEvent.com.

Spanish-language forum on Bible, LGBTs thru July 10

The forum "What the Bible Says and Doesn't Say About Homosexuality" will take place on Thursdays through July 10 at Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ, 615 W. Wellington Ave., 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The group is for Spanish-speaking people who are interested in exploring the biblical texts from their own personal experience, in a serious way, and in a safe and affirming

At home in Mattoon, she's beginning to forgive the dog who attacked the other. "He's been staying away from me because he knows I'm mad. But it will be ok. We're starting to come around to each other."

For now, she's taking the time to grieve for the two who died last week.

"I've always wanted a weeping willow. I think I'll spend the long weekend planting one in the yard in their memories."

atmosphere for all people who identify as LGBT.

All the meetings will be free and open, and the language used will be Spanish (with materials also provided in Spanish).

Contact Esther Baruja at estherbaruja@gmail.com or 312-320-1341.

National news

From George Chauncey's Gay New York to Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass, work-related LGBT literature and authors whose books focus on work are being highlighted for LGBT Pride Month as part of the U.S. Department of Labor's Books that Shaped Work in America, according to a press release. The Web-based project, <http://www.dol.gov/books>, aims to engage the public about the Labor Department's mission and this country's history as a nation of workers, as portrayed through published works.

In South Dakota, a gay teenage fast-food worker has claimed he was forced to wear a name tag with the word "gaytard" on it, Gay Star News reported. Yankton resident Tyler Brandt, 16, was working in a Taco John's restaurant earlier this year and said he had a very difficult relationship with his manager. When he tried to remove the nametag, Brandt says his manager forced him to put it back on in full view of customers. So far, the manager has not commented; however, Taco John CEO Jeff Linville said in a statement, "At Taco John's, we believe everyone should be treated with dignity and respect. ... Such actions will not be tolerated by our company." South Dakota has no employment-discrimination laws that protect LGBT people.

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer has said it may be time to consider extending the state's civil-rights laws to gay people, according to AZCapitolTimes.com. The governor conceded that, while existing state laws bar discrimination based on race, religion or gender, those do not extend to sexual orientation; however, the Republican said it may be worth exploring whether the time has come to change that. Her comments come several months after she made national headlines by vetoing legislation that would've expanded the rights of any business to turn away customers based on a claim that serving that person would interfere with a "sincerely held" religious belief.



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GAY in the LIFE

Tony Breed

TEXT BY PHILLIP-JOHN PUZZO



Age
42

Neighborhood
Ravenswood

Relationship status
Married, since 1997 (legally since 2008—"We did it in California right before Prop 8.")

Hobbies
"I'm on the board at CHIRP Radio, which is a local, music-focused independent community radio station. I help run the station and I also DJ every Friday morning from 6 to 9am. You can listen at www.chirpradio.org."

Little-known fact
"Years ago, I had a side gig writing pronunciation guides for a series of Cities of the World children's books."

After his 30th birthday, Tony Breed started to feel life's potential slipping away.

According to Panel Patter, a news blog dedicated to web comics and cartoonists, Breed decided creating comics was an impractical dream in college and gave up to pursue something, "unspecified and white collar." More than 15 years later, following encouragement from his husband and a close friend, Breed conceived the comic Finn and Charlie Are Hitched.

Loosely based on Breed's own marriage, Finn and Charlie Are Hitched is a Web comic about the daily life of two gay men and their dramatic (but hilarious) family and friends. The comic was launched in April 2006 and ran for eight years, gaining a strong readership in both the LGBT and web comic communities.

Very recently, Finn and Charlie Are Hitched was put on hiatus and a sequel was introduced called Muddlers Beat, featuring many of the same characters, but structured more as an ensemble strip. Breed was nominated for two Ignatz Awards in 2011 for "Outstanding Online Comic" and "Promising New Talent" as well as travels throughout the country to exhibit his work and connect with other cartoonists and readers. In other words, Tony Breed's aspirations of escaping the mundane and creating comics are truly coming alive.

His process begins with writing: Breed prefers to go for a walk and talk through a comic strip's plot and dialogue. After writing the story down, he thumbnails the narrative to figure out blocking, expressions, and gestures. Breed works on a Bristol Board, pencils in non-photo blue, inks with PITT pens, and shadows with a wash of yellow dye-based ink so black lines aren't obscured. Then, he scans the comic to his hard drive, utilizes color separations, and fixes small errors before digitally coloring in the comics using a specialized program.



Raised in Providence, Rhode Island, Breed moved to Chicago to attend college and never looked back. He came out as a freshman and, two years later, met his now-husband Eric. Although Tony Breed is not quitting his nine-to-five anytime soon, the future is limitless for his innovative comic-strip endeavors. See www.hitchedcomic.com to read Finn and Charlie Are Hitched, and www.muddlersbeat.com to read Muddlers Beat.

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Couples get married at Holy Trinity. Photo by Tracy Baim

Holy Trinity holds mass wedding service

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Capping off a month of pride festivities, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church hosted its first marriage-equality service for a number of couples June 27.

AJ Yoeckel and Sean Diller exchanged vows for the first time and 17 other couples, both gay and straight, renewed their vows from earlier marriages, civil unions or commitment ceremonies in front of about 200 family, friends and well wishers.

Holy Trinity's two gay pastors, Craig Mueller and Michelle Sevig, were among the couples renewing their vows—Mueller with Ernest Vasseur and Sevig with Julie Sevig.

Karen Anderson Moran and Rich Moran, Richard Bough and David Easterbrook, Kenneth Jon Duckmann and James Anthony Perez, Patty and Mark Erickson, Andy Halvorson and Scott Nelson, Colleen (Fleming) Hanna and Christopher Hanna, Dana Johnson and Thomas (Schneider) Johnson, Brian Jones and Jeremiah Peterson, Beth (Borst) and Steve Mankowski, Benjamin L. Nichols and Brian A. von Rueden, Erika Robeck and Martin Baber, Carol and Robert Schickel, Kyle Severson and Clyde Andrew Walter, Alison Strickler and Aana Maria Vigen, and David and Karol Stahl also renewed their vows.

Bishop Wayne Miller of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America presided over the service along with Assisting Minister Joel Cruz and Crucifier Josh Evans.

The Morans' daughters, Cassie and Megan, were the torchbearers for the service; their other daughter, Molly, welcomed each guest alongside the Sevigs' daughter, Annika, and John Flowers. The first reading was performed by the Sevigs' son, Peder.

Miller noted the special nature of this ceremony, adding that Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has fought for greater inclusivity for the past 25 years. Miller also spoke about the bonds that bring two people together as a couple and called on the congregation to be witnesses to each couple's commitment of marriage to each other.

In addition, he spoke about the importance of this occasion and thanked everyone for the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful celebration.

Sevig officiated Yoeckel and Diller's wedding immediately following Miller's sermon. Four women served as the groom's attendants during the ceremony. Cheers and applause erupted as Yoeckel and Diller kissed each other for the first time as a married couple.

After the sign of peace, the couples renewing their vows gathered at the altar to affirm their commitment to each other with Miller serving

as their officiant.

Minister of Music David R. Brackley and trumpeters Thomas Madeja and Sylvia Carlson provided musical arrangements throughout the service. Pastor Sevig, Patty Erickson, and Megan Eichhorn served as reception coordinators for the event.

Yoeckel and Diller said that when this idea came up they jumped at the chance because this day was about community and the idea of sharing this special day with their church family was very appealing. They also made note of the church's long history of social-justice activism.

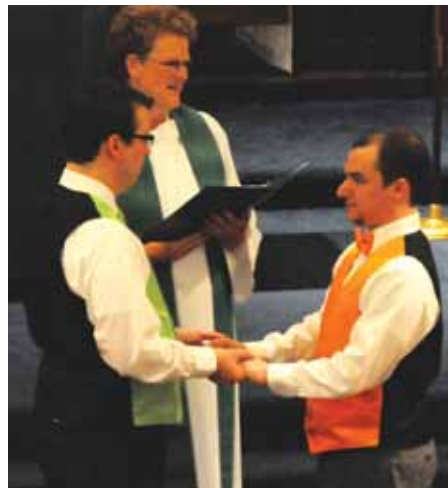
"My husband and I were excited about the opportunity for our own marriage but also to share in the joy of all the other couples that can finally legally get married," said Borst of the ceremony.

Married for 43 years, the Schickels decided to take part in the ceremony because they were already looking to renew their vows. They figured what better way there was than to celebrate their love and commitment with these couples who can finally legally wed.

A reception featuring hors d'oeuvres from Inspiration Kitchens, champagne and wedding cake took place in the church hall following the service.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has allowed partnered gay and lesbian clergy to serve in ELCA congregations since 2009 and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has welcomed LGBT people in all areas of participation and leadership in the church since 1990, the year it became a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

See www.holytrinitychicago.org.



Associate Pastor Michelle Sevig, who also renewed her vows to her partner Julie at the event, performed the service for Sean Diller (left) and AJ Yoeckel. Photo by Hal Baim

Rabbi speaks on trans* issues in Skokie

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Making a Jewish community more welcoming for transgender members or visitors was the topic of a talk given by Rabbi Cindy Enger June 26 at Ezra-Habonim, Niles Township Jewish Congregation (EHNT), 4500 W. Dempster St., Skokie.

Enger, who is a part-time rabbi at Congregation Or Chadash in Chicago, gave an overview about medical and psychological issues that transgender individuals face then further discussed how congregations can be more proactive when opening their doors to transgender Jews.

She opened by discussing the concept of "transitioning," beginning to live as the gender within which one identifies: "When a TG



Rabbi Cindi Enger. Photo by Matt Simonette

person has transitioned, and is living as their authentic gender, that's that person's truth," Enger said. "That person may or may not want other people to know. ... It's going to be different for many people."

After further noting the diversity of categories that transgender individuals can fall under,

Enger screened the short video "Ryland's Story," which was produced by a San Diego couple whose young daughter identified as a boy and was hostile to the stereotypical trappings of being a girl. Ultimately, the couple chose to allow the child to present himself as male, saying in the video they hoped their choice might help spare Ryland the unhappiness that drives many transgender persons to attempt suicide.

Audience members were generally appreciative of the video's message, but some had questions about the medical and psychological aspects of the situation. One woman asked how the parents could be certain Ryland's situation was not a phase, while another man said he had difficulty with a statement that Ryland had the brain of a boy.

But Enger emphasized that the parents made their choice to present Ryland as a boy because they thought it would save his life. Ultimately, when it comes to acceptance, she added, "People's lives are at stake."

Among the suggestions Enger had for synagogues concerned with being welcoming to transgender Jews were: not making assumptions about a person's gender identity based on their appearance; emphasizing the "T" when mentioning that a congregation is "LGBT-welcoming"; being respectful of personal pronouns; being mindful of pronouns in religious texts and ceremonies; and providing gender-neutral bathrooms and spaces, when appropriate. Lastly, she advised, "If we hear lashon hara [evil tongue, or malicious gossip], speak up and don't let it pass by."

Enger was asked if census figures or any other data suggested how many transgender persons there are in the country. She said that it was difficult to know, and would only become more complex as growing numbers people become comfortable identifying as transgender. But she added that actual numbers, as far as Jewish communities are concerned, are moot: "We're commanded to welcome the stranger ... It doesn't matter if the numbers are large or small."

Rabbi Carla Cenker, who was in the audience, added, "Judaism doesn't reject [transgender people], and as a community we need to understand that."

Enger agreed, and suggested there be "a follow-up with one or several people who are transgender," so the congregation could hear about more specific experiences.



Temple Sholom hosts Pride event and honors

Temple Sholom/Am Keshet honored 10 groups and individuals June 27 in a special pride service. The Chaverah Keshet honors (Friend of the Rainbow) were for their "outstanding work on marriage equality."

Edwards Buice and Andrew Simmons were co-chairs of the event.

Pictured from left: Andrew Simmons; Pastor Kim Beckmann of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Lynda Delaforgue, co-chair of Citizen Action of Illinois; Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois; Lynn Bowman representing Human Rights Campaign; (back) Rep. Kelly Cassidy; (front) Tracy Baim, publisher of Windy City Times and founder of the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality; Temple Sholom Rabbi Shoshanah Conover; state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz; Ed Yohnka representing American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois; and Roderick Hawkins representing the Chicago Urban League.

Temple Sholom, 3480 N. Lake Shore Dr., was also a strong supporter of marriage equality. Members volunteered for the efforts, and participated in the March on Springfield.

Photo by Hal Baim

VIEWPOINT

WINDY CITY
TIMES

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Community Marketing, Inc.

MARK
HARRINGTONWhat's next
for the CDC?

After a recent meeting between Atlanta AIDS activists groups, ACT UP/New York, Treatment Action Group (TAG) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s HIV leadership and Tuesday's community press conference, what should the CDC do next to ramp up the domestic HIV prevention response? Here is a partial but by no means exhaustive list of priority actions:

1. CDC should declare HIV an emergency among U.S. men who have sex with men and transgender persons (http://actupny.com/actions/files/The_Atlanta_Principles.pdf).

CDC should immediately convene a meeting of young Black and Latino MSM and transgender leaders and community members to determine an action plan to rapidly reduce new HIV infections in these most-at-risk populations.

CDC should immediately determine how to conduct accurate and timely HIV epidemiology, surveillance, and better prevention programs in partnership with and focusing on young MSM of color and transgender persons.

2. CDC should rapidly release a revised HIV surveillance algorithm to promote the use of 4th generation HIV testing assays which can help to close the window between HIV infection and seroconversion, enabling earlier diagnosis and treatment of newly-HIV-infected individuals, who may make up as many as 45 percent of new HIV infections.

3. CDC should, in partnership with community groups, develop, implement, and promote public education campaigns for health care providers, AIDS service organizations, and at-risk communities on:

- Acute HIV infection warning signs, diagnosis, and referral;
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP);



ACT UP at the CDC. Photo courtesy of Reed Vreeland

c. Referral to treatment, retention, adherence, and viral suppression in all those infected.

4. CDC should develop a combination HIV prevention continuum of care and ensure that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) mandates the inclusion of this prevention care continuum as an essential health benefit under Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid expansion; in addition, CDC should work with the Ryan White CARE Act programs at HRSA and in the states to ensure that undocumented individuals and those without health care are able to access comprehensive prevention services without regard to their immigration or insurance status (whenever possible, however, programs should seek to provide primary care to all individuals).

5. CDC, in partnership with key states such as New York, should design and implement an

opt-out Chemoprophylaxis Registry (CPR) for all individuals prescribed PEP or PrEP to determine the safety, effectiveness, side effects, adherence levels, and real-world effectiveness of these interventions among people who choose to take PEP or PrEP.

These are just a few of the steps which are needed to set the stage for ending the HIV pandemic in the United States.

Science has developed the tools, and the United States has the resources, to dramatically reduce new HIV infections in the next five years.

It's time for us to force the federal and state governments to invest in an AIDS-free generation here at home.

Mark Harrington is the executive director of the Treatment Action Group.

More is needed

President Obama needs to stop politicking with immigrant and LGBT families. The Association of Latino/as Motivating Action (ALMA) applaud President Obama's recent executive action protecting LGBT workers hired through federal contracts—but that is not enough.

Most recently, the National Council of La Raza, the largest national Hispanic advocacy organization in the United States, hailed President Obama as the "deporter-in-chief." This is no title worth praising. For the past six years, under the Obama administration, about 2 million people have been deported.

Last year, ALMA in collaboration with the LGBT Immigrant Rights Coalition, worked tirelessly to push for a comprehensive and compassionate immigration reform, one that respects and takes into account the vulnerabilities of LGBT immigrants. Although we were initially disappointed by the Senate's version of an immigration bill that purposely excluded the Uniting American Families Act (UAFSA), we were then hopeful by the Supreme Court's decision to strike section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) down, and also the passage of marriage equality in Illinois. Now, some same-sex

binational/mixed-status couples in Illinois have a path toward keeping their families together.

But, the majority of LGBT immigrants, and their families, still do not have a way of protecting their families from deportations, and other anti-immigrant policies. With the House of Representatives' unfortunate, and gross, lack of action on immigration reform, we have channeled our collective frustration demanding that Obama issue an executive order to protect all LGBT people, this time protecting LGBT immigrant families. However, instead of acting immediately to protect the thousands of families his administration is tearing apart, Obama and Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson have held off on completing a review of deportation policies for more months so Congress can act on immigration reform.

Therefore, we demand that Obama ask the Department of Homeland Security to end the deportations of families who would otherwise benefit from the prospective immigration reform.

The report released by the Center for American Progress (CAP), "Dignity Denied: LGBT Immigrants in U.S. Immigration Detention," highlight the issues that LGBT immigrants in detentions encounter: life-threatening issues

such as sexual assault, the psychological damages of solitary confinement and the inadequate medical care. This puts the United States in jeopardy of infringing of human rights but, most importantly, it already violates individuals' human dignity.

Obama needs to be reminded that it was immigrant families and their allies, specifically Latino voters, that sent him back to the White House in 2012. This was after he broke his initial promise to act on immigration during his first term. He must also be reminded that the LGBT communities continues to see his presidency as one of the most friendliest to LGBT issues. But in order for President Obama to continue to be seen as a true ally to the immigrant, Latino, and LGBT community, he must act immediately.

The Association of Latino/as Motivating Action have this message for Obama: Mr. President, immigrants—specifically LGBT immigrants—will not forget the constant fear your administration has placed on our communities if you do not act now. It's time to put an end to the separation of families.

Association of Latino/as
 Motivating Action

LETTERS

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by
Brett Beiner/
Drury Lane
Theatre

I PUT A 'SPELL' ON YOU

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is in WCT's theater spotlight. See page 21.

THEATER

'Moss' destruction.
Page 20

Photo from *The Late Henry Moss*
by Tim Knight



DISH

Salad days.
Page 40

Photo of Joe Fish's poached lobster salad
by Andrew Davis



MOVIES

'Blackbird' flies.
Page 29

Photo of *Blackbird* director Patrik-Ian
Polk by Duane Cramer



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Play takes a look at undocumented queer youth

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There's no doubt that tremendous strides have been made in the past few years when it comes to same-sex marriage rights in the United States. But that doesn't mean that there aren't battles still to be won for people and groups who identify along the LGBTQIA spectrum.

This is why the About Face Youth Theatre Ensemble is turning its attention to the "Undocuqueer" movement for its latest world-premiere production, *Checking Boxes*. The free show, which will tour to different Chicago Park District locations as part of its "Night Out in the Parks" program, is based upon the true experiences of the ensemble members and their investigative interviews with other members of the LGBTQIA community who have connections with undocumented immigrants.

"The topic came about when our ensemble was discussing last year what we'd like to explore in our next main stage show and we were talking about safety in neighborhoods and whether or not people would be comfortable in seeking help from police officers," said Ali Hoefnagel, who directs *Checking Boxes* and is also About Face Theatre's education and outreach director. "And that is when we found out that some of our ensemble members didn't have documentation. And our youth rallied around this topic of undocumented people in this country and the intersection between queer identity and being undocumented."

Like in other About Face Youth Theatre Ensemble shows, *Checking Boxes* was devised via a series of workshops. These were overseen by Hoefnagel and bisexual playwright/poet/performer Shannon Matesky, who was brought

aboard to create a finished script for *Checking Boxes*.

"I was actually referred by my mentor, Coya Paz with Free Street Theater," Matesky said. "The process has been really awesome. We did a 10-week series of working with the youth ensemble, we had auditions where everyone talked about their issues with social justice and their interest in theater."

Matesky said *Checking Boxes* will focus on many of the issues involved via personal narrative monologues, though poetry, dialogue scenes and even the minimal scenery.

Hoefnagel said the issue is important because immigration "is in the news every day."

"We've really come to the conclusion that it's broken and there is a deep need to flip the misconceptions that we've been fed about who these individuals are in our country," Hoefnagel said. "They're us, they're our neighbors, they're our friends."

One thing that particularly excites Matesky and Hoefnagel is the fact that *Checking Boxes* will be traveling outside the typical gay-positive neighborhoods where About Face shows usually play.

"It's important to me that we're telling the story and we get to go directly to these neighborhoods and do the play as an opportunity to spark these conversations about who is and isn't included," Matesky said. "The piece, it's the type of theater where there isn't a lot of sets, there isn't the necessity for a specified place. It is a get-up-and-go show from one location to the next to symbolize how much we as an LGBTQ community as well as the undocuqueer community still has so much baggage that we're carrying around."



Cast of *Checking Boxes*. Photo courtesy of About Face Theatre

The undocuqueer cause is a natural for the LGBTQIA community because the latter has been "for so long about being who you are and being out and proud and understanding that we are who we are," Hoefnagel said. "It's the same with individuals who don't have documentation or have immigrated for this country and it's the right thing to do to come together and understand that we're similar and that human rights are civil rights and if the LGBTQ community cares about civil rights, which of course we do, we should start thinking how we fit into this very, very topical conversation."

"Now that gay marriage has passed in Illinois, a lot of people might think that the fight is over and that we're doing good. But we forget that there's still so much more progress that needs to be made for the whole demographic of 'undocuqueers' who are still hiding in this country and they still don't have

rights," Matesky said. "I'm hoping that the play really opens up the fact that there's still advocacy work that is necessary around equality."

About Face Youth Theatre Ensemble's *Checking Boxes* plays in multiple venues between Thursday, July 10, and Friday, Aug. 1, as part of the Chicago Park District's Night Out in the Parks program. Performances are at 7 p.m. July 10-11 at Washington Park, 5531 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.; 7 p.m. on July 17-18 at Piotrowski Park, 4247 W. 31st St.; 7 p.m. July 24-25 at Austin Town Hall, 5610 W. Lake St.; and at 7 p.m. July 31-Aug. 1 at Willye White Park, 1610 W. Howard St.

All performances are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.aboutfacetheatre.com and www.nightoutintheparks.com.



The Last Ship. Photo by Joan Marcus

THEATER REVIEW

The Last Ship

Book: John Logan & Brian Yorkey;

Music and lyrics: Sting

At: Bank of America Theatre,
18 W. Monroe St.

Tickets: 800-775-2000 or

www.broadwayinchicago.com; \$33-\$100

Runs through July 13

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

It's ironic that the United Kingdom's current governing coalition isn't more supportive of its film and theater industries—especially if you consider the artists who have created commercial film and stage pieces advocating for British workers in the troubled or dismantled industries of steel manufacturing (The Full Monty), coal mining (Billy Elliot) and shoe-factory work (Kinky Boots).

Now you can add shipbuilders to the list with The Last Ship, the Broadway-bound musical currently at the Bank of America Theatre that was spearheaded by Sting and features an original score by the rock superstar. The Last Ship is, in many ways, a show for Sting to honor the northeastern English shipbuilding community of Wallsend that he grew up in, and to stress the importance of work in defining the dignity and identities of laborers and their families.

The Last Ship focuses on Gideon Fletcher (Michael Esper), a vagabond sailor who returns to town to face up to his decision 15 years ago to flee rather than follow in his abusive late father's footsteps. Gideon has a left-behind girlfriend named Meg Dawson (Rachel Tucker) to reconcile with, a fractured father-son relationship to contemplate (no mother is ever mentioned) and town full of folks devastated by the collapse of the generations-old ship-building industry.

Luckily, there's the unconventional Irish-Catholic priest Father O'Brien (played with deadpan-perfect comic timing by Fred Applegate), who rallies the community to occupy their shuttered shipyard to build one last vessel. Exactly what they hope to achieve by their illegal work action isn't entirely convincing, and one wishes that book writers John Logan and Brian Yorkey could plug up the many plot holes and unanswered questions in the script—like explaining how a cash-strapped town can foot the multi-million pound bill for this venture and why the shipbuilders aren't arrested *en masse*. (Perhaps it's the bad PR in the media that scares the company from pressing charges.)

Despite the questionable script, Sting has composed a deeply personal and melodic score for The Last Ship that is full of rousing Celtic ensemble numbers and tender ballads that unquestionably honors his hometown roots. Some might like a little more character and lyric differentiation in the numbers, but this is a lovely and distinctive score in shipshape form.

Production-wise, set and costume designer David Zinn works well with lighting designer Christopher Akerlind to create an appropriately stark and industrial look to the show. Under Joe Mantello's fine direction with manly and lumbering dances by choreographer Steven Hoggett, The Last Ship features an all-around great cast with many standouts like Jimmy Nail, Aaron Lazar, Collin Kelly-Sordelet and Sally Ann Triplett, who do a wonderful and emotional job in bringing Sting's musical vision to life.

CRITICS' PICKS

Carrie: The Musical, Bailiwick Chicago at Richard C. Christiansen Theater, through July 12. Put away your camping gear and get out your hankies for a fable of adolescent martyrdom and vengeance on bullies from a time before such stories inevitably ended in a hail of bullets. MSB

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

Grounded, American Blues Theater at the Greenhouse, through July 13. When wars are fought like video games from your own front yard, it's easy for the warrior lose perspective, says George Brandt with his always-insightful and articulate analysis of new hazards in an age of remote-controlled drone missiles. MSB

This Is Our Youth, Steppenwolf Theatre, through July 27. Don't miss out on your chance to see this starry Broadway-bound revival that is both extremely funny and touching as it shows privileged young New Yorkers in the early 1980s struggling with aimlessness and drugs. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

The Late Henry Moss

Playwright: Sam Shepard

At: Artistic Home, 1376 W. Grand Ave.

Tickets: 866-811-4111;

www.theartistichome.org; \$28-\$32

Runs through: Aug. 3

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It's not a cheerful reunion: after hearing that his father has gone missing, Ray Moss arrives at a squalid desert shack to find the family patriarch dead, laid out on his bed with his hands clasped over an empty bottle. Sitting vigil is Ray's long-absent brother, Earl, who refuses to allow the three-day-old corpse to be disturbed. As the siblings squabble over widely differing childhood memories, Ray demands to know the facts of the late Henry Moss' final days, ruthlessly interrogating witnesses to the events culminating in the cryptic homecoming.

What emerges from the testimonies of the despondent Earl, their fussy next-door neighbor Esteban, and the driver of a taxi summoned from faraway Albuquerque, is a bizarre tale of the old man embarking on a fishing trip, accompanied by a fiery young woman he met in a jailhouse drunk tank, where she proclaimed him deceased. Instead of responding to her assessment with his customary scornful belligerence, we are told, Henry Moss began to wonder if her report of his demise might NOT

be exaggerated.

Well, the proverb warns that cowards die many times before their death. Those who seek to deny their fear through cruelty to others can be redeemed, with the help of a spirit guide to steer them on the right path—Esteban, who ministers to the wounded with soup and companionship, could be one—but at the end, the recalcitrant bully's only escort to the grave is a mocking banshee in sexy lingerie who strips him of his last illusions before leaving him to serve as an example to his sons. Will his bitter lesson be heeded? Ray already appears ready to follow in his sire's abusive footsteps, but Earl's acknowledgement of his past misdeeds offers hope of a better future.

An electrical mishap mandated that Artistic Home's opening night performance be illuminated solely by the storefront auditorium's house lights (seven unfiltered fresnels, to be specific), with only sound cues to mark the evening's progress. Even under these impaired circumstances, Kaiser Zaki Ahmed's direction of an ensemble exhibiting the intense subtextual focus that is this company's hallmark keeps us cognitive of the narrative's underlying themes every minute—no easy task given Sam Shepard's sun-stunned universe.

In the role of the terrifying Henry Moss, Frank Nall commands the stage with a charisma at once repugnant and pathetic, but look for Arvin Jalandoon and Yadira Correa's rough-hewn angels to linger in your contemplations long after the brothers Moss have set forth on their respective journeys.



Apes of Wrath.
Photo by Todd
Rosenberg

THEATER REVIEW

Apes of Wrath

Playwrights: The Ensemble

At: The Second City e.t.c.,
1616 N. Wells St.

Tickets: 312-337-3992 or

www.secondcity.com; \$23-\$48

In an open run

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Typically, people are driven to despair and misery when contemplating existential feelings of insignificance in the universe. But for the super-clever and very funny crew behind Apes of Wrath, the new 38th revue for The Second City e.t.c., those potentially depressing notions of meaningless can be comic gold.

With a title that perhaps is a nod to the latest Planet of the Apes franchise film, the crew of Apes of Wrath have applied a scientific and futuristic spin to this hilarious revue of big ideas and contemporary cultural criticism. The expansiveness of galaxies is not only admired, but mined for comedy when applied to our own lives concerned with work, relationships and sex in this fleet revue overseen with great panache by director Jen Ellison.

Particularly fun is an early sketch set in the offices of BuzzFeed, where a former investigative print journalist (Tim Ryder) tries to find a way to fit into a superficial online world where angry cat pictures and meaningless quizzes ultimately rule. Or revel in the pro-science sketch where a pediatrician (Ryder, again) gets help from an indirect source (Asher Perlman) to tell off two anti-

vaccination first-time parents.

Brooke Breit and Eddie Mujica are particularly hilarious in a futuristic sketch involving a woman and her troubled romantic relationship with a doubtful robot branded as "Iverson." Mujica's mechanical movements (coupled with great synchronized sound effects by musical director and composer Alex Klinier) makes this sketch a hilarious stand-out.

Punam Patel has a grand time as an entrepreneur who has devised an event to help sons keep their chastity before marriage, while Carisa Barreca shows off plenty of musical abilities in songs touching upon the scary drive for utter perfection in womanhood to orbital longings for love.

If there's one thing to criticize in the show, it's that the improvisational moments drawn from audience responses aren't as elaborately pre-planned among the full cast as in previous Second City revues. But on a smaller improvised scale, Breit has a great time as a drunken woman at a high school reunion, Mujica as a guilt-inducing soon-to-be American citizen and Patel and Ryder as two pretentious performance artists riffing on contemporary events (watch out for the duo's embarrassing costumes).

Sarah Ross' sleek and slightly futuristic set design and the flashy lighting design work of Kyle Anderson both tie neatly into the show's overall futuristic concept for Apes of Wrath, giving the whole show a pricier look than usual.

So kudos to the entire cast and crew of Apes of Wrath for not dumbing down the comedy. Apes of Wrath shows that you can be unashamedly brainy and funny at the same time.



Partners. Photo by Emily Schwartz

THEATER REVIEW

Partners

Playwright: Dorothy Fortenberry
 At: LiveWire Chicago Theatre
 at the Den, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.
 Tickets: 312-533-4666;
www.livewirechicago.com; \$25
 Runs through: July 2

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

If you ever become the recipient of a large amount of money, your wisest course of action is to immediately store it in one or more bank accounts until you can think about it without your heartbeat racing. Do not share the news of your windfall with others, or spend time staring at the check ("Wow! Look at all those zeroes!"), or you could succumb to the hazards of unexpected loot and end up like the characters in Dorothy Fortenberry's play.

Paul and Clare are a married couple, living in a cozy apartment furnished from Crate & Barrel (or maybe Target), in keeping with Paul's salary as an IT worker for a law firm and Clare's earnings at her part-time job. Their best friends are gay couple Ezra and Brady (respectively, Clare's childhood chum and his boyfriend, a teacher of at-risk children). Ezra's dream is to peddle Clare's innovative nosherie from his own food-truck, but when Clare is awarded a settlement as a result of a long-ago legal action, it sets the four comrades to squabbling over which of them is most deserving of this bounty.

Make that *three* comrades. Brady, having been raised in an atmosphere of affluence, recognizes wealth as the useful substance that it is, unlike Ezra, Paul and Clare, to whom a six-figure sum signifies the fulfillment of their every wish, including many things that money can't buy. Resentments over trivial inequities arise—the luxury of hired help to clean your house vs. that of a visit to a cosmetic dermatologist, for example, or the priority of a husband's long-term goals over a best friend's immediate medical needs. Pressured by emotional conflict emanating from her nearest confidantes, Clare squanders her fortune in likewise fantasy-based choices, increasing her distress and further impairing her judgment.

It would be easy for audiences to become similarly dazzled by the dollar signs, blinding them to Fortenberry's assertion that what threatens—or strengthens—loyalties is not the lucre itself, but the individual's attitude toward it. LiveWire director Kendra Miller delivers the playwright's sermon with a light touch—indeed, except for the temperamentally centered Brady, the characters often come off as so ingenuous that you wonder why they don't just consult their parents. The importance of exploring and, even more importantly, assessing the link between material values and domestic values cannot be denied, making this play mandatory viewing for those contemplating marriage, whether het or same-sex.

SPOTLIGHT



When it debuted in 2005, **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** featured a monologue where a daughter of two gay dads railed about the fact that her parents couldn't get married. However, that speech has understandably been updated to reflect the times.

The rest of the two-time Tony Award-winning musical is still hilarious as adults depict quirky little kids facing high-stakes stress to win. Drury Lane Theatre's production may only be just the latest version to pop up around town, but this version lends a grandeur that isn't typically applied to the show. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee continues through Sunday, Aug. 17, at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace. Tickets are \$40-\$50; call 630-530-0111 or visit www.drurylane.com. Photo courtesy of Brett Beiner/Drury Lane Theatre

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Jennifer Nettles

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BuzzOnStage takes Chicago to the theater

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

What's the buzz around Chicago's theater scene? Brandon Hollembeak, founder and CEO of BuzzOnStage reveals what is happening in the various spotlights around the city's neighborhoods.

Since 2012, the online start-up has been a one-stop consumer news site and box-office platform. Working with theaters in Chicago to help grow and connect with their audience, BuzzOnStage makes it simpler for consumers to find out the news directly from their neighborhood theaters, purchase tickets and attend local performances.

"There's a lot going on and I just feel like people aren't hearing about it or don't have one place to go," said Hollembeak. "One of the things we do is pull in all the Facebook, tweets and the blog posts all into that newsfeed, so essentially you don't have to go find 50 different websites or Facebook pages or anything."

Currently, 400 theaters are in BuzzOnStage's database. The target market is small-stage theater, which Hollembeak described as having an average of 30-50 seats and a low ticket price.

"It's an audience development platform where they can focus on putting on great shows and making sure that we know about them and then we take over with the consumer side where we're constantly trying to get more neighborhood residents as theatergoers to use BuzzOnStage," said Hollembeak. "Theater companies like that are outrageously inspiring to

me where it exposes a piece of society that we may overlook on an everyday basis, but we should absolutely be responsible for and take action on."

Hollembeak's interest in the theater goes back to his high school days when he was the shortest student as a freshman and was approached to perform in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." Accepting the role and loving it, he went on to do a few more high school musicals and plays. At junior college with a theater scholarship, Hollembeak left the theater realm and took a previously offered music scholarship instead.

"Going to the movie theater and seeing it on the screen, seeing all the amazing effects and 3D and all that kind of stuff, you can still be disconnected from a film. When you go to one of these small-stage theaters, you're talking about 30-50 feet in a room that's not large that's a production quality, the talent of the actors, the writing of the show, where it is itself—having that experience that's in your face, there's not really a way to avoid it. You're involved with it. You're pulled into it."

Hollembeak's first experience with Chicago's theater scene was "Les Miserables" at the Ford Oriental Theatre, then "Wicked," and a few other Broadway touring company shows. His love story with his husband of five years even started at the theater. In time, he was connected back to the theater scene, having more knowledge in business and technology.

"I thought having the Chicago Theatre Dis-



BuzzOnStage's Brandon Hollembeak. Photo from BuzzOnStage

trict in the Loop was pretty amazing and my first date with my husband was seeing a show at the Goodman Theatre," said Hollembeak of his initial reaction of theater in Chicago after moving from southern Kansas in 2005. "I'm always curious and a problem-solver, so the more I learned from him [his husband] about the whole Chicago theater scene, how many theaters there were and how little I, or anyone I talked to, knew and how little help they were being provided, the more my passion grew for helping theaters survive and thrive here."

His additional involvement in the theater industry includes his four years on the board of Redtwist Theatre in Edgewater along with his friendships with several managing and artistic directors in Chicago. Also involved in the LGBT community, Hollembeak helped start the LGBT group at Apartments.com (Classified Ventures) and since moving to Chicago almost 10 years ago, has been financially supporting marriage equality and various LGBT organizations such as Equality Illinois, the Human Rights Campaign and LGBT theaters and companies like About Face Theatre and the Center on Halsted, among others.

"Making sure more people experience live theater and having that connection with the topic and the writing—that's what inspires me about theater in general," said Hollembeak. "So, riding this vehicle, where theaters can thrive and we can partner with them to make sure their audience is growing and that they're able to have the resources to produce shows that will make that connection with people, that's what BuzzOnStage does."

When beginning the network, Hollembeak teamed with Christopher Pries, who serves as BuzzOnStage's vice president and CFO. The appeal, Pries said, was the patron management piece.

"I saw this as being a real gap in the market," said Pries, also a member of the LGBT community. "It was really obvious to me that this was a great thing to get involved with to help bridge the gap between theaters and the neighborhoods they're operating in. The idea that there's a single place to go that aggregates all this information and isolates it based on the neighborhood I live in or the neighborhood I'm going to be having dinner in, it was a no-brainer."

Getting pulled in the bigger neighborhood

direction, the BuzzOnStage team has been working with the neighborhood chamber offices and aldermen to launch a neighborhood theater Flex Pass. The Flex Pass serves up one ticket to each of the participating theaters and the bonus of a discount at any of participating neighborhood restaurants. Edgewater was the first to have the pass in 2013. More Flex Passes are in development in other neighborhoods and are expected to commence in Fall 2014.

New developments also include the company's June acquisition of TheatrePros, which set out to build an online community, connecting Chicago theaters and industry professionals since 2010. Using TheatrePros, theaters could setup profiles, post jobs and auditions, while industry professionals could build their profiles and respond to call-outs and connect. The activity also continued offline with events for industry professionals and theater patrons.

"It was obvious we were heading in the same direction, so joining forces was just natural," said Hollembeak. "I'm very excited to now have Andrea [Pikscher, co-founder of TheatrePros] and her talent as part of the Buzz team, and provide our theater partners with a comprehensive solution for audience development, social/email marketing, and industry and patron events to help educate and increase participation for all theaters and companies in Chicago."

To get more information or to register, visit: <https://www.buzzonstage.com/>.

'Churchill' at Greenhouse

The Greenhouse Theater Center is proud to present Churchill—a one-man performance portraying the British prime minister Winston Churchill—in its second-floor mainstage theater.

Adapted and performed by Chicago's Ronald Keaton, and based on the writings of Winston Churchill and the teleplay "Winston Churchill" by Dr. James C. Humes, Churchill is directed by Kurt Johns, and runs Aug. 1-Sept. 14 at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets are on sale now at the Greenhouse box office, over the phone at 773-404-7336, or online at www.greenhousetheater.org. Passes are \$25-\$42.50.

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Lesbian musician talks Etheridge, Kate Clinton and Amy Ray

BY SARAH TOCE

Out lesbian Jamie Anderson knows enough about women's-music festivals to be considered armed and dangerous. She's toured with the best of them—Melissa Etheridge, Kate Clinton, Amy Ray, Holly Near, and Meg Christian—and has the stories to prove it. After nearly 30 years of braving the entertainment industry as only she knows best, Anderson presents her take on the wild and crazy world of the stage in the tell-all *Drive All Night* (Bella Books).

Windy City Times: You write in the foreword of *Drive All Night* that some of the personal stories you tell in the book should probably have remained so. Which ones are you referring to?

Jamie Anderson: In this business, it's better not to burn any bridges, but I don't think anyone's going to really be mad about anything I've written.

WCT: Can you tell us what made you ultimately decide to share such personal renderings?

JA: The idea took seed after I told a road story to some women I'd met over breakfast at the Highlands Inn. They weren't the first to tell me I should write a book, but I was there with some time on my hands and found it was really fun to write out the stories. I'm a singer-songwriter and we often share personal stories. This book was like one long song. And I didn't have to rhyme.

WCT: How have the subjects in your book responded to it?

JA: Just last night I read a chapter at a bookstore event and two of the women were in the audience. They laughed pretty hard. I [didn't] even use their names in the book, but they knew. I suspect that's how a lot of the people I write about will feel. Because I don't always use real names, folks won't know who I'm talking about except the ones who were there.

WCT: You began touring in 1987 and at one point you lived with a pig. Please discuss.

JA: I didn't live with a pig. I shared housing with one for a few days. My host was very nice and I liked the place, but it was a teeny bit unusual to share it with a huge animal.

WCT: You took your shirt off for Amy Ray? Now, you have to fill us in on that one!

JA: I was an emcee at a festival where she was playing. Taking off my shirt made it an extra special introduction. Fortunately, she didn't run away. In fact, she thought it was pretty funny. And for the record, I was wearing a modest bra under the shirt.

WCT: There is something flavorful about how you became your own booking agent at the start of your career. As women, we often have to do this type of thing to get our careers going—whether it's in the arts, photography, the office—even the homestead to make ends meet. Were you always self-sufficient?

JA: I've never had a manager or a label (except my own) but I had a booking agent a couple of times in my career and I mention them in the book. The first one got me a gig or two but quit after she realized she'd make more money flipping burgers. (There are tens of dollars to be made in folk music.) The second time was much more successful, but it was only for a special comedy show. For most of my career, I've booked myself. Other performers and agents were helpful, though, and often shared contacts or allowed me to share a stage. I'm grateful for their help and have tried to pass it on to the new performers I meet.

WCT: Having interviewed many female top-rated performers, there's a common thread



I've found: To many of them, it's a man's world. Do you agree?

JA: It can be a sexist world, for sure, but I've been lucky and have been in many places where it was a woman's world.

WCT: In your experience, did the female performers at the larger festivals get along offstage?

JA: Yes. Some have been very supportive and I talk about that in the book. There was one performer who was really rude to me, but I don't mention her by name.

WCT: What three things have you learned from your colleagues Kate Clinton and Melissa Etheridge?

JA: Truth be told, while it was exciting to meet them both and to share a stage with Kate, I've learned more from artists like Holly Near and Meg Christian—how to be entertaining, for one, and how to introduce important issues in a way that leaves an audience uplifted. I've also learned how to be gracious with fans. I've seen Holly Near get stopped numerous times by fans and she always listens and thanks them.

WCT: Speaking of Melissa, your first time meeting her was an interesting [situation]. If given the chance to do it all over again, would you do anything differently?

JA: Probably not. I was an awkward mess, for sure, but I'm sure she gets that all the time.

WCT: You have a section on your website that is labeled, "Gets Bored Easily." How true is that statement? We want examples.

JA: [It's] a joke. If I'm really interested in something, I can focus for hours—a good book, writing a song, hearing a great performer, etc.

WCT: The comedy song "Run" was inspired by your Facebook fans. That could've been dangerous, but in your case, it was hilarious!

JA: I asked my Facebook friends when they knew a relationship was over. I got a lot of funny answers, and some that were bittersweet, that I thought would make a good song. And who hasn't met our best friend's new love and thought, "Ooh, she should run?"

WCT: It's been almost 30 years since the start of your career. If you could go back and do two things over again, what would they be?

JA: I would've been more diligent about learning guitar technique. I'm a decent player, but I could be so much better if I'd really studied early on. I honestly can't think of anything else I would've done differently. Even if

July 2, 2014

something didn't have the expected outcome, I learned something from it.

WCT: What is in your future that you've left to cover but won't stop until you do?

JA: I'd love to learn to play that banjo I've had stashed in my closet for years. Also, I've

got a lot more books in me. I'm currently working on one about women's music.

Drive All Night is available via Bella Books. Find out more about Jamie Anderson by visiting her website: www.jamieanderson.com.

Kinky Boots returning to Chicago in 2015

Broadway In Chicago has announced that *Kinky Boots*—the smash-hit musical that brings together four-time Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein (Book) and Grammy Award-winning rock icon Cyndi Lauper (Tony Award-winner for Best Score for *Kinky Boots*)—will return to Chicago for a limited engagement at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St., on July 14-26, 2015.

Directed and choreographed by Tony Award winner Jerry Mitchell, *Kinky Boots* opened on Broadway April 4, 2013. *Kinky Boots* took home six 2013 Tony Awards, the most of any show in the season, including Best Musical, Best Score (Lauper), Best Choreography (Mitchell), Best Orchestrations (Stephen Oremus) and Best Sound Design (John Shivers).

Group tickets for 10 or more are now on sale by calling Broadway In Chicago Group Sales at 312-977-1710. Individual tickets for *Kinky Boots* will go on sale at a later date.

Dance for Life on Aug. 16

Six of Chicago's top dance companies (Giordano Dance Chicago, Joffrey Ballet, River North Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater and Visceral Dance Chicago) will come together Aug. 16 at the annual Dance for Life, the largest performance-based AIDS

fundraising event in the Midwest.

There will be world-premiere performances courtesy of choreographers Randy Duncan, Harrison McEldowney and Jeremy Plummer.

A gala reception will take place at 5 p.m. at the Hilton Chicago's Grand Ballroom, 720 S. Michigan Ave. The performances will start at 8 p.m. at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy.

This year, funds raised through this year's Dance for Life will benefit the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, The Dancers' Fund, Agape Missions, NFP and MADE: Making A Daily Effort.

Tickets are \$25-\$600 (the latter including admission to the gala reception and premiere seating at the performance); call 312-922-5812 or visit www.danceforlifechicago.org.



Dance for Life staffer in 2013. Photo by Hal Baim

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What is STRIBILD?

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

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

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

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

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

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

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

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

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



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

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

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

What is STRIBILD?

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

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who should not take STRIBILD?

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

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

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

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

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

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

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

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

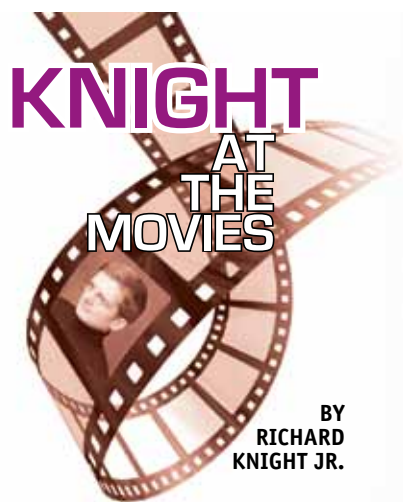
Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

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

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BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT JR.

Tammy; All Night Long; Gore Vidal

About three-quarters of the way through **Tammy**, which stars Melissa McCarthy and Susan Sarandon, the movie finally finds its footing with the arrival of Kathy Bates.

In one brief monologue Bates whips both the film and McCarthy's character into shape, providing depth and adding some much needed dimension to what to that point has been an amiable but rather thin road comedy. I think Bates is an American acting treasure that needs to be handed every award we've got (and then some) and her brief role in *Tammy* as a forthright lesbian offers further proof of the inestimable magic Bates brings to everything she does.

Tammy was co-written by McCarthy and her husband, comedian Ben Falcone (also making his directorial debut), and was produced by McCarthy as a follow-up to her box-office hits *Identity Thief* and *The Heat*. The story follows the travails of the luckless Tammy who, as the movie begins, is having the baddest of bad days. After surviving a run-in with a deer (who is merely stunned) in her beat-up Toyota, Tammy finally gets to her job at a fast-food joint only to find her boss (Falcone) fed up with her tardiness. He ignores her distress (and the blood on her face) and fires her on the spot. Limping home—after her car breaks down—Tammy discovers that her cutie-pie husband (Nat Faxon) has been keeping company with the next-door neighbor (Toni Collette).

After not getting much sympathy from impatient mother Allison Janney, Tammy hits the road with Pearl (Sarandon), her wild and crazy granny who's an alcoholic with an eye for the fellows. Tammy doesn't much like Pearl (and vice versa) but grandma has \$10,000 in cash and offers her car to boot so off the two go, with a hazy idea about visiting Niagara Falls. As in all road comedies, a series of misadventures awaits these two mismatched, bickering souls on their way to mutual love, understanding and character growth, with the aforementioned Bates, as Tammy's Aunt Lenore, providing the latter.

Lenore has made a lot of money owning hardware stores—apparent from the gorgeous lake-side home she shares with Susanne (the lovely Sandra Oh) where Tammy and Pearl end up just in time for a big, delightful Fourth of July celebration that swarms of Lenore and Susanne's lady friends attend. At the height of the party, a drunken Pearl publicly humiliates Tammy, leading to the wake-up call speech from Bates.

"Gay hasn't always been in fashion," she reminds Tammy, hinting at years of struggle for equality as both a lesbian and a woman, adding that she and Susanne have had to work for everything they've achieved. With a firmness and compassion that elevates the speech, Bates (who looks chic in her short, frosted haircut and makes for the coolest lesbian) commands the screen; at that point I wanted to dump the predictable premise and go off with Lenore and Susanne, and see their movie. "Here's a story



Susan Sarandon (left) and Melissa McCarthy in the film *Tammy*. Photo by Saeed Adyani

that would really be interesting, I thought," and hardly the run-of-the-mill stuff we'd been watching.

This is not to imply that *Tammy* doesn't have its share of laughs and it certainly offers—as was intended—a great showcase for McCarthy's talent for physical comedy. But the episodic material is filled with logical gaps and filling the tiny supporting roles with such well-known actors (in addition to Janney, Collette and Faxon, there are Dan Aykroyd, Mark Duplass and Gary Cole) keeps throwing one out of the movie. The movie's biggest flaw is in the pairing of McCarthy and Sarandon. Sarandon—strapped into a ridiculous-looking gray wig that doesn't dim her innate sensuality for a second (something even the movie can't deny)—gets her share of laughs. However, you don't for a minute believe that she and McCarthy are related, and that central flaw dampens this okay-rather-than-great comedy that could have used another script polish before going into production.

Of related interest:

—*Girltrash: All Night Long* is another female-driven comedy, this one from D.E.B.S. writer/director Angela Robinson (who wrote the script and produced) and director Alexandra Kondracke.

The movie, a spirited, lesbian variation on Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist, focuses on Daisy (Lisa Rieffel), a bleach-blond lesbian rocker whose riot-grill band has a 1 a.m. slot at tonight's Bandslam contest. Before Daisy and her lesbian cohorts—including fellow rocker Tyler (a Joan Jett look-a-like) (Michelle Lombardo) and Daisy's younger sister Colby (who is just coming out) (Gabrielle Christian)—can make the gig, of course, they will be beset by complications galore, many of which are recounted in a series of infectious, alt-rock original songs.

The songs initially add more zip to the already energetic proceedings (with "By 2 AM" a highlight) but eventually start to wear out their welcome as the sound-alike melodies and lyrics pile up. Nevertheless, the enthusiasm of the talented cast—playing broadly to the back of the theater—and a lot of witty lines in Robinson's script ("I didn't know my ex was going out with Courtney Love" is just one of the funny quips in a movie full of them) add up to a mostly delightful waste of time. Expert comedienne Megan Cavanagh (who should have been

handed a bigger role) and Clementine Ford are part of the fun. The movie is available on VOD and DVD. <http://girltrashallnightlong.com/>

—*Who's Afraid of Vagina Wolf?* is another lesbian-centric comedy. This one focuses on a 40-year-old filmmaker, Anna (Anna Margarita Albelo), who makes one more attempt to kick-start her wayward career with a lesbian remake of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Anna uses every trick in the book to convince her friends to sign on to the project, which she hopes will finally bring her both success and romance with the gorgeous Katia (Janina Gavankar), whom she has cast in the movie. But naturally, Anna's friends, including the hilarious and droll Penelope (Go Fish's Guinevere Turner, who wrote the script) and Chloe (True Blood's Carrie Preston), are more than a little skeptical. The film played at last year's Reeling Film Festival to great audience response and is now available on VOD (with, presumably, a DVD release to follow). <http://wolfeondemand.movies.com/>

Briefly noted

A good case could be made for labeling Gore Vidal, the acerbic writer, as our modern-day Oscar Wilde. With his razor-sharp humor always front and center, the peppery, endlessly opinionated Vidal was never at a loss for an insightful 30-second sound bite. Defiantly gay decades before such openness was remotely thinkable by the majority of gay people, Vidal was truly one of a kind.

This keenly intelligent man—flinty and unsentimental but passionate about fairness; caustic; and, at times, gleeful in the takedown of his conservative opponents—is vividly portrayed in Nicholas Wrathall's documentary **Gore Vidal: United States of Amnesia**, which opens July 4 at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St. Vidal's fascinating life, which found him at the epicenter of politics and movies, is narrated by the man himself, and Wrathall has the smarts to get out of his way. (Who wouldn't?) The result is close to hagiography, but with a central figure as articulate, funny and as candid and forthcoming as this, that's understandable. <http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/gorevidal>

Moorehead among Radio Hall of Fame inductees

The late actress Agnes Moorehead (probably best known as Endora on the classic TV series *Bewitched*) will be among those who will be honored at the Chicago-based National Radio Hall of Fame's ceremony Nov. 9 in Los Angeles.

It will mark the first time the induction ceremony has taken place outside of Chicago.

Among the inductees is Moorehead, whom many sources cite as being a lesbian. Born in 1900, Moorehead began her career as a singer on KMOX/St. Louis. In the 1930s she moved to New York, and by 1935 was one of radio's busiest and most versatile actresses. During the 1940s she co-starred with Lionel Barrymore in *Mayor of the Town* and became "the First Lady of Suspense" by appearing in more than 25 episodes of the long-running series. Television brought her more fame through her role as Endora before she passed away on April 30, 1974.

Other inductees include Charlie & Harri-gan, Barry Farber, Jon Miller, Dick Orkin, *This American Life* with Ira Glass and Stanley E. Hubbard. For updates, check www.Museum.Tv or www.radiohof.org.

Gay chorus seeking new director

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus (CGMC) is currently seeking applicants for a new artistic director to start at the beginning of next year.

Current Artistic Director Patrick Sinozich had announced his plan to retire from the chorus this past summer. CGMC is accepting applications currently until July 15.

The artistic director is the chief artistic officer of the organization and is responsible for conceiving, developing and implementing the artistic vision and strategic priorities of the organization, so that it may fulfill its mission and realize its vision.

For a complete job description of the position visit www.cgmc.org, and then click on "Artistic Director Search."



Patrik-Ian Polk. Photo by Anthony Caravan

MOVIES

Patrik-Ian Polk's Blackbird screening at local film festival

BY TERRI-LYNNE WALDRON

Chicago's Black Alphabet Film Festival presents *Blackbird*, a film directed and co-written by openly gay filmmaker Patrik-Ian Polk. *Blackbird* is a coming-of-age story about a 17-year-old choir boy in Mississippi who struggles with his sexuality while living in a conservative religious community.

The film stars Oscar winner Mo'Nique, Isaiah Washington and newcomer Julian Walker, and is based on the novel *Blackbird*, by Larry Duplechan. In an email interview, Polk discussed turning the novel into a film, breaking ground with the TV show *Noah's Arc* and what a blackbird means to him.

Windy City Times: The film is based on the novel *Blackbird*, by Larry Duplechan which was first published in 1986. When did you read the book?

Patrik-Ian Polk: I first read the novel as a freshman in college in Boston. I was a young kid from a small town in Mississippi, away from home for the first time. And I was amazed to see an actual 'gay and lesbian' section in a bookstore in Harvard Square. Skimming the shelves, there was one book that I could tell from the spine, had an illustration of a Black person on the cover. That book was *Blackbird*.

WCT: Did the novel resonate with you in any way on a personal level?

PP: The story resonated with me because it was the first book I'd read about a young Black gay person coming of age. And it's a richly told story with wonderful characters and music.

WCT: Why did you want to turn it into a film?

PP: I just knew instinctively that I would one day make that book into a film. That was 1989. Twenty-five years later, here we are.

WCT: Mo'Nique co-stars in the film and she is the executive producer along with her husband, Sidney Hicks. How did the two of them come to work on the film?

PP: Isaiah Washington is my favorite male actor and was always my first choice to play the main character's father, Lance Rousseau. Once he signed on, he suggested Mo'Nique for the mother, Claire, and sent her and Sidney the script. The rest is history.

WCT: Julian Walker plays the main character, Randy Rousseau, and this is his first

film. Was it daunting for him to play the lead in such a dramatic role, and have that be his film debut?

PP: I think he was nervous at first, but everyone embraced him and made him feel comfortable. And he took to it immediately. He's a real talent.

WCT: What was it about Julian's audition that led you to cast him in the film, where there must have been more experienced actors who auditioned?

PP: We went through quite a few actors out in Hollywood, but there was no one fearless enough to take on this challenging role. When I saw Julian's first audition, it was amateurish, I could tell he had little to no experience, but there was a spark of something there. Something worth examining. I'm glad I took a chance. All that searching in L.A. for the perfect actor and he was right there in Hattiesburg, Mississippi—a junior at the University of Southern Mississippi! And he's openly

Event focuses on trans military service

"We Have Waited Long Enough: Open Transgender Service in the U.S. Military," a discussion with Aaron Belkin of The Palm Center, will take place Wed., Aug. 20, 6-8 p.m. at The Keith House, 1900 S. Prairie Ave., Chicago.

After Belkin's talk there will be a book-signing by Diane and Jacob Anderson-Minshall, authors of *Queerly Beloved: A Love Story Across Genders*.

Windy City Times newspaper is hosting, and the event is free; however, RSVP to editor@windycitymediagroup.com.

President Obama made history this year when the White House said it is open to a review of Pentagon policies banning transgender troops from serving. In the history of the republic, no president has ever signaled a willingness to consider transgender military service. "When we win (and we will win), we will look back on the White House statement as the the beginning of the end of the ban," Belkin said. But what will it take to cross the finish line, to convert the President's general openness to reconsidering discriminatory policy into actual political change? Come discuss the prospects for change with some of the participants in process.

Belkin is a professor, author, activist and dancer. Since 1999, Belkin has served as founding director of the Palm Center, which The Advocate named as one of the most effective LGBT rights organizations in the nation. He designed and implemented much of the public education campaign that eroded

popular support for military anti-gay discrimination, and when "don't ask, don't tell" was repealed, the president of the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund observed that, "this day never would have arrived (or it would have been a much longer wait) without the persistent, grinding work of the Michael Palm Center." Harvard Law Professor Janet Halley said of Belkin that, "Probably no single person deserves more credit for the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell.'" Currently, the Palm Center is engaged in a long-term initiative to address transgender military service.

As a bonus, there is also a book-signing after Belkin's talk. Imagine if, after 15 years as a lesbian couple, your partner turned to you and said, "I think I'm really a man." For Diane and Jacob (nee Suzy) Anderson-Minshall this isn't a hypothetical question. It's what really happened. Eight years later, the couple not only remains together, they still identify as queer, still work in LGBT media, and remain part of the LGBT community. They paint a portrait of love, not only to each other, but to the San Francisco Bay Area, LGBT publishing, and the queer community. *Queerly Beloved* is a love story that flies in the face of expectations and raises questions about the true nature of identity, sexuality and love.

'Normal Heart' DVD out on Aug. 26

The *Normal Heart*—HBO's adaptation of the Larry Kramer play about the early days of the AIDS crisis—will be out on DVD (\$19.97) and Blu-ray (\$24.99) on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

The all-star cast includes Academy Award nominee Mark Ruffalo (*The Kids Are All*

gay—which is so refreshing.

WCT: You got many accolades for the 2005 groundbreaking Logo series *Noah's Arc*, which centered around the lives of gay, Black male characters. Why do you think that, almost 10 years later, there is not one show on TV with multiple gay Black characters?

PP: I certainly wish there were more. But I don't waste time questioning why. I just keep pushing to make more and more films and more television shows. I'd rather continue being part of the solution than expend precious energy griping about the problem. I am excited for Lee Daniels' new series *Empire*, which debuts next year on Fox and promises to explore some gay issues within a Black family drama.

WCT: Why is Spike Lee an inspiration?

PP: Spike Lee came onto the scene when I was around 13, at a time when I was just starting to formulate ideas about what I wanted to be, what I wanted to do with my life. I think I always knew, but the first Black face I could put on that job—that title of filmmaker and director—was Spike Lee's. He wrote books about making his films and those books taught me how movies get made, how people become filmmakers. I learned about film school reading his books. So I knew I wanted to go to film school. And I love his films because his films are truth and they never lack vision.

WCT: What does "blackbird" mean to you?

PP: In the book, the title refers to the Beatles song, which was a big hit in the '70s. The book is full of '70s musical references that I knew I would never be able to afford in a film. That was one of the reasons why I wanted to do this as a modern-day story.

But I think the lyrics of that song resonate no matter when the setting and whether or not the song actually appears in the film: "Blackbird singing in the dead of night, take these broken wings and learn to fly." I think Randy Rousseau is learning to fly. He even talks about flying as a metaphor in the film. So that's what *Blackbird* means to me—taking whatever broken wings life has given you and learning to fly.

Blackbird will be screened at the Black Alphabet Film Festival July 2. For more info, visit <http://blackalphabet.org/>.

Right), Academy Award winner Julia Roberts (Erin Brockovich), Matt Bomer (TV's *White Collar*), Emmy Award winner Jim Parsons (The *Big Bang Theory*) and Taylor Kitsch.

Ruffalo portrays Ned Weeks, who witnesses first-hand a mysterious disease that has begun to claim the lives of many in his gay community and starts to seek answers. Matt Bomer plays Felix Turner, a reporter who becomes Ned's lover.

The release includes an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the true story that inspired the film, featuring cast and crew interviews, and the Blu-ray & DVD also include a Digital HD copy.

July 10 discussion to look at house music

The status of house music will be examined in "Old School/Future Classics," a discussion and group-listening session the Illinois Humanities Council is hosting and which will take place Thursday, July 10, at 7 p.m. at The Silver Room, 1442 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Guests include: Craig Loftis (Grand High Priest), who has been DJing in the Chicago music scene since 1979, and who became Frankie Knuckles' personal sound engineer, opening DJ and general manager; Tess Kisner, resident DJ at The Silver Room; and vocalist, DJ and producer Shaun J. Wright. Micah Sal-kind will lead the discussion.

The event is free to the public, although reservations are required. Email events@prairie.org or visit www.prairie.org.

NUNN ON ONE

George Takei: On Trump, Stern and 'Oh, my!'

BY JERRY NUNN

The actor that will be forever be known as Sulu from Star Trek has been a pioneer for the LGBT community and boldly gone where many gays have not gone before.

Not only has he performed in six Star Trek films but when he came out of the closet he made a big splash for equality. His work with Japanese American rights has led him to create a musical called *Allegiance*, which debuted in San Diego at the Globe Theatre. He brought attention to the horrors of Japanese internment camps in Arkansas in the process but now a documentary *To Be Takei* immortalized on film. He addresses subjects like how to say his name correctly, Takei rhymes with "I'm gay" not "Oh, my" and he's named after George VI so don't call him a queen.

He fought stereotypes on the television show *Star Trek* and continues today as grand marshal for many Pride parades, including Chicago's in 2006. He came out in *Frontiers Magazine* followed by continued spirited interviews with Howard Stern that have become quite memorable.

We chatted with the long-lasting talent about his new movie and what life is like being Takei.

Windy City Times: Hi, George. I came out to San Diego and saw your show *Allegiance* at the Old Globe Theatre.

George Takei: Oh, wonderful. What did you think?

WCT: I loved it.

GT: What prompted you to fly halfway around the country?

WCT: I was writing a travel story in California and the tourism board encouraged me to see your show.

GT: I am glad you saw it. I hope you are spreading the good word about *Allegiance*!

WCT: It ties in with your current documentary so it all came together.

GT: Yes, it did. In fact, my one regret is that we have not been able to get a Broadway house in time for the finish of *To Be Takei* so we could include the opening night as the grand finale of the movie.

There is this strange thing happening where every season there are at least one or two theaters that are dark. Every theater is booked up now and we have had to wait in line for a theater.

I just read in *The New York Times* that Bryan Cranston in *All the Way* at the Neil Simon Theatre is closing, so that will be opening up. I am going to call our producer to see if the situation is there. Another musical, *Newsies*, is closing so the *Nederlander Theatre* will be opening up. We have been waiting in line for a year now for a Broadway theater. We are hoping that the latter part of this year we will be able to share *Allegiance* with the great Broadway audience. It is the most important stage in America.

WCT: Is the cast standing by? Would my buddy Telly Leung still be in it?

GT: Telly, Lea Salonga and I are all waiting. Well, we are all working and doing other things but we are arranging our schedules so we can be available for it when we are ready to open on Broadway.

WCT: How long was the process of making the documentary *To Be Takei*?

GT: Jennifer Kroot, the director, approached us. I think it was in 2009. She and her team followed us for three years. Then they had a post production process. Bill Weber is a really gifted editor. He's like a stand up comic who



George Takei. Photo by Adam Bouska

knows how to set up a story then comes in with a punchline! He did a fantastic job of editing the film. So here we are now excitingly anticipating a public showing on Direct TV then in the theaters come August.

WCT: How was your husband, Brad, at being part of the process?

GT: He blossomed in the process. In fact I think Brad steals the movie! He was very apprehensive at the beginning. Brad can be a controlling guy and I think that comes off but plays well onscreen. As far as I am concerned he is the star of the movie.

WCT: Where did your expression "Oh, my" originate?

GT: Well, everyone uses it and it's a very common expression. I have been using it all my life. I did the *Howard Stern Show*. First of all, there are some outrageous things that he asks people to do and there are some outrageous responses to those requests. One time he asked a very buxom woman if she had a bra on and asked her to take her shirt off. When she did take it off I said, "Oh, my—oh, my," so he had various ones on tape. Whether I am there or not he's got this button he presses when someone says something outrageous and there is my voice saying, "Oh, my!" By repetition, it has become my signature. He's a little rascal.

WCT: From the documentary it looks like you have had a great relationship with Stern over the years.

GT: [Laughs] Yes, a very lively relationship. He can be very irritating at times but he is an extraordinary guy, I think. People thought he was homophobic. He knows how to use everything to get a laugh. If acting like he's a homophobe gets him a laugh then he has chosen to do it in the past. Now he knows better.

He's a champion for LGBT equality; as a matter of fact, he said on the air that he and Beth would not get married until George and Brad could, also. Of all things, he did stick to that. It wasn't until we got married that he and Beth

got married. He's a principled guy with good values. He's an advocate for equality as well as what's decent.

WCT: On the other hand we have [Donald] Trump, who you worked with on *Celebrity Apprentice*. Have you clashed at all with him about gay rights?

GT: He's another case, yes. When I did *Celebrity Apprentice* we were at a press conference. At the end I decided to give him a public challenge. Since he's a very public guy and opposed to marriage equality I invited him to have lunch with me at Jean George, located in Trump Tower. He said, "You know, George, I think I can learn something from you so we are on!" We tried to schedule it because we both travel a lot, but finally did. Immediately when we sat down he told me he went to a beautiful gay wedding. He mentioned all the families that were there and subtly said he supported it. I asked him if I could share that with the world.

Donald has a wide range of friends and some of them happen to be gay. I think his public position has been shared because he's a Republican and may be running for office. I think it is only a political posture. I don't think he has that position any more, particularly with the climate change in America.

A year from this week the Supreme Court came down with the ruling striking down the Defense of Marriage Act with California's Proposition 8. I think Donald has changed but not publicly [announced] that change.

WCT: Will you be in New York for Pride?

GT: No; this weekend we are going up to Seattle for their Pride. I have done New York's parade for two years so I am little shopworn for New York.

WCT: What is the craziest thing a Star Trek fan has ever asked of you?

GT: Would you believe in two more years Star Trek will be 50 years old? We first went on the air in 1966, so in 2016 we will be 50 years old. I have met all kinds of Star Trek fans, from the United States to Bagdad. I have had many bizarre, weird and difficult requests! Let your imagination go, but I will say to you that I have autographed many body parts, including a few private ones.

WCT: You are so polite to the fans. I saw how you were after the show meeting them for *Allegiance*.

GT: Well, thank you very much but I am in trouble when they stop asking, particularly after a performance. I am thankful that they came, bought tickets and spent some time with us.

Allegiance is a project that is very near and dear to my heart. I wanted to reciprocate and say thank you.

I learn a lot from the fans when I talk to them. There are many people that don't know about that dark chapter in our history. I discovered that many Japanese-Americans don't know about it. They may know that mom or dad or grandma was incarcerated but they never talked about it to their children. People said to me this was the first time they ever found out how horrible the camp was. I learn things like that by chatting with them at the theater. I will stand out there, talk to them and pose for selfies but then I learn how valuable *Allegiance* is to Japanese-Americans.

WCT: I hope it goes on to be a movie and brings even more attention to it.

GT: Oh, yeah; that is part of our game plan. We want a London company as well. The same thing happened in Canada when Japanese-Canadians were incarcerated. Because it is colder, it was really a hardship there.

We are planning on a Canadian company starting in Toronto. Ultimately, we see it going to Tokyo, with a Japanese cast and have things translated into Japanese. It is an international story.

WCT: Best of luck to you, so "live long and prosper!"

To Be Takei warps onto big and small screens with DirectTV, running exclusively from July 3 through Aug. 6; then, it will be released theatrically.

'Cirque Shanghai: Warriors' through Sept. 1 at Navy Pier

Cirque Shanghai's brand-new show, "Cirque Shanghai: Warriors," will run through Monday, Sept. 1, at the Pepsi Skyline Stage at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave.

Now in its ninth consecutive summer season at the Pepsi Skyline Stage, this latest installment of Cirque Shanghai combines the usual acrobatics with the martial prowess of Chinese Kung Fu and Wu Shu masters.

Tickets are \$19.50-\$39.50 for adults, and \$15.50 for children ages 3 to 12. Contact Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com/shanghai.



Cirque Shanghai: Warriors.

Cole Theatre launches

Chicago actors Boyd Harris and Layne Manzer have announced the founding of Cole Theatre, working under an Equity contract with non-profit status.

The inaugural show will be Mike Leigh's *Ecstasy*, staged at A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 N. Wells St., on Aug. 25-Sept. 28. Jeff Award winner Jonathan Berry will direct.

For more information about Cole Theatre's productions and programs, visit www.coletheatre.org, call 773-327-1066 or email info@coletheatre.org.

Reeling to take place in Sept.; call for entries

Reeling 2014: The 32nd Chicago LGBT International Film Festival is now accepting film and video entries for this year's festival, which will take place Sept. 18-25.

The event will screen approximately 75-100 independent films and videos during that span.

To download a PDF of the entry form and guidelines, visit <http://reelingfilmfestival.org> or submit online through FilmFreeway or Withoutabox. The entry form can also be e-mailed or snail-mailed upon request; contact reeling@chicagofilmakers.org.

MORE PRIDE PARADE PHOTOS!!!

Photos by Tracy Baim, Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com), and Matt Simonette. See many more photos and videos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com





Proud to Run finds continued success

BY JANEAN L. WATKINS

Proud runners experienced the joy of crossing the finish line to the cheers of supporters and the Chicago Spirit Brigade at this year's Proud to Run event near Montrose Harbor. Approximately 1,300 participants, hailing from all over the country, ran the 5K and 10K races to benefit organizations like The Night Ministry by supporting them financially and with exposure.

"[The race helps in] raising awareness about a lot of the struggles that young people face, people that are still on the margins of the queer community... so, we're really excited to partner with Proud to Run," said Jake Bradley, Youth Outreach Manager at The Night Ministry.

Donations of time and resources from sponsors like Urban Pooch, Whole Foods and the University of Chicago Orthopedic Center, helped make the run and after-party a success. Aside from The Night Ministry, beneficiaries of the funds raised also included About Face Theater, TPAN (Test Positive Aware Network) and Frontrunners /Frontwalkers Chicago.

In 33 years, the CARA (Chicago Area Runners Association)-certified Proud to Run has raised more than \$350,000 for Chicago area LGBTQ organizations. Co-directors Gary Brown and Tim Henney announced that although they aren't leaving Proud to Run they are stepping down from their positions. Incoming co-directors will be Justin Koziatsek and Ryan Hagerty. Brown stressed the importance for continued support for the only race in Chicago that is 100 percent volunteer-based.

Regarding continued sponsorship, Brown said, "[Sponsorships] allows us to keep registration down and bring in more people who, financially, it might have been hard to pay a lot of money... we want the race to be inclusive, we want the entire community to be able to come out."

The post-run festivities were hosted by Fox E. Kim and Jonathen Wikholm, who introduced guests Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles and Illinois state Rep. Greg Harris. First-place 5K finishers were Matt Frey and Susie Hufstader. Finalists in the 10K race were Kevin Garcia, for a second year in a row, and Maria Baad Andersen. Of the 1,508 registered runners, 1,303 completed the race.

"It was as hard as I thought it would be," said Luis Diaz, race participant. "But we had a great time."



Right: First-place 5K winner Susie Hufstader. Left: First-place 10K winner Kevin Garcia. Photos by Janean L. Watkins



Back Lot Bash filled with fun

The ladies rocked the Cheetah Gym parking lot on Clark St., Fri., June 27 through Sun., June 29. Special guests included The L Word's Kate Moennig and Leisha Hailey, Crystal Bowersox, and Hunter Valentine.

Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com)



Pride North in Rogers Park

Pride North, held along Glenwood Ave. in Rogers Park, enjoyed another successful year on Pride Sunday with entertainment from Justin Utley (left) and Sixteen Candles (right).

Photos by Kirk Williamson



First-ever Pride 5K draws 400 runners

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSDETFER

Approximately 400 runners and walkers sported their rainbow colors and gathered near Diversey Harbor on June 26 to kick off the biggest weekend in the LGBTQ calendar with the first ever evening Pride 5K run and walk along the lakefront.

A cool mist didn't affect turnout—which far exceeded organizers expectations—nor did it numb the enthusiasm of the participants for both the run and the cause with all proceeds going to the Center on Halsted.

"We wanted to have a great kick-off event and we thought what good timing to do it right before Pride weekend," StarEvents President John Barry told Windy City Times. "It's like a party and a race combined and a fun opportunity for us all to get together on the lakefront and enjoy a few cocktails after the race while raising money for the Center."

The atmosphere Barry was hoping for was apparent at least an hour before the start of the race, as enthusiastic pairs and groups of people were already enjoying music from Adam LeBlanc, a singer with the Chicago band Sixteen Candles. LeBlanc was also on hand for the race after-party.

Among those groups was a contingent from United Airlines lead by Dan Ingram a training coordinator with the company and the Chair for Equal- United's LGBTQ business resource group. "This is the first Pride with our group," he said. "Employees from across the company are here. A run like this is great for us and is part of a week of volunteer events

and happy hours." Ingram added that he expected over 100 United employees to participate in the Pride parade.

Also eagerly anticipating Pride weekend were John Cardone and Craig Cherry. "I like to run at night, so this is perfect for me," Cardone said. "We both wanted to show our pride and have fun with the community. I'm 53 years old, so in my lifetime I never thought issues like marriage and bullying would be on the table. The fact that we are closer to equal rights is a miracle."

"We're out here to celebrate," StarEvents Vice-President Michelle Krage agreed. "And it's open to everyone. Tonight is all about bringing your plus-one—doing something with somebody and being a part of the LGBTQ community."

Krage explained that the event had been in the planning stages for two years. "We wanted to put our best foot forward," she said. "We're thrilled at the number of people coming, the energy and the excitement."

The circuit took runners and walkers in a "lucky horseshoe" from Diversey Harbor to Fullerton and back along the lakefront. Prizes were awarded to the fastest male of the evening, Graham Marcy, and the fastest female, Lauren Heck, both of whom finished the course in under 20 minutes.

Marcy was participating as an ally for his gay friend Timothy Best. "Everyone here is so happy and I feel fantastic!" Marcy said after he'd caught his breath. "It's the first race I've ever won."



John Cardone (left) and Craig Cherry. Photos by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer



Pride & Joy benefits Center, Hall of Fame

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame and the Center on Halsted once again hosted a joint Pride Weekend benefit, "Pride & Joy," on June 27 at Center on Halsted. The DJ was Billy Brown.

Photos by Hal Baim



A post-Pride 'Love Revolution'

After the parade, hundreds flocked to Circuit Mom's Love Revolution at Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St. This outdoor post-parade party featured DJ Joe Gauthreaux and Jump Smokers. A portion of the proceeds from the events went to benefit Equality Illinois.

Photos by Anthony Meade



MORE PRIDE PARADE PHOTOS!!!

Photo on these two pages by Tracy Baim, and Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com). See many more photos and videos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com





The true colors of Kathy Bates

Hollywood luminary talks lesbians, drag and Uma Thurman

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Long before dishing lesbian wisdom to Melissa McCarthy's mess of a character in this summer's road-trip comedy *Tammy*, Kathy Bates had the gay community in shackles. It didn't take a sledgehammer to maintain our obsession with her—it just took the Hollywood icon's every turn on television (*Six Feet Under*; *American Horror Story*), Broadway (*'night, Mother*) and the big screen (*Titanic*; *Misery*).

Notably with *Fried Green Tomatoes*, her 1991 girl dramedy, and then with Dolores Claiborne and *Primary Colors*, Bates has kept us captivated for more than four decades, bound to her boundless greatness. Now, as one half of a lesbian couple in *Tammy* (Sandra Oh of *Grey's Anatomy* plays her partner), she's giving you one more reason to be her biggest fan.

Windy City Times: I've never been to an all-lesbian party, but based on the one your character, Lenore, throws in *Tammy*, clearly I've been missing out.

Kathy Bates: You have. It was a lot of fun! It really was. And there was a scene that was cut out of the movie where all the lesbian women on the dock were singing "Fire," the Bruce Springsteen song, which was pretty fun.

WCT: You really can't go wrong with some lesbians and "The Boss."

KB: No, no, no. It's a sure thing.

WCT: Tell me about the best lesbian party you've ever been to.

KB: I don't know if I've been to a lesbian party quite like the one we have in *Tammy*. [Laughs] I've known and loved many lesbians in my life ... but I don't know if I've ever gotten them all into the same room at the same time! I always imagined that my and Sandra's characters lived in a very small town, so I think many of these lesbians they've known were shipped in and probably work in Lenore's (pet) shops in other towns, that it's an annual thing and they come in and hang out for the holiday.

WCT: Melissa said your chemistry with Sandra was instantly palpable. Who are some other women you could see yourself going lesbian for onscreen?

KB: Let me think about that. I do know that I'm just absolutely in love with Sandra, and let me just say that she really brought our relationship to bloom. She brought a lot of love and warmth, and it was her idea to have wedding rings—because, of course!—which I hadn't thought about, and also, really, to think that our relationship is the healthiest relationship in the movie.

You know, we're non-judgmental, and my scene on the dock with Melissa—it was important for me to be able to ad-lib how difficult it is, or was, especially 20, 25 years ago, for lesbian women to come out. I think almost more difficult than for men to come out as gay. She brought just so much love, and she really helped create the little bubble of our relationship, and now I have forgotten your question. Oh, whom else would I like to be with. Ahh, let's see. Who do I love? Oh, I could totally see this: I shared a plane trip with Uma Thurman once and I thought she was pretty cool. I could see doing a movie with her and having a lesbian relationship—although I'm much too old for her! [Laughs]

WCT: These days, Kathy, that doesn't matter.

KB: Yeah, that would probably be a fantasy movie relationship. Who else? I don't know really. I'm just so in love and married to Sandra

that I don't know if I could come up with anybody else. It would feel like cheating! [Laughs]

WCT: Growing up in the South and in the Methodist church, what was your introduction to the gay community?

KB: I really didn't know what gay was until I got to college, but I was really in love with two of the guys who were in the theater department and then I realized they were in love with each other. It was like, "Oh. Fuck"—excuse my language—"that just cut my opportunities in half here. It's hard enough to find a guy, and now that means there's 50 percent less!"

See, my parents were more of the age of grandparents in the '60s, which certainly made it difficult for both parties. It took a little bit of doing. So, when I brought gay friends home to visit, it was really kind of funny to see them react. But they embraced them. They just thought it was hysterical that one of my friends, Milton, was walking around in a night-shirt that had been pressed beautifully. They got along with them pretty well. I have to say my parents never said anything to me derogatory about them, which was cool.

Unfortunately, one of the guys I was in love with passed away a few years ago from lung cancer, but I'm still very close to the other love of my life. I just saw him in New York—he actually wrote the *Vanities* play that we did off-Broadway for many, many years; his name is Jack Heifner—and so it's wonderful that that relationship has continued.

WCT: Lenore and her partner are based on Melissa McCarthy's own friends. Did that help inform your character? Did you base her off any lesbians you know?

KB: I didn't know that. Melissa never told me, but cool! I really didn't. Like I say, I mean, how do you behave lesbian? (Laughs) I really thought about that. Unless you're gonna go to some kind of extreme caricature that's demanded of the script for some reason, these are just regular people and that's their sexual orientation. Why do we have to ask if somebody's gay or straight? I hope we get out of that. I hope I see us get out of that before, you know, I exit this plane.

WCT: It's refreshing to see a gay couple portrayed as the most "together" part of the story. What do you think that says about how far we've come as a society regarding gay issues?

KB: Going back to the scene on the dock, I wanted to improvise about Sandra and how she stood by me when the times were tough, how big her heart was and how comforting she was.

I remember being at a wedding; it was a male gay couple and they must've been in their 70s. They had been together for 50 years, and for the first time they had been able to go to Massachusetts and get married. It was so moving to me that they were able to have a wedding and celebrate their love in front of their friends and stand up together and say, "We love each other," and be open about it and have the union blessed after all those years.

I remember last summer I was on vacation with my best friend who's gay and we heard about Prop 8 and how people were gonna be allowed to marry, and it's just like, why does it have to be legislated? How can you legislate something like that, really? Why is it up for discussion? That's my feeling about it.

WCT: One of your earliest lesbian roles was in *Primary Colors*, which is notable for the big wet one you exchanged with your co-star, Stacy Edwards.

KB: She was a doll.

WCT: What do you remember of shooting that kissing scene?

KB: I was really nervous! [Laughs] I wanted to do it great, you know. I wanted to make



Kathy Bates (right) with Sandra Oh in *Tammy*. Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

it look like we've always done it. At the same time, it had to be a shock for Adrian Lester's character, and Stacy's so adorable. I loved the fact that everybody assumes she's straight, or maybe she swings—who knows! I think there's also that: People are on the spectrum sometimes. So, I just wanted to make it look real and tough and sexy.

WCT: Let's talk about your involvement in the upcoming season of *American Horror Story: Freak Show*. What can you tell us so far?

KB: I gotta be honest with you—I don't know yet. I have not read a script. Ryan keeps promising scripts. He says I'm supposed to get some this week, and I'm really hoping I do because I'm leaving town to head to New Orleans. I'm just now beginning to work on the character, so I have no idea.

WCT: Including the fact that almost all of the names of the characters on *American Horror Story: Coven*—Myrtle Snow, Madame LaLaurie, Misty Day, Cordelia Foxx—are ones you'd likely hear in a drag-queen contest...

KB: Myrtle—oh my god!

WCT: Right? Coven was widely regarded as

being very gay. How aware are you, or have you become, that the show has really resonated with drag queens and the gay community?

KB: Not at all! This is the first I'm hearing of it. I mean, I don't know if it was a male or female because he was so far away from us, but when we were doing the PaleyFest [in Hollywood] there was a guy—I think it was a guy—in a Myrtle Snow wig, which we were delighting in. She just lends herself to that, I think.

WCT: But so does your character, Madame LaLaurie. And I've seen boys do her in drag. When that happens, can't you retire? Inspiring drag queens—that's really the ultimate life goal, right?

KB: [Laughs] I hear there's a gay bar here in West Hollywood where they do Dolores Claiborne a lot. Listen, it's great to have your reputation still alive and kickin' at my age, so I appreciate it wherever it comes from.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com.

Marketplace offers chance to meet Gaga July 11

IfOnly, an experiential marketplace that donates a portion of its proceeds to charities, is offering "The Ultimate Little Monster Experience at artRAVE"—a chance for fans to meet Lady Gaga.

The experience is a behind-the-scenes all-access meet-and-greet at Gaga's ARTPOP Ball Tour that will benefit her Born This Way Foundation. Designed by Gaga herself, the Ultimate Little Monster Experience is the first of its kind being offered to the public, and fans will only have the opportunity to meet her at these sold-out concerts with all-access tickets by purchasing via www.ifonly.com.

The first such opportunity will take place July 11 at Chicago's United Center.

The intimate package is \$5,000 per person and available in very limited quantities.

McNally's 'Some Men' opens Aug. 16

Pride Films and Plays will present the Chicago premiere of Terrence McNally's *Some Men*. David Zak and Derek Van Barham will co-direct, and the production will feature many of the artistic ensemble Members of Pride Films and Plays.

Some Men presents a kaleidoscope of gay characters set within some of the events that bent the arc of gay history in the United States.

The production will generally run Thursdays through Sundays Aug. 16-Sept. 14 at Rivedell Theatre, 5779 N. Ridge Ave. (Previews are Aug. 14-15.)

Tickets are \$15 for previews; \$25 for Thursdays; and \$30 for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays; visit www.brownpapertickets.com.

Michael Sam appears in Chicago, talks memorabilia

Michael Sam, the first openly gay man drafted into the NFL (by the St. Louis Rams this past May), signed autographs June 27 at the three-day Fanatics Authentic Sports Spectacular, held at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont. Sam agreed to a brief interview—his first exclusive interview since April, according to his representatives—to discuss the sports memorabilia industry, including Jackie Robinson, Michael Jordan and more.

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jason Lansing was first in line to get an autograph from Michael Sam, who appeared June 27 at the Fanatics Authentic Sports Spectacular, a three-day sports memorabilia convention held at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont.

He high-fived Sam and walked away smiling, carrying his full-size St. Louis Rams helmet—signed and inscribed in gold ink. The helmet is going on a shelf above Lansing's bed.

The signature cost \$59, but the memory was priceless.

"I had the helmet for a couple of years. My dad got it for me and it was under my bed," said Lansing, 15, who will be a sophomore in the fall at Francis Parker High School in Chicago, where he plays tennis and basketball. "I thought, 'There's not a better person to get [signed] on a Rams helmet than Michael Sam. He's [already] one of their most historic players in franchise history."

"To meet someone like that is pretty cool.

He's a trivia question that people will always remember him. I think it's a great piece to add to my autograph collection, and very unique."

Lansing said Sam has shown "how brave he is, how much courage he has" by coming out as gay before playing his first down in the NFL.

"I'm really interested to see how he will do in the NFL," Lansing said. "I'll follow him for his [entire] career, see how he does."

And yes, Sam is now "one of my favorite [players] in the NFL, for sure," Lansing said.

Sam signed autographs for an hour, alongside 25 former Chicago Cubs players who also were signing. Bob Dernier, a former Cubs outfielder, walked over to meet Sam. Lou Brock, a Baseball Hall of Fame outfielder who started his career with the Cubs yet earned his notoriety while playing for the St. Louis Cardinals, also spent several minutes talking with Sam.

Brock and Sam also posed for pictures together.

Brock asked to get a copy of the photo with Sam, and so did Brock's longtime agent.

"This is the biggest signing I've ever done, which is great. I didn't know what to expect coming in," Sam said minutes before meeting the public. He was lounging on a leather chair, watching TV, waiting to start signing. Video cameras for a Sam documentary filmed Sam, and my interview with him, too.

"I was just expecting to sit at a table, some fans would come [for my autograph]; I wasn't expecting all this."

When asked for his first impression of the massive sports memorabilia convention, which



Michael Sam. Photo by Ross Forman

includes a behind-the-curtain area where athletes often have to sign hundreds of additional items, he said, "Oh man, my hand is about to fall off."

A Texas native, Sam played four seasons at the University of Missouri, highlighted by the 2013 SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Year award. He also was first-team All-SEC last season—and the Rams drafted Sam in the seventh-round (249th overall).

Sam came out publicly this past February, though his team learned he was gay last August.

"Growing up, I didn't really focus on signatures because I didn't have the money to go buy some, or buy online. But if I see a big sports star, I'd ask for his autograph," Sam said.

When pressed to name one autograph he'd like to have, Sam answered, "That's a good question. I guess it would be ... Jackie Robinson."

Fitting, some will say, as Sam has been compared to the groundbreaking former baseball player.

"I knew, through mutual friends, that Michael Sam was gay before he came out. My first response was, 'It doesn't faze me; it doesn't affect me. Who cares?!' said Cole Greenhouse, 27, who lives in Evanston, is in the Navy, and was a 2009 Missouri graduate and former water polo player at the school.

Greenhouse, sporting a Missouri baseball hat, attended the Fanatics Authentic Sports Spectacular with his fiancée, Rachel Landa, 24, a special-education teacher.

Greenhouse had Sam sign a Missouri mini-helmet.

"He was awesome [at Missouri], definitely a big key [to the team's success.] If we didn't have him, I don't think we would have done as well as we did. He had a breakout season [in 2013]," Greenhouse said.

Greenhouse said rumors of Sam's sexual-orientation spread around campus before his coming-out. "Honestly, most of Mizzou kind of knew," he said.

Still, Greenhouse is "so excited" to watch Sam on Sundays—for his favorite team, the Rams.

"What he's done and gone through, especially with all of the media, I don't think I'd be able to do it. There's no way I wouldn't freeze up," Greenhouse said.

Landa said "it was incredible" the way Sam responded to all of the criticism of the draft-day kiss with his boyfriend. "If it was a straight couple, there would have been no [negativity]," she said. "If two people are in love, it's no big deal [if they are same-sex]."

When asked if the kiss between Sam and his

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WCT 30 Under 30 Awards presented

Windy City Times presented its 15th 30 Under 30 Awards June 26 at the Center on Halsted. Co-sponsors of the event were the Center, Chicago House and AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Emcees Kirk Williamson and Scott Duff read the highlights of each inductee's work and activism, and then they each spoke briefly. The 30 ranged from athletes to artists, lawyers to singers, and from 16 to 30 in age. They also represented a wide diversity of backgrounds, races, sexual orientations and gender identity.

The Pride Issue of Windy City Times has the honorees' details. The PDF is at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/images/publications/wct/2014-06-25/current.pdf>.

Photos by Hal Baim



Lost and Found in Johannesburg: A Memoir

by Mark Gevisser
\$27; Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 352 pages
BY SALLY PARSONS

Turn left.

You used to need a map to know that info, but these days, a voice from a screen tells you where to go on your trip. It's easy and fairly reliable, so who would want to go back to wrestling with a map, or wondering if turning left was right?

No, you haven't used a paper map in eons but author Mark Gevisser has, and his maps show a city under change. In the new book "Lost and Found in Johannesburg," you might see how.

Growing up in South Africa, Mark Gevisser was obsessed with maps; in particular, an archaic book of streets and neighborhoods that helped him play a pretend-game with himself. It was many years later that Gevisser realized that segments of his hometown of Johannesburg were missing from the book.

Those were the neighborhoods in which the city's Black population lived.

Although his Jewish ancestors had endured discrimination when they immigrated to South Africa a century ago, Gevisser was born into a life of privilege and was mostly insulated from the Johannesburg filled with poverty and Black faces. And yet, his family had Black servants that lived, by law, in small houses behind the main home.

Eventually, though, it dawned on Gevisser that the racial system in "Joburg" was flawed. Perhaps he noticed because he had been immersed in a culture of activism, in which Whites ignored rules and regularly mingled with Blacks. Maybe it was because he was a world traveler and had gone to school in America at Yale, or because apartheid was beginning to unravel back home.

Or, perhaps, Gevisser's realizations came about because he began to understand that he was gay.

Today, Gevisser lives in Johannesburg, a city that's surprisingly progressive on issues of sexuality. He's married to a man he calls "C," who is of Indian descent. You would think that those factors—an award-winning white, Jewish gay writer married to a man of a different race in a city that relatively recently rejected apartheid—would make for a very fascinating book.

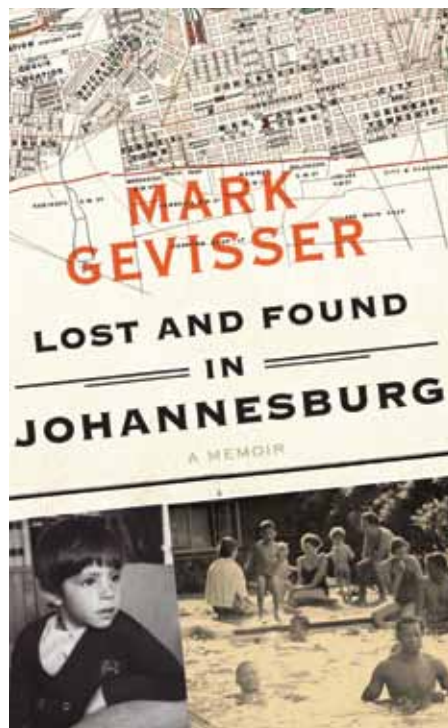
But, alas, *Lost and Found in Johannesburg* is not.

First, it takes eighty-some pages to get past chapters on infinitesimally detailed streets and neighborhoods, and a litany of author Gevisser's immigrant ancestors—neither of which will mean a thing to anyone who's not related or in Johannesburg. I lost both interest and patience, but I sallied forth anyhow.

Admittedly, that led me to small pockets of interest—life as a gay South African, brief accounts of apartheid and racism, small heart-breaking stories and a breathless but disturbing tale of robbery—but they were buried beneath passages of esoteric literature and dozens of names, all of which become a blur.

Yes, I suppose that if you've lived in South Africa for a good length of time, or if you're interested in the detailed genealogy of total strangers, you could certainly give this book a try. Most readers that see *Lost and Found in Johannesburg*, though, will want to turn left and keep on going.

Nope. Try, instead, *How to Be a Real Gay: Gay Identities in Small-Town South Africa*, by Graeme Reid; or *Love in the Time of AIDS: Inequality, Gender, and Rights in South Africa*, by Mark Hunter.



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'Chicago Independent Bookstore Day' on July 12

Nine Chicago independent bookstores are teaming to create the first Chicago Independent Bookstore Day on Saturday, July 12.

To encourage Chicago readers to visit their own neighborhood store as well as the other unique stores in different neighborhoods—from Hyde Park to Logan Square to Andersonville—indie stores are offering special deals, free books, and refreshments. Customers will also receive a handful of puzzle pieces from each participating store that will fit together to create an exclusively designed frameable print by Lilli Carré.

Participating stores include The Book Cellar (Lincoln Square), 57th Street Books and Seminary Coop (Hyde Park), Sandmeyer's (Printer's Row), Unabridged Books (Lakeview), Open Books (River North), City Lit Books (Logan Square), Powell's Bookstore (University Village) and Women & Children First (Andersonville).

Email wcfllinda@gmail.com for more information.

Michael Jackson tribute Aug. 28-30 in Gary, Indiana

Katherine Jackson has announced that The 5th Annual Michael Jackson "King of Pop" Tribute Festival of the Arts will take place in Gary, Indiana, on Aug. 28-30 at 2300 Jackson St, Michael's birth home.

This year's tribute festival is different from previous years. The theme is "Art for Life," and the festival will be showcasing undiscovered talent.

The outdoor tribute festival is free to the public and will begin with the opening ceremony conducted by Gary, officials and a tribute to Michael Jackson from the Roosevelt High School marching band.

We Have Waited Long Enough: Open Transgender Service in the U.S. Military

A discussion with Aaron Belkin of The Palm Center

Wed., Aug. 20, 2014
6-8 p.m.

The Keith House

1900 S. Prairie Avenue, Chicago

The event is free but there will be a donation request

President Obama made history this year when the White House said it is open to a review of Pentagon policies banning transgender troops from serving. In the history of the republic, no president has ever signaled a willingness to consider transgender military service. When we win (and we will win), we will look back on the White House statement as the the beginning of the end of the ban. But what will it take to cross the finish line, to convert the President's general openness to reconsidering discriminatory policy into actual political change? Come discuss the prospects for change with some of the participants in process

Aaron Belkin is a professor, author, activist and dancer. Since 1999, Belkin has served as founding director of the Palm Center, which The Advocate named as one of the most effective LGBT rights organizations in the nation. He designed and implemented much of the public education campaign that eroded popular support for military anti-gay discrimination, and when "don't ask, don't tell" was repealed, the president of the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund observed that, "this day never would have arrived (or it would have been a much longer wait) without the persistent, grinding work of the Michael Palm Center." Harvard Law Professor Janet Halley said of Belkin that, "Probably no single person deserves more credit for the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell.'" Currently, the Palm Center is engaged in a long-term initiative to address transgender military service.

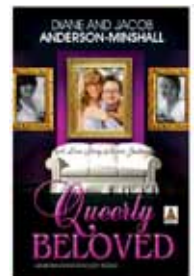


Plus: Booksigning by Diane & Jacob Anderson-Minshall

Authors of *Queerly Beloved*:
A Love Story Across Genders

Imagine if, after 15 years as a lesbian couple, your partner turned to you and said, "I think I'm really a man." For Diane and Jacob (née Suzy) Anderson-Minshall this isn't a hypothetical question. It's what really happened. Eight years later, the couple not only remains together, they still identify as queer, still work in LGBT media, and remain part of the LGBT community. They paint a portrait of love, not only to each other, but to the San Francisco Bay Area, LGBT publishing, and the queer community. *Queerly Beloved* is a love story that flies in the face of expectations and raises questions about the true nature of identity, sexuality, and love.

RSVP to: editor@windycitymediagroup.com



PALM CENTER
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REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE - CONDO

EVANSTON LAKEFRONT 3BR CONDO! Forsalebyowner. com - 3-Bed-Condo-for-sale-by-owner-624-Sheridan-Square, Evanston, IL 60202 (23996116#) Rare opportunity to buy a beautiful lakefront 3 Br 2 Ba condo! Built in 1923 as a beachfront resort destination for Chicago vacationers, this stately building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The living room, dining room, master BR and suite all have stunning views of Lake Michigan, the beach and a lovely park and play area. The recently updated kitchen features granite counters, stainless steel side-by-side Jenn Aire refrigerator, Kitchen Aide dishwasher and gas stove/electric dual oven. Recently updated bathrooms. Hardwood floors throughout with common radiant steam heat. Condo has an in-unit laundry, spacious closets with additional basement storage lockers. The 30 unit Condo Association is well-managed with high reserves. Condo association fees include Heat, Common Insurance, Exterior Maintenance, Lawn and Garden Care, Scavenger and Snow Removal. Permitted street parking as well as reserved parking in a city lot nearby. This Pet-Friendly building is just steps from Garden Park and South Boulevard Beach on the picturesque Sheridan Square. Wake up to amazing views of sunrises and enjoy a front row seat to the full moon glistening on the lake and all the natural beauty Lake Michigan has to offer throughout the 4 seasons. **312-498-4555 gelder9@gmail.com http://www.forsalebyowner.com/listing/3-bed-Condo-Townhome-for-sale-by-owner-624-Sheridan-Square-60202/23996116# (7/9/14-2)**

Continued on page 42

Like no place on Earth!

Eureka Springs

Arkansas

First town to have domestic partners' registry.

First town to have same-sex marriages in the South.

Still has 4 seasons, just winter isn't as long or harsh (some days in January still get into the 60s and sometimes 70).

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Current listings include a family park, (Go-Carts, Mini-Golf, etc.), nightly lodging in converted cabooses, and a camp resort with 10 cabins, general store/restaurant, and gas station on the White River, with some of the best trout fishing in the world! These are a few of MANY!

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Maxie Mainwaring, Lesbian Dilettante

by Monica Nolan

\$15; Kensington Books; 288 pages

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You've had it.

You're about ready to quit your job—again—and that bothers you. Job-bobbing isn't what you wanted to do as a career but there you are, feeling like an ill-employed rubber ball, ready to bounce to the next workplace.

Maybe you just don't know what you're good at yet. Or maybe, as in the new book *Maxie Mainwaring, Lesbian Dilettante* by Monica Nolan, you need to try your hand at a bunch of different things.



Author Monica Nolan

Debutante Maxie Mainwaring hated when Mumsy made her go to those society ladies' luncheons. Those events were stuffy and begged for excitement, so Maxie obliged by making out with Elaine Ellman in the bathroom at the Bay City Women's Club.

Big mistake: Mumsy was so scandalized that she made good on a perennial threat and cut Maxie's allowance off. It was 1964—what kind of a job could a deb do?

Quickly, Maxie decided that it was time to move in with her girlfriend, Pamela. Pam had been hinting about that for awhile, even though she often complained about Maxie's lack of stick-to-it-iveness and her wandering eye. Unfortunately, those subjects instantly came up, and the on-again-off-again girls were off for good.



On her way back home to the Magdalena Arms, Maxie stopped at Francine's Bar to nurse her wounds and meet her friends for a drink. Lovely Lois, delightful Dolly, Janet the lawyer, and practical Phyllis all promised to help Maxie find a job. Career Counselor Doris Watkins even wanted to do a job assessment study with her.

And so Maxie tried employment at a magazine, but learned that there was no pay. She had a brief stint as a Recreational Aide before getting fired for snooping. She worked for a magazine publisher who loved her snooping but hated her tardiness.

But Maxie was tardy for good reason: She'd met a beautiful butch, Lon, who seemed to be involved in organized crime and Maxie was tailing her, intrigued. Then Maxie learned that her mother was also mixed up in the mob. Could that be why Francine's was raided by the police? Was Lon's life in danger? Was somebody following Maxie, too?

How do I describe thee, Maxie Mainwaring, Lesbian Dilettante? Let me count the ways: it's rompish, first of all. Humorous, but not hilarious. Contrived, but not off-puttingly so. And silly—very definitely silly, but not bad.

I actually liked this book for its frivolity. I'm normally not a big fan of an over-filled cast of characters, yet I didn't mind it in this novel. What started out as fun, though, but didn't stay that way, was author Monica Nolan's weirdly excessive use of identifiers instead of monikers. Repeatedly referring to someone by job description or former job description rather than by name became tiresome and often quite confusing.

Still, this fluffy whodunit, this marshmallow mystery, is entertaining enough if you can ignore that abrasion. It's surely something that's perfectly made for summertime reading. And if that's what you want, then *Maxie Mainwaring, Lesbian Dilettante* is what you should have.

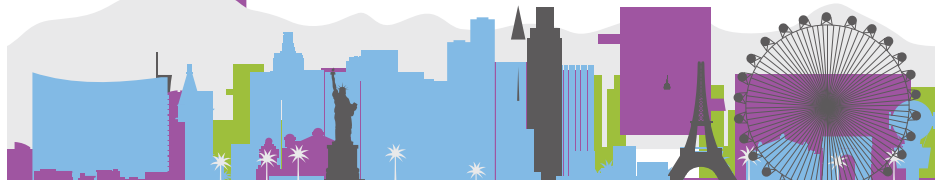
Want more? Then look for Lois Lenz, Lesbian Secretary and Bobby Blanchard, Lesbian Gym Teacher, both by Monica Nolan.

2014 NGLCC

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Sally Field at Lynn Sage fall luncheon Oct. 14

Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation (LSCRF) announced that award-winning actress, director and producer Sally Field will be the guest speaker at its Annual Fall Benefit Luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., at 11 a.m.

LSCRF, Chicago's breast cancer organization, also will "Light the Way to Find a Cure," turning Chicago's skyline pink to raise awareness throughout the month of October.

Event tickets are \$275 per person, and sponsorships from \$500 - \$25,000 are available; call 312-926-7133 and visit www.lynnstage.org.



Sally Field. Photo by Michael Underwood

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WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN
WINDY CITY
TIMES

Joe Fish; Porkchop Hyde Park

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Rosebud Restaurants has expanded its empire with the relatively tony **Joe Fish** (445 N. Dearborn St.; <http://www.rosebudrestaurants.com/#!restaurants/joe-fish>)—and you will be hooked.

The service at this restaurant is second to none, and the server has extremely knowledgeable (although he needed to learn to smile). I'm not a huge fan of oysters, but my dining companion stuck with West Coast items—and loved them.

One of the top choices for both of us was

the poached lobster salad, which came with avocado, heirloom tomatoes, Russian dressing and chives. Somehow, the ingredients came together to achieve a tasty balance.

As for entrees, the Chilean sea bass was definitely a high point. However, I thought I'd see how a place with Joe Fish fared with red meat, and ordered the lamb chops—and the restaurant did not disappoint with the sizeable rack.

Also, be sure to try the cocktails. The blood orange mojito was more than refreshing, as was the Citizen Kane (Double Cross Vodka, St. Germain, Poli Pear, lemon and pineapple).

By the way, the website is a bit difficult to navigate, as I couldn't even preview the entire menu before going to the restaurant. Let's hope that difficulty changes.



Poached lobster salad at Joe Fish. Photo by Andrew Davis

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Fried ribs (yes, you read that right) at Porkchop Hyde Park. Photos by Andrew Davis

Porkchop has had an interesting history for this restaurant profiler. The first time I went to the West Loop location, I was definitely less than impressed—but follow-ups revealed a place with potential, especially brunch. However, the new branch in Hyde Park (1516 E. Harper Ct.; <http://chicagoporkchop.com>) also has some work to do.

Located in a mini-mall in gorgeous Hyde Park, this Porkchop is like its fellow restaurant in serving mostly fried items.

For lunch, my friend and I tried pulled pork tacos (with salsa verde, onions and cilantro), which were probably the best part of the meal. As for the fried ribs, they were disappointing, as the hickory BBQ sauce pretty much over-

whelmed the meat.

My friend only said that the ribs/chicken platter he ordered was OK. The so-called "One and Only Fried Chicken and Waffle Sandwich" elicited a better reaction from me—possibly because I wasn't sure what to expect, as the food thus far had been a crashout.

There are some other intriguing-sounding dishes on the menu (sausage lollipops and the black-bean Hippie burger, for example). However, judging by my experience (as well as those of people I subsequently talked with, including those who were dissatisfied with the service), you may be taking a gamble with those novel items.

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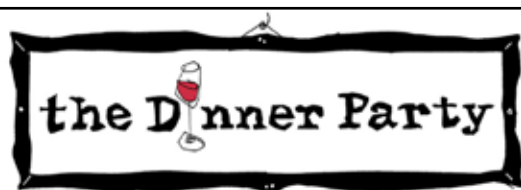
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at Taste of Chicago Pure Leaf Celebrity Chef du Jour on July 10

Host Elysabeth Alfano invites 3 celebs AND YOU to a dinner created by a known chef. Over a three-course meal, the conversations & the unexpected flow on The Dinner Party!

July 10: Actor George Wendt (Norm from "Cheers"), Ji Suk-Yi from Windy City Live, and Chef Andrew Zimmerman of Sepia. Audiences enjoy a three-course meal (tickets must be purchased in advance). Steaming live on TasteofChicago.us @ 6:30 pm.

Appetizer: Shrimp and Sweet Corn Salad w/Coconut
Entree: Grilled Berkshire Pork Collar, 3 Sisters Farm Grits/Bourbon
Dessert: Almond Milk Custard w/Black Pepper Shortbread & Fruit

BUY TIX: TasteofChicago.us JOIN US July 10!

Ad space provided by Windy City Times



12th Windy City Gay Idol chosen

Trish Keporos took the top crown in the 12th annual Windy City Gay Idol finals June 25 at Mayne Stage in Rogers Park. Thirteen singers competed in the finals.

The singing competition, sponsored by Windy City Times, featured three rounds of songs, with the top vote getters advancing to the next round. Chicago newcomers nagged the first runner-up and second runner-up positions: Timothy Schoenmann and Paige Man Waring, respectively.

Thirteen singers competed in the finals, joined by special guest singer Karen Mason and burlesque performer Michelle L'amour.

Trish originally competed at the 3160 Chicago. Paige came from Progress Bar and Timothy from The Sofo Tap.

The finals concert also featured guest performances by Broadway star and Mac Award winner Karen Mason, who performed her marriage equality song, It's About Time, and international burlesque performer Michelle L'amour and the 2013 Windy City Gay Idol, Maria Pahl.

Guest judges were 2014 Jeff Award-winning Chicago director Lili-Anne Brown, Second City improviser/actor/director Mitchell Fain, and actor/singer/director Rob Lindley. Sofia Saffire hosted.

The finals winner crowned at Mayne Stage was awarded a prize package worth more than \$7,500 including \$1,000 in cash, a 6 day/5-night trip to Curacao (including airfare), Smirnoff gift basket, an Ipad mini, theater and concert tickets, performance opportunities, plus the coveted title of Windy City Gay Idol 2014. Keporos was kind enough to split her cash winnings with her runners-up.

The 2014 Windy City Gay Idol Premium sponsor was Smirnoff. Other Sponsors include Ketel One, Tanqueray, Don Julio, Creaoke, Broadway in Chicago, American Airlines, SpeedPro Printing, Ravinia, Mini of Chicago, and Thompson Hotels. Plus Travel Partners: American Airlines and the Island of Curacao.



Windy City Gay Idol 2014 Trish Keporos (center) with first runner-up Timothy Schoenmann (left) and second runner-up Paige Man Waring (right). Photos by Hal Baim. See many more photos and videos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



Judges Lili-Anne Brown (left to right), Rob Lindley, and Mitchell Fain.



Windy City Gay Idol 2013 Maria Pahl.



Karen Mason.



Andre Rojer from Curacao Travel (left), host Sofia Saffire (center) and Curacao trip winner Barry Harte.



Michelle L'amour.



CALENDAR

Brought to you by the
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**WINDY CITY
TIMES**

nightspots

Wed., July 2

Black Alphabet Film Festival Showcasing films and other works that highlight and explore the African American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LG-BTQ) and Same Gender Loving (SGL) experience. 3:00pm DuSable Museum, 40 E 56th Pl., <http://blackalphabet.org>

Propeller Fund application information session Propeller Fund is administered jointly by Gallery 400 at the University of Illinois at Chicago and three walls to promote informal and independently organized visual arts activities. 6:00pm <http://www.propellerfund.org>

Honduran LGBT Leader in Chicago Since a 2009 U.S.-supported coup against the Honduras's democratically-elected government, rampant violence has engulfed the country's LGBTs, campesinos, unionists, human rights activists and journalists, giving it the highest murder rate in the world. Nelson Arambu from the Movimiento de Diversidad en Resistencia, a long time leader in Honduras's LGBT movement, will speak about the challenges that they face. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Berger Park Cultural Center 6205 N. Sheridan Rd <https://www.facebook.com/events/760825617281929/>

National Anthem Singing Contest Finals for Out at Wrigley Finalists sign up at 7pm. Winner will be announced and will sing at Wrigley July 12. 8:00pm Roscoe's Tavern 3356 N Halsted St <http://outatwrigley.com>

Thursday, July 3

Black Alphabet Film Festival Showcasing films and other works that highlight and explore the African American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LG-BTQ) and Same Gender Loving (SGL) experience. 5:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted <http://blackalphabet.org>

United Black Pride Welcome Rooftop Party See www.windycityblackpride.info/ for room rate and code. 6:00pm Inn of Chicago Skyline Terrace 162 E Ohio St 22nd floor <http://ubpride.com/events/>

Spanish-language forum on Bible, LGBTs in June, July For Spanish-speaking people who are interested in exploring the biblical texts from their own personal experience, in a serious way, and in a safe and affirming atmosphere for all people who identify as LGBT. Contact Esther Baruja

at estherbaruja@gmail.com or 312-320-1341. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ, 615 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago

Step Up. Get Tested The campaign sponsors mobile HIV testing sites all across the Chicago area. Through July 4. 10:00pm Text IL plus your zip code to 36363 for HIV testing facility near you <http://http://stepupgettested.com/>

Friday, July 4

Lakeside Pride Freedom Marching Band @ Oak Park Fourth of July Parade Celebrate the birth of American independence in Oak Park at this 10th with Lakeside Pride and the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA). 10:00am Longfellow Park 610 S Ridgeland Ave Oak Park, IL 60304 (773) 381-6693 <http://www.lakesidepride.org>

4th of July Blowout \$4 Sam Adams, \$4 Fireball shots, blowjob contest at midnight. You'll just have to come in to see what that means. 3:00pm - 11:00pm Touche 6412 N Clark St <http://www.touchechicago.com>

United Black Pride Fourth of July Happy Hour 7:00pm - 9:00pm <http://ubpride.com/events/>

Saturday, July 5

The Chosen Few Old School Reunion Picnic In honor of Frankie Knuckles 6:00am - 8:00pm Jackson Park, 83rd and Hayes Dr. <http://ubpride.com/events/>

Pride Index Esteem Awards Honoring individuals and organizations from Chicago and across the country including Craig Johnson, Sanford E. Gaylord, David Bridgeforth of DBQ Magazine, Trisha Lee Holloway of Howard Brown, Simone Koehlinger, Gregg Shapiro of boi Magazine, brklynboihood.com, colorlines.com, Thr Trevor Project, About Face Theatre, The Bayard Rustin LGBT Coalition (BRC), Teresa M. Adams & Can We Talk For Real, Urban Socialites Magazine, B-Boy Blues The Play and many more. 2:00pm - 5:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St <http://www.TheEsteemAwards.com>

Queer, Ill and OK What does it look like to be queer and live with HIV, mental, or chronic illness today? *Defibrillator Gallery is an ADA compliant space. \$5-10 suggested donation. 7:00pm Defibrillator Gallery 1136 N. Milwaukee Ave.

kee Ave. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1493541460858368/>

Sunday, July 6

United Black Pride Picnic and beach party 9:00am - 8:00pm Rainbow Beach <http://ubpride.com/events/>

Madonnarama All Madge, all night with DJ Riley York. 10:00pm - 4:00am Berlin Nightclub 954 W Belmont Ave <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Monday, July 7

Asian & Pacific Islander Coming Out Support Group Share your journey in a safe space. Open to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and queer APIs. Adoptees, and multiracial folks welcome. First Monday of every month. Room 722 6:00pm - 7:30pm Asian Human Services 4753 N. Broadway 7th Floor <http://www.chicago2i.org>

Tuesday, July 8

Vernita Gray LGBTQ Youth Fund Food by Ann Sathers. Contribution levels begin at \$50. Make checks to Crossroads Fund. Space limited. RSVP to VGRAYFUND@GMAIL.COM 6:00pm - 8:00pm 6033 N. Sheridan Rd., <http://Donationnetworkforgood.net/crossroadsfund> Tickets: <http://www.VGYOUTHFUND.BROWNPAPER TICKETS.COM>

LGBTQ Homeless Youth Project followup meeting To focus on next steps from the Windy City Times homeless youth summit report. View full report online. RSVP to editor@windycitymediagroup.com. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted <http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/>

Wed., July 9

Taste of Chicago 2014 Annual City of Chicago food festival 9:00am - 10:00pm Grant Park 337 E. Randolph St <http://www.events12.com/chicago>

Paul McCartney's Out There tour More information to come 9:00pm Tickets: <http://PaulMcCartney.com>

Thursday, July 10

Spanish-language forum on Bible, LGBTs in June, July For Spanish-speaking people who are interested in exploring the biblical texts from their own personal experience, in a serious way, and in a safe and affirming atmosphere for all people who identify as LGBT. Contact Esther Baruja at estherbaruja@gmail.com or 312-320-1341. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ, 615 W. Wellington Ave.

The About Face Youth Theatre: Checking Boxes Original play devised by the About Face Youth Theatre, exploring the often overlooked intersection between immigra-



GRAY EXPECTATIONS

Tuesday, July 8

An event to benefit an LGBT youth fund named after late activist Vernita Gray (above) will take place at 6033 N. Sheridan Rd.
Photo by Hal Baim

tion and the LGBTQIA experience. Talented young artists share experiences of coming out, growing up and pursuing the American Dream. In association with the Chicago Park District's Night Out in the Parks initiative, through Aug. 1. 7:00pm Parks across the City <http://www.aboutthefaceatre.com>

Taste of Chicago 2014 Annual City of Chicago food festival 9:00pm - 10:00pm Grant Park 337 E. Randolph St <http://www.events12.com/chicago>

Friday, July 11

National Gay & Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame 2nd Annual Induction Ceremony and meet and mingle with the inductees. 6:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Tickets: <https://www.facebook.com/GLSportsHOF>

South Shore Air Show Be entertained by numerous aerial acts including the U.S.A.F. Thunderbirds, twilight show with fireworks, kids' zone, military displays, beer garden, and food and novelty vendors. Plus you can take in Fair Oaks Farms' Dairy Adventure, Pig Adventure, birthing barn, cheese factory, cafe and Mooville, a lively outdoor attraction for kids. 6:00pm - 10:00pm 856 N 600 E, Fair Oaks, IN 47943, (877) 536-1194, <http://fofarms.com/> http://www.southshorecva.com/airshow/?gclid=CL_nuonW774CFaHhMgo-djUA1Q Tickets: <http://www.southshorecva.com/airshow/tickets/>

Chicago Sky broadcast Contest against Brittney Griner and the Phoenix Mercury.

Brooke Weisbrod, Lisa Byington and Patricia Babcock-McGraw are color commentator, play-by-play announcer and sideline reporter respectively. The U Too broadcasts at WCIU-DT 26.2 and cable channels XFINITY 248/360, RCN 35 and WOW 170. 7:30pm U Too, WCIU-DT 26.2, and WNBA's LiveAccess at www.chicagosky.net http://www.wnba.com/sky/news/2014_sky_broadcast_schedule.html#sthash.qAI-3hASY.dpuf

Wilmette Summerfest Concert and Garden Party Music Institute of Chicago will offer an Instrument Petting Zoo for children to experiment with a variety of string instruments 7:30pm St. Augustine's Episcopal Church 1140 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette <http://www.gardenconcert.wilmettesummerfest.org/>

Saturday, July 12

Ride For AIDS Chicago 2014 Ride for AIDS Chicago is a two-day, 190-mile, bicycling event created by volunteers and designed to raise needed monies for TPN and Community Partners. Unlike other rides of this kind, Ride for AIDS Chicago is committed to returning 100% of your pledges to the beneficiaries. Concludes July 13. 6:30am Meet 1022 W. Central St. Evanston; <http://www.tpan.com/event/rfac-2014>

Second City Tennis opens: Chardonnay Played on Har-Tru Green Clay, this annual tournament also features a cookout for the players, a consolation round and a relaxed fun atmosphere for players across many playing levels. Cost is only \$100/team. Rules and registration instructions online. 11:00am - 9:00pm Diversey Public Tennis Center <http://www.secondcitytennis.com>

Out at Wrigley Chicago Cubs vs. Atlanta Braves. Budweiser Patio tickets: \$130: Gift Bag, All You Can Eat, All You Can Drink Beer Wine, 1 pass to Bud Patio Deck. Terrace reserved tickets: \$57. Section 239/240. 3:00pm - 8:00pm Wrigley Field 1060 W Addison St., # 1, <http://www.outatwrigley.com>

Asians & Friends A group will see the blockbuster movie, "Transformers 4" where AFC Pres. Angel Abcede may appear as an extra. 3:00pm Contact an organizer for location and start time <http://www.afchicago.org>

Tuesday, July 15

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus: Some Like it Hot, the Music of Disney CGMC's fundraising cabaret, features members of Chicago Gay Men's Chorus heating up your summer with our take on the music of Disney! Enjoy the happiest music on Earth, done with our own special twist. 8:00pm The Laugh Factory Chicago 3175 N Broadway, <http://www.cgmc.org>



CLLAW. Photo by James Rand

CLLAW at Logan Square on July 25

The Chicago League of Lady Arm Wrestlers (CLLAW) will hold CLLAW XIX on Friday, July 25, at Logan Square Auditorium, 2539 N. Kedzie Ave.

Sideshow Theatre Company is presenting the event, which will feature live musical entertainment from The Cell Phones.

Tickets for CLLAW XIX are \$10, with a cash bar available. Doors open at 10 p.m., with the first match beginning at 10:30 p.m. All proceeds from CLLAW XIX will benefit Sideshow Theatre Company and this match's partner charity, {she crew}.

Visit www.sideshowtheatre.org.

Indigo Girls joining Nettles Aug. 29 in Aurora

Amy Ray and Emily Saliers—a.k.a. the Indigo Girls—have joined the Chicago-area stop of the That Girl Tour which includes singer/songwriter Brandy Clark and headliner Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles.

The That Girl Tour plays RiverEdge Park, 360 N. Broadway, Aurora, on Friday, Aug. 29. The park opens at 5:30 p.m. Brandy Clark takes the stage at 7 p.m., followed by the Indigo Girls at 7:45 p.m. and Jennifer Nettles at 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$40; visit RiverEdgeAurora.com.

SAM from page 37

boyfriend, Vito Cammisano, bothered or offended him, Greenhouse shook his head and immediately said, "Not at all."

And Greenhouse was proud to tell how thousands of Mizzou students supported Sam when members of the anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church were going to protest Sam's appearance at a Missouri basketball game after coming out.

"We're protecting one of our own. Just another Mizzou member of the family," he said.

Greenhouse, grinning ear to ear after meeting Sam at the show, said the football star "was awesome to meet, just a normal guy."

Landa told Sam: "All of America is proud of you."

She later added, "He's doing something that might make other [athletes] feel comfortable to come out."

Being gay, Landa said, "is just a part of him." "Being a special education teacher, we talk about labeling [often]," she said.

So, for instance, someone with autism is not an autistic child, but rather, a child who has autism. Thus, Sam is not a gay football player; he's simply a football player who is gay."

Sam is always a willing autograph signer. In fact, he added, "I love when young kids come up to me, asking for my autograph."

"Yeah, [autograph requests] do kind of get annoying when adults ask their kids [to get the autograph], just so they can sell it. But someone wants [the signature], so that's all that matters."

Sam said he "does not mind signing" autographs that come via the mail.

And he said he keeps the notes that accompany the autograph requests.

"I have a bag of fan [letters]," he said.

Sam saved his helmet and jerseys from Missouri.

And who's game-worn and signed jersey would he like?

Michael Jordan, Sam said. "That'd be awesome."



/windycitymediagroup

BILLY MASTERS



Shia LaBeouf (left, with Mia Wasikowska in the movie *Lawless*) knows how to find trouble, Billy says. Photo by Richard Foreman Jr.

"Celebrity is just obscurity biding its time."—Carrie Fisher.

Most television shows don't deliver breaking news over the summer. But most shows ain't *The View*. During the talk show's 17-year history, most of the explosive moments have taken place when the temperature rises. Original moderator Meredith Vieira left the show amicably on June 9, 2006. Two weeks later, Star Jones ambushed the show by announcing her departure on live TV. Less than a year later, Rosie O'Donnell and Elisabeth Hasselbeck's historic split-screen squabble took place on May 23, 2007. Hasselbeck's last day was July 10, 2013, while Joy Behar left a month later. In fact, the only two co-hosts who have left in the winter were Lisa Ling (of her own accord) and Debbie Matenopoulos (not).

That brings up another point. Despite indications to the contrary, only Matenopoulos was actually fired. Jones, Hasselbeck and Behar were all informed that their contracts would not be renewed, and were given ample time to orchestrate their departures (with varying degrees of grace). Rosie informed the network she would not be renewing, and then left earlier than anticipated. Even Barbara Walters is rumored to have been nudged off the show, but spun it more to her liking. In her case, ABC seemed to see little value in the daily presence of the octogenarian. In fact, since the retirement of Willard Scott, no network has embraced the elusive (and rapidly fading) 80-to-death demographic.

That brings us to Sherri Shepherd and Jenny McCarthy. Yes, it's true—both are leaving the show. But neither of them has been fired. Jenny was given a one-year contract when she started in September. Given that audiences have not overwhelmingly embraced her, it was decided months ago that this would be a one-year gig. Sherri's situation is somewhat different. Like her predecessors, her departure coincides with the end of a contract cycle, but the network did enter into negotiations with her. However, the two sides were unable to come to an agreement. At the risk of saying more than I should, I'm one of the few people not entirely taken aback by this news. That's because Sherri and I had a confidential discussion on this very topic more than a year ago. See? I can keep a secret.

There's a connection between *The View* and other changes happening at ABC. Once they pushed that old woman out the door, it cleared the way for another old woman to become the dowager of ABC News: Diane Sawyer. With Sawyer taking over specials, George Stephanopoulos needed to be finessed. As an astute friend of mine noted, "He's better off staying on a morning show that people watch—no one watches the evening news." So Snuffleupagus will run ABC News and continue to host *Good Morning America* and *This Week* on Sunday mornings (and rumor has it he's pushing for his "wife" Alexandra Wentworth to fill one of *The View* co-host chairs). That left only the evening news slot to be filled. And if I know one

thing about David Muir, he's perfectly capable of filling a slot (repeatedly, and with gusto). The upshot of all this is that poor Elizabeth Vargas got sober for nothing!

Someone who probably wasn't sober last week was Shia LaBeouf. Do you know how crazy you have to be to attract attention at the Broadway revival of *Cabaret*? But there was the increasingly erratic actor being dragged out in handcuffs by six policemen during intermission. While the Roundabout Theatre Company has simply said that LaBeouf was "disruptive during act one and escorted out of Studio 54 during intermission," onlookers filled in some of the gaps.

His behavior included smoking inside the theater, feeding a strange woman food from her own plate, and slapping audience members on the back of their heads and/or asses. He also reportedly reeked, but if that were a crime the subways would be empty! While being dragged off by the fuzz, he allegedly called one cop a "fag" and also said, "I'll fuck you up"—which apparently he didn't mean in a good way. He even added, "I have millions and millions of dollars and attorneys. I'm going to ruin your career." Doubtful. Once in custody, he had to be muzzled because he was spitting at people. He was charged with two counts of disorderly conduct, one count of criminal trespassing, and one count of harassment. Some weeks this column just writes itself.

For months, I've been extolling the virtues of the sitcom *Baby Daddy*. And I know it sounds ridiculous for me to love a show on ABC Family, but it's really great. And one of the reasons it's great is because of Derek Theler, who plays the best clueless hunk since Matt LeBlanc. But unlike LeBlanc, he hasn't turned into a big fat pig (at least not yet). Theler has more abs than he knows what to do with. And the show keeps showing them off—much to Derek's dismay: "I think it's in my contract that I have to have my shirt off every other episode. It's funny because I actually am kind of embarrassed about it, like when I come out of the bathroom wearing a towel for no reason. I try not to put it out there, but I work hard on looking as good as I can, and I'm young, so it's something I guess I should be proud of." I'm certainly proud to show off every inch of him on *BillyMasters.com*.

When ABC Family is providing us with nudity, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I was just thinking—David Muir is making history for being the youngest person to anchor the evening network news. But he could make history another way. After all, it is the tail end of Pride month. Just a thought—one of many you'll find on www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's always thinks ahead. If you're thinking of a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before we find out what Shia was doing at *Cabaret* in the first place. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Runners at last year's AIDS Run & Walk. Photo by Melissa Wasserman

AIDS Run & Walk announces 31 partners

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) has announced the 31 community organizations that will raise funds through this year's AIDS Run & Walk Chicago event on Sunday, Sept. 14, at Arvey Field in Grant Park.

This annual event, produced by AFC and Special Events Management, will raise money and awareness in the fight against HIV/AIDS for both AFC and its CommunityDirect partners.

The CommunityDirect partners serving the South Side are Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Greater Full Gospel Church, Men & Women in Prison Ministries, Michael Reese Research & Education Foundation, South Suburban HIV/AIDS Regional Clinics (SSHARC) and University of Chicago (Care2Prevent).

Those serving the North are Asian Human

Indy museum showing gay-rodeo photos

"Blake Little: Photographs from the Gay Rodeo" is taking place at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis.

"Blake Little" will feature 41 black-and-white images of cowboys and cowgirls from the gay rodeo circuit, taken by Los Angeles-based photographer Little.

The exhibition will run through July 13.

See www.eiteljorg.org.

Blake Little rodeo photo. Image from Little



Services, Center on Halsted, Chicago House, Fred Says, Howard Brown Health Center and Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN).

CommunityDirect partners on the West Side include the Austin CBC Initiative, CALOR, The Children's Place, New Age Services, and Puerto Rican Cultural Center (VIDA/Sida).

Organizations that provide citywide services are AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, Alexian Brothers Alliance for Housing & Health, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Chicago Recovery Alliance (CRA), FCAN, Heartland Health Outreach, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH), The Night Ministry, PACPI, Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center and Season of Concern.

Lastly, those organizations that serve people outside of Chicago are Agape Missions (NFP), Canticle Ministries, Open Door Clinic and Youth Outlook.

Event registration is \$30 in advance for 5K

walkers and \$40 for 5K or 10K runners. To register as an individual or as a team, find course routes and more, visit aidsrunwalk.org or call 312-334-0946. Online registration ends Sept. 3.

Nat'l sports hall of fame names newest inductees

The National Gay & Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame board has announced its choices for the second induction class.

Inductees include Billy Bean, retired MLB player; Wade Davis, executive director of You Can Play and retired NFL player; Tom Daley, Olympic medal-winning diver; Gareth Thomas, retired rugby player; Esera Tuaolo, retired NFL player; Brittney Griner, decorated collegiate athlete and active WNBA player; Diana Nyad,



Brittney Griner.

endurance swimmer; Fallon Fox, mixed martial artist; Chris Mosier, founder of Transathlete.com; Nike, corporation; Stand Up Foundation, anti-bullying non-profit; Mark Bingham, rugby player (deceased); Jerry Smith, NFL player (deceased); Mayor George Moscone, straight ally and former mayor of San Francisco (deceased).

The induction of the second class of honorees will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Center on Halsted on July 11, in conjunction with "Out at Wrigley" on July 12.

Sponsors include Anheuser-Busch, Southern Comfort, ChicagoPride.com, L Stop, Grab Magazine, Center on Halsted, Windy City Times, Fitness Formula Club, Crew Bar and Grill, Supergirl Images, MTM Chicago and Horizons Cafe.

Tickets for the induction ceremony are available at www.gayandlesbiansports.com.

Clay-court tennis tourney July 12-13

Second City Tennis (SCT) has opened registration for The Chardonnay, its annual clay-court doubles tournament.

The tournament will take place July 12-13 at the Diversey Public Tennis Center, 140 W. Diversey Pkwy. Played on Har-Tru green clay, this annual tournament also features a cook-out for the players, a consolation round and a relaxed atmosphere for players across many playing levels.

The cost is \$100/team. Rules and registration instructions can be found at <http://www.secondcitytennis.com>.

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—The award in favor of cab driver Venessa Fitzsimmons totaled \$104,711.00—Fitzsimmons v. Universal Taxi Dispatch, Inc., ALS No. 09-0661

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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.

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