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AUTHOR
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PICANO

PAGE 22



WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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**TRANSGENDER
DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE
EVENTS**
PAGES 8-9

Having HIV/AIDS: Fighting stigma

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

Stigma: a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person

Hearing the words "I'm HIV-positive" made Bryan* (names and some details have been changed) freeze.

A 23-year-old graphic designer, Bryan had met a guy at a Boystown gay club, a svelte 25-year-old tourist, Zach, with whom he danced, drank and laughed. Around 1 a.m., just before heading to Zach's hotel for more private activities together, Zach disclosed his positive HIV status. His viral load was undetectable—successfully suppressed with a drug regimen to the point it was low to no risk for transmission; also, he was clear of other STDs and he packed an ample supply of condoms.

Bryan declined to go back with him, though, offering a politely worded excuse rather than saying what he really thought: "I don't sleep with HIV-positive guys."

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Howard Brown
Health Center CEO
David E. Munar.
Photo by
Andrew Collings



**COALITION
EXPLORING
STORAGE ISSUES
FOR HOMELESS
YOUTH**
PAGE 10

WINDY CITY TIMES' 2014

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

week one of two

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**WINDY CITY
QUEERCAST—
AND HOST AMY
MATHENY—MARK
SHOW #600**
PAGE 22



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David Bowie, 1973. Photo: Masayoshi Sukita. © Sukita/The David Bowie Archive

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Images on cover (left, from top): Rendering of Felice Picano by Don Bachardy; photo of Angelica Ross by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer; photo of Lara Brooks by Matt Simonette; photo of Amy Matheny courtesy of Matheny

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SHOW(S) AND TELL
A recent visit to Las Vegas covered everything from celebrity-driven restaurants to shows by Cirque du Soleil and Kristine W (left).
Photo by Jerry Nunn



WCT reviews the book *The Christmas Truck*, by JB Blankenship (above).

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel recently honored the legacy of the late Mayor Harold Washington (above).
Photo by Brooke Collins/ City of Chicago

MASTERS, THE POSSIBILITIES
Billy Masters' weekly column spills the dish on your favorite celebrities.

HIGH AND LO
Swedish singer Tove Lo talks about older guys and the gay scene in her native country.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
Find out the latest about Ryan Gosling, Taryn Manning and Dr. Ana Maria Polo.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**



A forum at Columbia College raised questions about the school's commitment to diversity.
Photo of Columbia College Senior Vice President and Provost Stanley Wearden by Matt Simonette

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LGBT activist Ouma on work, Tanzania and future hopes

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

For 41-year old James Wandera Ouma, LGBT activism has become his life's work. As the executive director of LGBT Voice Tanzania (formerly WEZESHA), Ouma works to advance equality, diversity, education and justice for LGBT people in Tanzania.

Recently, Ouma was in attendance at the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association's (OPALGA) annual awards gala at the invitation of two of the organization's founders, Mel Wilson and Nathan Linsk. Wilson and Linsk met Ouma when they traveled to Tanzania two years ago and last year they wrote a viewpoint article for this publication about Ouma and his organization. Ouma also attended the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) World Conference in Mexico City, Mexico following his visit to the Chicago area.

"Tanzania is a country where human rights are not respected. LGBT people need to be recognized and respected as human beings and Tanzania doesn't recognize us as human beings," said Ouma. "We have a law that allows for a minimum sentence of 30 years in prison to life imprisonment for males who are accused and convicted of homosexual activity."

Ouma, who is openly gay, said that he's been arrested nine times for LGBT activism. The biggest problem, Ouma noted, are police officers who arrest people and leave them in jail for weeks or months without a trial.

"I just got released from police custody after spending four days in jail. They charged me this time with trying to recruit young people," said Ouma. "Recently we started a safe house for young people who've been thrown out of their homes. Our goal is to provide food and shelter for these young people. We also encourage them to continue their education so they will have a better future. When the authorities learned about this project they immediately came to me and accused me of training the young people at the shelter to become homosexuals. That was my only charge."

Ouma noted that the Tanzanian government has accused the west of importing LGBT people and ideas into the country as well as giving his organization money to recruit people into homosexuality and that isn't true. The fact is, Ouma explained, the west is importing religion into Tanzania not LGBT people and ideas.

"I was born in a remote village without any roads and I didn't have a car, motorbike or bicycle. I knew I was gay when I was young and at that time I had no contact with the outside world," said Ouma. "The life I lived didn't allow me to know anything because we didn't have telephones, radios or the Internet in my remote village. The question is how could I know anything about western culture if I didn't have access to any information about the outside world growing up."

Ouma said that it's not just the government that teaches hate, religious leaders in Tanzania also teach hate towards LGBT people. "I believe they [the government and religious leaders] are afraid," said Ouma.

One of the initiatives that Ouma's organization is working on is conducting a study to document human rights violations that are taking place based on a person's sexual orientation and/or gender identity. "We want people



James Wandera Ouma. Photo by Opio Samuel

to share what is happening in their homes, work places, health facilities and public places. We want to talk to employers and find out why they don't want to hire LGBT people and we want to hear from parents who have LGBT kids," said Ouma. "We will be compiling a report that can be used as a tool and will be submitted to the members of parliament so they have first hand information about what is happening to LGBT people throughout Tanzania."

"We want to see Tanzania be a country where people are free to express themselves," said Ouma. "We want our country to be a place where people aren't sacrificing their lives because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Where people won't go to prison, get thrown out of their families, get expelled from school or lose their jobs just because they are LGBT. We want to reach a place where we can celebrate our lives. Even if we don't see equality in Tanzania today, the foundation has been laid for that to happen in the future."

Ouma explained that it is important for the international community to speak out about what is happening to LGBT people in Tanzania as well as put pressure on the Tanzania government so LGBT people in his country can be free and have the same rights as other Tanzanians.

As for funding, Ouma noted that LGBT Voice Tanzania doesn't have an institutional funder so all of their funds come from individual donors who make donations online. "Our organization needs money so we can continue running our programs. We want to start a clinic where LGBT young people can access health-care and we already have the building but we need money and technical support so we can open the clinic," said Ouma. Ouma noted that OPALGA has already donated \$500 to the clinic project.

See www.lgbtvoicetz.org for more information. To make a donation, visit https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/7315/donate_page/lgbtvoice.

New study suggests gay genetic link

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A recent study of 409 gay brothers suggests that gay people are born that way, according to researchers.

The study appeared in the online edition of *Psychological Medicine* Nov. 17 and was led by Alan Sanders of NorthShore University HealthSystem Research Institute in Evanston. Among the co-authors of the study was Northwestern University's J. Michael Bailey, whose research on the transgender and gay communities, along with his teaching methods, has drawn strong criticism in the past.

Sanders and his co-authors say they have clearer evidence that genes along two chromosomes—the X chromosome and chromosome 8—exert influence over sexual orientation.

Sanders told *New Scientist* Nov. 17 that their finding "erodes the notion that sexual orientation is a choice," while emphasizing that a specific "gay gene" had not been located.

Scientists have been inquiring about those particular chromosomes since 1993, but this study has contained the largest number of subjects, thus producing the most robust results seen so far. The only trait shared by each subject was being gay.

Sanders also stressed that the presence of the gene only meant a possible predisposition towards being gay, and that individual characteristics are often determined by a combination of environmental and genetic factors.



Jacques Agbobly.

Chicagoans among POZ 100 youth

POZ magazine, a print and online brand for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, has announced the fifth annual POZ 100, also marking its 200th issue and 20th year in publication. This year, POZ asked individuals and organizations to nominate people under the age of 30 in their communities who are making a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Jacques Agbobly, a 16-year-old Chicago AIDS activist; Juan Calderon of Vida/SIDA; and Cassie Warren of the Broadway Youth Center at the Howard Brown Health Center have been named among the POZ 100.

This year's list honors a diverse group of 100 individuals from across the United States and around the world. The list includes both people living with the virus, such as youth activist Paige Rawl, as well as HIV-negative people, such as Miss America 2010 Caressa Cameron-Jackson and Ryan Lewis, half of the Grammy Award-winning hip-hop duo Macklemore and Ryan Lewis.

The full list is at poz.com/100.

Immigration executive order praised, criticized

President Obama's recent executive order regarding immigration was generally met with praise from Democrats and with derision from Republicans. (Obama signed an executive order overhauling the nation's immigration policy and ending deportation for nearly 5 million undocumented immigrants.) A sample of reactions is below:

—**Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel:** "We applaud President Obama for taking executive action and bringing much needed relief from deportation to families throughout Chicago and across the country. We support this move because it is consistent with our values as a city that has always welcomed and benefited from the contributions of immigrants. It is good for our families, good for our economy, and it will help drive us toward a brighter future for every Chicagoan."

While we support the President's action, only Congress can finish the job. We will continue to join with the overwhelming majority of the American people in pushing for bipartisan action by Congress on comprehensive immigration reform."

—**Latino Union:** "The undocumented immigrant worker community couldn't suffer in silence any longer," said Latino Union Executive Director Eric Rodriguez, who is the son of undocumented immigrants. "Our communities stood up and said, 'Not one more.'"

—**Gov. Pat Quinn (per Capital Fax):** "President Obama today took a necessary first step in fixing our broken immigration system. His plan will give hope to families who live in constant fear of separation."

"Hardworking immigrants from around the world came together to build our country

and our state. I commend President Obama for showing compassion and understanding to millions of individuals stuck in a heartbreaking situation."

—**U.S. House Speaker John Boehner:** "By ignoring the will of the American people, President Obama has cemented his legacy of lawlessness and squandered what little credibility he had left. His 'my way or the highway' approach makes it harder to build the trust with the American people that is necessary to get things done on behalf of the country. Republicans are left with the serious responsibility of upholding our oath of office."

—**Immigration Equality:** "President Obama's executive order is an historic moment for many immigrant communities," said Caroline Dessert, executive director of Immigration Equality. "We celebrate with the millions who will have the opportunity to live and work without fear of deportation. But once again, it appears that the LGBT community has been excluded from a law designed to protect vulnerable people."

—**Lambda Legal:** "President Obama today announced he is issuing an executive order taking action on immigration, including temporarily protecting about 5 million undocumented immigrants from the threat of deportation. However, the order provides the administrative relief only for those immigrants whose children are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, potentially excluding a disproportionate number of undocumented LGBT immigrants who do not have children."



/windycitymediagroup

HRC releases Corporate Equality Index

A record 366 businesses earned the Human Rights Campaign's latest Corporate Equality Index's (CEI's) top score of 100 percent, according to a press release.

Those earning a perfect score include newcomers like Facebook and Yelp, as well as fixtures such as Apple, Xerox and other companies that have been leaders in LGBT equality in the workplace since the survey began in 2002.

Among other findings is that one-third of Fortune 500 companies now offer trans-inclusive health care, up from zero in 2002 when the CEI was first published; and that gender identity is now part of non-discrimination policies at 66 percent of Fortune 500 companies, up from just 3 percent in 2002.

In total, 781 companies were officially rated in the 2015 CEI.

Regarding Illinois businesses, those that earned perfect scores include A.T. Kearney Inc., Aon Corp., Astellas Pharma US Inc., Baker & McKenzie LLP, Barilla America Inc., BMO Bankcorp Inc., Boeing Co., Chapman and Cutler LLP, Discover Financial Services, Exelon Corp., Fae-

gre Baker Daniels, Groupon Inc., HERE North America LLC, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, Huron Consulting Group Inc. and Hyatt Hotels Corp.

Others include Jenner & Block LLP, JLL, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Kraft Foods Group Inc., Leo Burnett Company Inc., Mayer Brown LLP, McDermott Will & Emery LLP, MillerCoors LLC, Navigant Consulting Inc., Northern Trust Corp., Orbitz Worldwide Inc., Schiff Hardin LLP, Sears Holdings Corp., Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Sidley Austin LLP, Starcom MediaVest Group, United Airlines, W.W. Grainger Inc., Walgreen Co and Winston & Strawn LLP.

Allscripts-Misys Healthcare Solutions Inc. was at the bottom of the list of surveyed Illinois business with a score of 30.

The CEI rates companies and top law firms on detailed criteria falling under five broad categories: non-discrimination policies; employment benefits; demonstrated organizational competency and accountability around LGBT diversity and inclusion; public commitment to LGBT equality; and responsible citizenship.

See the full report at www.hrc.org/cei.

Report: ACA has led to fewer uninsured LGBTs

A new report from the Center for American Progress shows that the uninsured rate among low- and middle-income LGBT residents has fallen by a quarter since the Affordable Care Act took effect, according to a media release.

The report report relies on two surveys of LGBT Americans who earn less than 400 percent of the poverty line (about \$44,000 for an individual)—the cut-off for any financial help buying insurance coverage under Obamacare. And it finds that, between 2013 and 2014, their uninsured rate fell from 34 percent to 26 percent.

The report's findings show significant drops in uninsured individuals across the board for different LGBT groups, as well as positive experiences among those who explored their options through Medicaid and the marketplaces, enrolled in coverage, and attempted to access health care using their new coverage.

However, the report notes that 26.8 percent of gay men, 20.5 percent of lesbians, 26.7 percent of bisexual people, and 34.7 percent of transgender people with incomes less than 400 percent of the federal poverty level did not have insurance in 2014. However, the report notes that 26.8 percent of gay men, 20.5 percent of lesbians, 26.7 percent of bisexual people, and 34.7 percent of transgender people with incomes less than 400 percent of the federal poverty level did not have insurance in 2014.

The report highlights several areas in which targeted efforts are still needed to help reach LGBT community members with accurate information about the law; encourage them to enroll in coverage; and ensure that coverage is affordable, adequate, and equitable.

The full report is at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/report/2014/11/17/101575/moving-the-needle/>.

Frerichs prevails in treasurer's race

More than two weeks after the Illinois general election, Republican Tom Cross conceded the state treasurer's race to Democrat Mike Frerichs.

In his acceptance speech Nov. 19, Frerichs said he will begin discussing with his staff

some of the issues he addressed during his campaign, WGN-TV reported. Those issues, he said, include investment in agriculture and addressing banking deserts in the state.

Cross had a narrow lead over Frerichs in the days after the balloting, but once provisional and mail-in ballots were counted, Frerichs took a 3,000-vote lead.

Cross voted for Illinois' marriage-equality bill in 2013 after previously voting "no" on civil unions, Windy City Times reported.



Ald. Tom Tunney.
Photo by Matt Simonette

Ald. Tunney receives award from Thresholds

Social-services organization Thresholds honored 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney with an award at its annual meeting Nov. 6.

In a newsletter, Tunney stated, "I was honored to receive the Thresholds 2014 Hero Award for my commitment to sound mental health policy and programs, along with my leadership role in the development of [the housing community] Buffett Place in Lakeview.

"Securing safe, decent and affordable housing is a critical issue throughout our city and I could not be more proud to have Thresholds and the Fred and Pamela Buffett Place in the 44th Ward."

In addition, The Call of Duty Endowment announced that it has selected the Thresholds Veterans Project as one of seven best-in-class veterans service organizations nationwide to receive its 2014 Seal of Distinction Award, which comes with an initial \$30,000 grant.

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STIGMA from cover

Zach, however, had heard those words, or variations of the same, more than a few times since his diagnosis a couple of years ago, and he could see them clearly in Bryan's green eyes. He felt like shit—judged and tainted—and while Zach wouldn't lie and tell someone he was negative, he understood why so many others in his shoes have and do.

Bryan ended up getting lucky a couple of hours later at another bar with Alex, an architect-in-training who said he was negative.

There's a twist: Bryan, in fact, was positive, although he wouldn't find out that until six months later, when he got tested for the first time in almost three years—something he put off because, in the back of his mind, he was concerned about a bareback encounter with someone he met on Grindr who, the next day, deleted his profile and disappeared, as if in a magic poof of smoke.

"Stigma is really damaging on both ends," said Matthew Rodriguez of the comprehensive HIV/AIDS resource site The Body. "For negative people, stigma can sometimes stop them from getting tested. If they feel they did anything that put them at risk, they may not want to get tested because the result may be devastating. I think it also stops people from interacting with those living with HIV as full people. People just look at you as a status, as a virus."

"Another powerful manifestation of stigma is internalized stigma," added David Ernesto Munar, president and CEO of Chicago's Howard Brown Health Center, "which affects nearly all people with HIV in their disease progression. People not getting tested, not getting care, not getting emotional support and psychological trauma from living with a disease they may believe is emblematic of bad behavior or pejorative status. It conspires and abates the virus in expanding its reach."

At best, HIV stigma can lead to emotional sting, lost connections and deep blows to self-esteem and, at worst, life- and career-threatening discrimination as well as dangerous, destructive behavior to others and oneself. "There is also institutional stigma," Munar noted, pointing out legislation around the country that criminalizes HIV-positive individuals for not disclosing their status to partners, even when engaging in activities that couldn't possibly lead to infection. (Illinois' AIDS Confidentiality Act was one of these, but successfully amended for the better last year.) "And juries will often not believe people with HIV because of their bias."

A recent study by Houston, Texas, LIVE Consortium on the topic of HIV stigma within the gay/bisexual male community was published in the International Journal of Sexual Health (at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4136678/>). It concluded that, "because it is realistic to expect that in a climate in which HIV has become increasingly invisible and closeted and in which infections are on the rise [due to stigma], gay and bisexual men will be increasingly affected and infected by HIV."

Numerous organizations and campaigns are addressing HIV stigma, from those created exclusively for that purpose, including the two-year-old The Stigma Project and HIV Equal, to online resources like The Body, Avert.org and HIV Plus, to hookup apps like MISTER. The latter, in collaboration with Michigan's Mr. Friendly HIV non-profit, allows members to declare a commitment to "Live Stigma-Free" and date individuals of any HIV status on their profiles.

Despite these, stigma is only getting worse within our own community, which LIVE's disheartening study backs. "There's a fallacy that stigma is lessening," Munar commented. "I think because we've been in a world with HIV for over 35 years and generations have never known the world without it, there's an unspoken sentiment that those who become infected should know better by now. They are more complicit in their infection than earlier generations when we didn't know what was causing this plague. So that puts people with HIV in a very

precarious position."

"I find often that stigma is self-imposed, out of undeserved and unwarranted shame and guilt," said Olympic gold medalist swimmer Greg Louganis. HIV-positive since the 1980s, his life is chronicled in the new documentary Back On Board, currently making the rounds at festivals. "The biggest problem is it inhibits open communication, and we still in this society have a difficult problem talking about sex."

Longtime AIDS activist Peter Staley, a subject of David France's Oscar-nominated documentary How To Survive A Plague, described stigma as, literally, a "viral divide between those who perceive themselves to be negative and those who are positive."

"I think a large number of negative men, especially if younger, try to avoid HIV just by avoiding people with HIV," he explained. "They think they're protected by a kind of moral code where a positive guy would disclose. On the flip side, the positive guys are so threatened by that stigma that they keep their status a secret, and that perpetuates the false assumption by many negative guys there isn't a lot of HIV in their world. They think it isn't something playing out in their generation that much, even though it is."

New Yorker Steven Colon, a 21-year-old videogame design student who was diagnosed with HIV this past summer, now knows this sobering reality firsthand. Prior to his seroconversion, discovered during routine HIV testing (preferring to bareback with some partners, he frequently kept tabs on his status), Colon only had sex with partners who identified as HIV-negative. Not due to stigma, he asserts, but by virtue of the fact that nobody ever informed him they were positive.

After receiving his positive result, he contacted these partners, but none have come forward to acknowledge they were actually positive, or have tested positive since. "It's a little upsetting I don't know who it is," he admits.

Colon, who promotes a monthly superhero/spandex/lycra-themed party at NYC's Pieces bar (Skintight USA), found some immediate support amongst a couple of friends who, coincidentally, also tested positive around the same time. Staley said he feels that a major failing with most anti-stigma campaigns is that they play to the choir and fail to reach their target audiences, like gay millennials, whose new infection rates are, as illustrated by Colon's social cluster, rising.

On the ACT UP NY Alumni Facebook page last month, member Rebecca Reinhardt reported some jaw-dropping comments and opinions she overheard at a West Hollywood happy hour for Ivy League twentysomethings. Pearls of overheard misinformation included: Condoms are useless, since they always break and you have only a 2-percent chance of getting HIV from unprotected sex anyway, and PrEP, if you are even aware of it, entails a waste of money since it's just for sex addicts anyway.

"I'm not wagging my finger at these guys," Staley said. "This generation of young gay men is not worse than mine. They're just living in different times. When I was 20, I also perceived risk very differently, and was very dismissive of things that happened earlier in history and didn't think applied to me."

One exception when it comes to prevalence of stigma and misinformation seems to be San Francisco, where many early PrEP adopters live. Even those who argue that PrEP encourages reckless behavior that can cause upticks in other STD infections, like Hepatitis C, are at least having open communication.

"San Francisco is the shining example of where, if you put stigma on a locality ranking scale, you'll find the least stigma of anywhere in the country," Staley said. "They also have a very low HIV-infection rate because guys there talk and think about HIV, and a much more reasoned risk analysis. There will be a negative guy sleeping with positive guys, but asking about their viral load and making certain decisions and positions determined by that. That sophistication is lost on many young gay men outside SF and NYC. I want to figure out the

best way to reach them, and its likely going to come from [within] their generation, not mine."

Activist Jack Mackenroth, who was open about his HIV-positive status while a contestant on Project Runway, agrees that it's difficult to get people who don't think (or want to think) that HIV directly affects them engaged. He feels that once PrEP use grows more widespread, medical treatments advance, and positive people become more visible, HIV stigma will dissipate.

"It's important that people with HIV should speak their own truth," Munar shares. "I think a healthy fear of infection is good. We're not promoting that the virus is friendlier and good, but we're trying to redefine that people with HIV are not by definition bad or predators. The more one can see the rich diversity and reality of living with HIV, it plays a powerful role in reframing what this disease is. Most people have no idea. For some generations, like young gay and Latino men, there's a raging wave of new infections. The more we can tell the story from the vantage point of real people, the better we are to mitigate stigma."

Yet, with stigma winning the battle today, is it possible to take this destructive force and, like with the Terminator model T-800, reprogram and somehow wield it for constructive, prevention-forward purposes? To replace fear and loathing with understanding and empathy,

World AIDS Day events

COMPILED BY MATT SIMONETTE

A number of local agencies and organization are gearing up for World AIDS Day, which takes place Monday, Dec. 1. A number of events will take place throughout the week, however. As of publication, the following observances have been scheduled for the Chicago area.

Nov. 30:

Project VIDA is supporting "Strut," the sixth annual World AIDS Day fashion show, at Castle, 632 N. Dearborn St. Doors open at 4 p.m. and the show begins at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit projectvida.org.

Dec. 1:

Chicago Department of Public Health will, on Dec. 1, host condom distributions at five CTA rail stations around the city in partnership with volunteers from Step Up Get Tested. The stops include Roosevelt, 95th and Howard along the Red line; Halsted and the Green line; and Illinois Medical District at the Blue line.

Rush University Medical Center CEO Larry Goodman, U.S. Rep. Danny Davis and other guests kick off the Chicagoland World AIDS Day Collaborative program with a presentation from 10-10:30 a.m. at Rush University Medical Center, 1623 W. Harrison St. The program will be followed by a presentation, "HIV across the Continuum of Care," at 1630 W. Harrison St., at 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit stepupgettested.com.

CALOR (Comprensión y Apoyo a Latinos en Oposición al Retrovirus) observes World AIDS Day at Latin Rhythms Dance Studio, 210 N. Racine Ave., from 4-9 p.m. The Miguel A. Morales Spirit of Excellence Award will be awarded to Iliana Gilliland, director of care at AIDS Foundation of Chicago. This is a free event, but RSVP is required at 773-385-9080.

Vida/SIDA will hold a candlelight vigil at La Casita de Don Pedro, 2625 W. Division Ave., at 5 p.m. A fundraising dinner follows at Nellie's Restaurant, 2458 W. Division Ave., from 6-8:30 p.m. For more information, call 773-394-4935.

Chicago-area Italian restaurant group Francesca's will donate 15 percent of net bills presented with a special flier to AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) in honor of

and to ultimately humanize HIV-positive individuals, what would that require?

Maybe it would require a variety of shirt sizes.

"It would be useful to set someone down and say, 'imagine you are positive,'" Mackenroth mused. "You want to know what it feels like—wear a T-shirt saying you are positive all day long. You will feel that that's like."

That's exactly what founder Kevin Maloney's Rise Up To HIV is doing with its "No Shame About Being HIV+" T-shirts. Members of NYU's First Year Queers & Allies leadership program wear these to experience reactions from those who would perceive their shirt as a status announcement. It's a start, and an experiment that more schools and colleges should look into.

"I've worn it and gotten mixed responses," said The Body's Rodriguez. "Honestly, anyone can get HIV. The whole problem with stigma is [it perpetuates that] someone had to do something wrong to get HIV. But we know from science that with gay men two-thirds of infections happen within the context of relationships. I applaud people who don't let status stand in the way of having a sexual relationship. It's usually not the positive and on treatment guys one should be second-guessing. It should be the ones who don't know. The only ones who know their status for sure are positive."

those living with HIV. The flier, which lists participating locations, is at http://www.aidschicago.org/francescas_slip.pdf. AFC on Dec. 1 will also launch its website redesign and announce its Challenge Grant awardees.

Victoria Noe, Zach Stafford and Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim will lead a World AIDS Day discussion at Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St., at 7 p.m.

Dec. 2:

Austin CBC Collaborative will hold a commemoration from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Austin Health Center, 4800 W. Chicago Ave. Keynote speakers will include state Rep. LaShawn Ford and Dr. Maya Green. For more information, visit austincbc.org.

Dec. 4:

AIDS Foundation of Chicago hosts its annual World of Chocolate fundraising celebration at 6 p.m. at Union Station Great Hall, 225 S. Canal St. For more information, visit aidschicago.org.

Dec. 6:

Clergy & Lay Leadership Summit X, billed as a "faith-based response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic," takes place at 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at McCormick Theological Seminary, 5460 S. University Ave. Among the speakers during the summit will be Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Jr. A worship service and panel discussion, "Peacemaking in the City: A Faithful Response to Urban Violence," follows at 6 p.m. For more information, call 773-947-6310.

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., hosts "Focus, Partner, Achieve: An AIDS-Free Generation," at 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Michelle Anderson, Ms. Plus America 2011, will be the keynote speaker at 11 a.m. She was the first HIV-positive woman to become a beauty queen. For more information, visit centeronhalsted.org.

Dec. 7:

South Suburban AIDS Regional Coalition hosts "Stepping Out Against AIDS" at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 West 115th St., Merionette Park, at 3-8 p.m. For more information, call 708-753-5835 or visit eventbrite.com

The benefit concert "Celebrating the Holiday with Friends" begins at 8 p.m. at Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. Among the featured performers will be Tweet, Donald Lawrence, Pauletta Washington, E. Faye Butler and Felicia Fields. Buy tickets at worldaidsdaychicago.org. Another concert will be held Dec. 8.



Michelle Roberts and Sidney Morgan. Photo by Matt Simonette

Rogers Park trans woman sues landlord

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A transgender woman, who has already filed a discrimination complaint against her landlord, alleging that he tried to throw her out of her Rogers Park apartment because of her gender identity and because her fiancé is Black, is now suing the landlord for violating the city's Residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance. The landlord in turn formally filed to evict the woman a few days after her lawsuit was filed.

According to a lawsuit filed Nov. 4, Michelle Roberts, 6413 N. Glenwood Ave., is suing her landlord, Zoran Knezev, over a number of violations, including having too many renters in the building.

Windy City Times previously reported that Roberts had entered into an unorthodox leasing arrangement with Knezev. She signed a lease to pay him \$450 a month, but was essentially only paying for her bedroom and access to her unit's common areas. Knezev had other renters in the same apartment, all under separate agreements.

Roberts' lawsuit claims that she is owed money because of those extra renters. According to Illinois Municipal Code, when the number of individual rents collected by a landlord exceeds the number of rentable units, the landlord is liable to the occupants for three times the amount the renters paid. In Roberts' case, that means Knezev would owe her \$1,350 per month for eight months, or about \$10,800. She is asking for additional amounts because Knezev allegedly did not provide her with a copy

of a summary of the Residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance or inform her of the bank in which her security deposit had been placed.

In September, Roberts filed a discrimination complaint against Knezev, alleging that he attempted to illegally evict her both because she is transgender and because her fiancé, Sidney Morgan, is Black. Knezev's representatives allegedly told Roberts that they were unable to keep tenants in the unit because of their being uncomfortable around Roberts; she maintains, however, that tenants left because of the conditions of the premises. Knezev previously denied the discrimination and said that he was complying with the complaint. He filed an eviction suit in Cook County Circuit Court Nov. 7, according to court records. Both Roberts and Morgan are named in the suit. The Illinois Retaliatory Eviction Act prohibits landlords from evicting a tenant in direct response to a discrimination complaint.

Morgan said that a hearing on the eviction was scheduled for Nov. 25.

For now, Roberts wants to wait out the rest of the lease, which runs out in February. She injured herself at work in early September and has been living off a worker's compensation package, so she doesn't want to move sooner.

"We wanted more time for Michelle to heal, and to have her be able to get through the holidays," Morgan said.

Roberts added, "It's crazy how this thing has gotten so out of hand. Just when you think it might be over, there's another chapter."

PASSAGES

Dorothy Chvatal

Dorothy Chvatal, passed away Nov. 18. She was 64.

She was the devoted daughter of the late Lorraine and Joseph, beloved partner of Pat Davis, cherished godmother of Jenna Barnett, faithful sister of Sarah Brindis (the late Jim), Eugene (Lee), Ralph, Francis, Lawrence (Cathy), the late Michaeline (Karen Mooney) and the late Joseph, loving aunt and great aunt, steadfast friend of so many and loyal companion of Dino (the late Faccia Bella).

A lifelong Chicagoan, Dorothy attended Mayfair Nursing School and the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and worked for many years as a community health nurse and later as a licensed clinical social worker. Dorothy was a longtime collective member at the Chicago Women's Health Center. More recently, she was also involved with the Center on Hal-



Dorothy Chvatal. Photo from Pamela Barnett

sted. Dorothy selflessly dedicated her life to the compassionate care of others. Friends, family and colleagues deeply mourn the loss of a woman of such empathy, generosity and kindness.

Donations in Dorothy's memory may be made to The Buddhist Temple of Chicago or a charity of choice.

Her memorial service was held Nov. 22 at The Buddhist Temple of Chicago, 1151 W. Leland Ave.



Out & Equal Chicagoland Regional Affiliate with award. Photo courtesy of Jim Huberty

Local Out & Equal branch receives award

This month, the Out & Equal (O&E) Chicagoland Regional Affiliate received the "Affiliate of the Year" award. The award recognizes significant achievement in providing support to area companies and organizations in the achievement of workplace equality for all regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

Each year, Out & Equal hosts the Annual Workplace Summit. This year, more than 3,300 business, HR and LGBT leaders and professionals attended the event in San Francisco.

The O&E Chicagoland Regional Affiliate was formed in 2005. At the heart of the affiliate's work has been Citywide Pride, a series of company sponsored learning, networking and celebratory events. In 2014, 31

companies hosted 23 Citywide Pride events that attracted more than 1,700 participants. The "Affiliate of the Year" Award, recognized these achievements.

In accepting the award, Jim Huberty (co-chair) stated that it was given "to our dozens of corporate and organization partners, scores of HR and BRG [business resource group] leaders, our hundreds of members and thousands of event participants who through the years and each and every day, at work and in the community, illustrate the value of diversity, the force of commitment and the joy of equality."

To learn more about the Affiliate, visit outandequal.org or email oechicagoland@gmail.com. Learn more about Out & Equal at www.outandequal.org.

'Winning Marriage' book event Dec. 15

Freedom to Marry and Equality Illinois will host the Chicago launch of Marc Solomon's book *Winning Marriage: The Inside Story of How Same-Sex Couples Took on the Politicians and Pundits—and Won* by Marc Solomon.

The event will take place Monday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. at Organizing for Action, 224 N. Desplaines St.

This is a free event, but registration is required; visit <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/page/s/winning-marriage-chicago-event> to RSVP. For more information, visit "Win-

ning Marriage' Chicago Launch Event" on Facebook.

Library exhibit explores marriage

As recognition of same-sex marriage grows, the Chicago Public Library presents "Love Me Forever! Oh! Oh! Oh!," by cartoonist Jeremy Sorese.

In this illustrated exhibit, Sorese, a gay man, explores the idea of getting married. "Love Me Forever! Oh! Oh! Oh!" is on display through March 8 in the Congress Corridor, ground level, at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St.



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Transgender Day of Remembrance event: Empowerment from loss

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSDEFER

Kandy Hall, 40, Sarito do Sopão, 39, Tiffany Edwards, 28, Thifani, 18, Vitória, 16, Alex Madoiros, 8, unknown woman ... unknown woman. These were just a fraction of the names of murdered transgender people read at the 2014 Trans*gender Day of Remembrance and Resilience held at the Center on Halsted (COH) Nov. 20, part of events held around the world.

The event's history dates back to 1999. At a church in the Allston neighborhood of Boston, the trans* community came together to honor the memory of Rita Hester who had been slain a year earlier.

According to an Oct. 30 release from the Transgender Europe's Trans Murder Monitoring

loved or had affected their lives in a positive way.

The theater quickly filled to a standing-room-only audience comprised of trans* and gender-variant people and—in solidarity with them—members of the LGB community and straight allies, advocacy groups and community leaders, artists, government representatives and business owners.

Before the first word was spoken at the podium, Torres, fellow committee members and partnering organizations the Trans Life Center at Chicago House, Affinity, Lambda Legal, Howard Brown Health Center and the Center on Halsted had the atmosphere they wanted. There was a palpable sense of hope and defiant celebration as friends reunited and new intro-



Joel Hall Dancers & Center performers at the Transgender Day of Remembrance event at Center on Halsted. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensdefer

Project, from Oct. 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2014 there were 226 cases of reported killings of transgender individuals with 10 occurring in the U.S. and a staggering 113 in Brazil alone.

The continuing violence in the U.S. against transgender women of color has left many in the community wondering how such a horrific epidemic of violence and death will ever be brought to an end.

The names of fallen transgender comrades-in-courage were honored at remembrance events nationally and worldwide. Each event was as richly diverse in character, identity and essence as the community it honored.

For Crispin Torres—one of six committee members engaged in planning the Center on Halsted event—the shift in atmosphere for 2014 was related to the prolific rise in transgender voices over the past year.

"Given the visibility and changes in terms of the platform that trans* politics and trans* people have in the media and in our community, we decided to not only use the day to pay our respects to people who have passed, but also to lift up the voices of people who are living," Torres told Windy City Times. "The end of last year's event left me feeling powerless. The names were read and we just took off. So when we came to the table this year, we decided to use the stage to call people to action and to use the frustration, sadness and anger that we feel to propel our movement and our actions forward. We wanted to reflect our optimism and our resilience. We know there's a lot more of us in the community than there are on paper."

Thus "resilience" was added to the evening's title. Attendees were given purple ribbons as they arrived in the lobby of the COH's Hoover-Leppen Theatre. On opposite walls a mural had been placed where they could write—on paper shaped in the form of a butterfly—the name of a living transgender person or people they

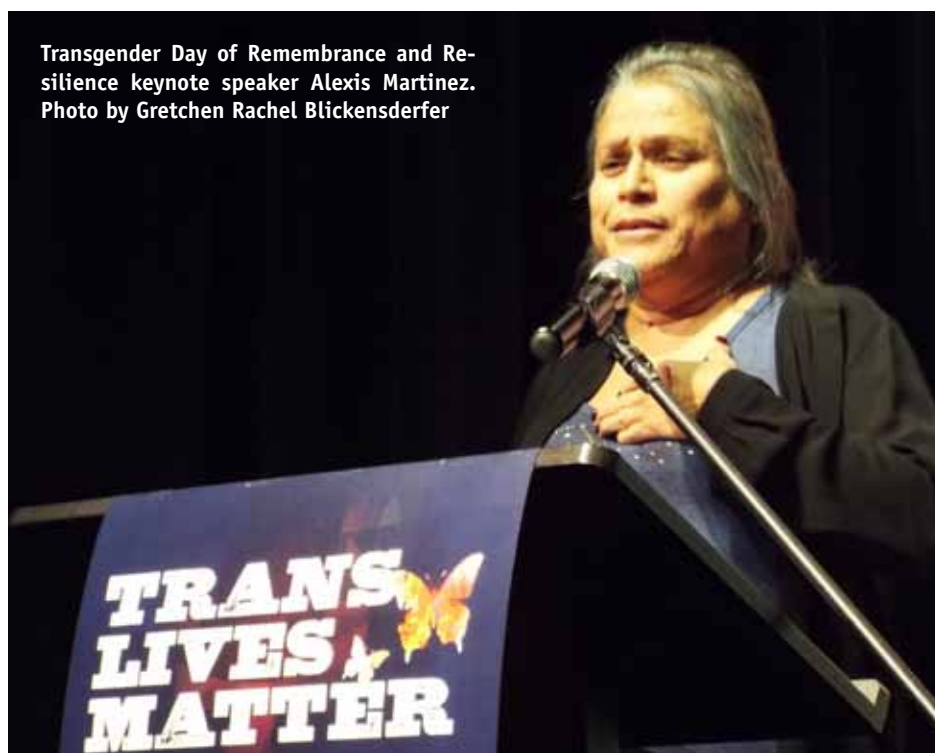
ductions were made.

Among the audience was 2015 mayoral hopeful Amara Enyia. "This event is important to me because I have people in my life who are transgender," she told Windy City Times. "There was a story [in WCT] that talked about the plight of trans* women in my community of Austin and I think it is a story that is not told often enough. It's an issue that's not put in the forefront when we talk about all the challenges in the community. We need to be amplifying these stories and humanizing people. With the police department, we have so many issues with their training, with viewing people as suspects automatically, with not seeing [trans* people] as human beings. I think that's why we have so many issues with police brutality and lack of accountability. We need to change the culture of the police department. This is something that affects all of us. To me, tonight is about our commonalities as human beings."

"Today is a hard day," Torres said in opening remarks. "Probably one of the more difficult ones for us to get through. [But] it forces us together; to check in, recalibrate, think about the work and how we're doing it and remember the people we have lost due to transphobia."

In delivering the keynote, celebrated activist and self-titled "cactus in the struggle" Alexis Martinez noted the lack of clarity world-wide as to the numbers of trans* people killed. "There's no clear record, just a rough estimate," she said struggling to contain her emotions. "There's very few jurisdictions that have statistics that properly identify trans* people. Trans* women represented an overwhelming percentage of people who were subjected to violence. I want to remind everyone here tonight to take care not to label these persons as 'victims', rather they should be viewed as the heroic and resilient vanguard of the movement. For dignity, equality and the full measure of human rights,

Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience keynote speaker Alexis Martinez. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensdefer



these are our soldiers."

Martinez challenged the audience to move beyond mourning. "We must honor these persons by developing a genuine liberation mentality and forge a revolutionary consciousness," she said. "For too long we've settled for the scraps that fall from the LGBTQ banquet table. We must be involved in our liberation at every level. The social service agencies need to become agents of change, not just service. If law enforcement cannot or will not change the way it treats trans* people, we must pursue them in the courts, in the legislature or in the streets if necessary. We need to take care of each other. We need to find a way that we can bridge those gaps between us. We're not going to have the political power to change things unless we connect each other."

A rousing and impassioned performance by Joel Hall Dancers, made up of youth from the Center on Halsted, Ellishon Douglas, Shyrell Johnson, Arnold Jordan, Angel Lopez, Armad Porter, Derrius Robinson, Steven Armani Santiago, Greg Slater, Christopher Titus and Davonte Williams served to remind the audience—as Hall noted—"that we are all a part of this universe."

After the standing ovation had subsided, one-by-one, members of the community stepped up to the stage to read the names of those transgender people murdered in the past year. The silence between every name and during the moment the audience took to be grateful for the lives each name represented—"May they rest in power," Torres said—was broken only by a stifled tear.

Angelica Ross, the founder, CEO and executive director of TransTech Social Enterprises, closed the evening with a personal and candid speech.

"I had a lot of mixed feelings when I knew that the Transgender Day of Remembrance was coming up," Ross said. "I am starting to take a step back from the spectacle. I was shocked to be at such a wonderful gathering in a building to honor the lives of trans* women that we've lost but knowing that these spaces don't always honor us while we're living. I am angry that more is not being done. We've been asking for help for a really long time. Month after month, death after death, year after year and you realize that most of the LGBT community is not listening. It's the [kind of] privilege when you think something is not a problem because it's not a problem to you personally."

Ross challenged LGBT community members, leaders and advocacy groups to stop "gate-keeping resources."

"There's an emergency going on right now," she added referring to trans* lives. "All it took was one [Matthew Shepard] to get the gay community to rally together and to make it nationally known that this is a problem and that this needs to stop. We're at an average of 200-300 a year. I don't know what's broken on

your ambulance on your way to the crime scene that is happening within the trans* community but you need to move faster. The non-profit industrial complex is moving way too slow for an emergency state. The longer it takes you, the more lives we lose."

Ross's words and those of Martinez, Torres and each of the participants at the event were amplified one hundred fold when the audience took to North Halsted Street to march past the rainbow pylons and brightly lit bars and coffee shops, heads held high against a bitterly cold wind and holding signs which declared "Trans Lives Matter."

Their calls of steeled audacity echoed up the street, joined by supportive horns of passing cars.

"We're here, we're loud, we're trans*, we're proud," they cried.

Groups observe Transgender Day of Remembrance

A number of organizations released statements Nov. 20 in honor of the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Lambda Legal Transgender Rights Project Director M. Dru Levasseur said, "Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual event to remember and honor the lives of transgender people who committed suicide or have been killed simply for being who they truly are. Its growing observance is bittersweet - every year we raise more awareness of the rampant epidemic of anti-transgender violence, particularly against transgender women of color, but every year we see the statistics remain the same."

"The national crisis of anti-trans violence in this country continues with brutal intensity, and it seems like every day we mourn another tragic loss," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "On this Transgender Day of Remembrance, all Americans should feel responsible to help bring an end to this violence before it claims even one more innocent soul. The progress of equality has to reach everyone, and we are failing as a movement if we leave anyone behind."

Rev. Darlene Nipper, deputy executive director of the National LGBTQ Task Force, said, "Today many fond memories will come to mind for millions in our community and our allies, of that trans friend, or trans family member, or cherished trans colleague who had the courage to bring their entire self to life. Undoubtedly our community and our nation have been enriched by the collective contributions of the folks we remember today."

"We can honor their lives by intensifying the fight for a nation free from hate-motivated violence and the murder of people for simply being themselves—and for a world where everyone can experience true freedom, justice and equality without any unnecessary barriers."

aChurch4Me observes Transgender Day of Remembrance

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Members of aChurch4Me, as well as community members from the transgender community and their friends and loved ones, gathered Nov. 20 at United Church of Rogers Park, 1545 W. Morse Ave., to observe the 2014 Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Rev. Jacki Belile of the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches, which co-sponsored the event, said the observance was to “remember

the children of God who journeyed forward and showed the world their authentic selves,” adding thanks for those gathered to “name the transgender children of God killed in violence this past year.”

The service lasted over an hour, with three readers listing the names of transgender women and men from around the world who have fallen victim to violence. Since details on many of the individuals were scarce, most were identified just by a first name; those who went completely unidentified were referred to simply



Attendees at Transgender Day of Remembrance Service light candles. Photo by Matt Simonette

as a “beloved child of God.”

After every tenth name was read, Cooper Knebel, a seminarian affiliated with aChurch4Me, lit a candle in remembrance.

The readers described the circumstances of the victims’ deaths, when that information had been made available; the brutality in those details sometimes left audience members loudly gasping. One victim, an eight-year-old trans girl from Brazil, was beaten to death by her father, who wanted to show her how to “be a man.” Another trans woman was dismembered and her various body parts left in far-reaching parts of her city. The locations of the violence were varied; crimes against trans persons took place in American cities like Baltimore, Detroit, Cincinnati and Fort Myers, Florida. Murders also took place in nations such as Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Uganda, Bangladesh, India, Guyana, Hungary, the United Kingdom and Canada.

When the reading was finished, several audience members lit candles themselves, and, as is customary on the Transgender Day of Remembrance, the audience was asked to leave in silence.

aChurch4Me has been observing the Transgender Day of Remembrance since the church’s inception, said its pastor, Rev. Jennie Kitch, after the service.

“It is so important to remember these people, because this is happening today,” she added. “Our brothers and sisters are not doing anything but attempting to live their lives and be who they want to be.”

Kitch noted that fewer of the murders listed seemed to be from the U.S. “Maybe these days of remembering are having some effect here,” she said. “Of course, there’s still a lot more work to be done.”

She added that the Transgender Day of Remembrance is “a powerful witness to what is going on out there, and reminder for us all not to forget it.”

World news

The president of Gambia has signed a **bill into law that calls for life imprisonment for some homosexual acts**, making Gambia the latest African country to codify harsh penalties for the gay community, ABC News reported. A copy of the legislation that the Associated Press obtained indicated that President Yahya Jammeh signed it Oct. 9, although no government officials have yet publicly notified the country of the new law. Jammeh, one of Africa’s most vocal anti-gay leaders, instructed gays and lesbians in 2008 to leave the country or risk decapitation.

The U.S. Senate confirmed an **openly gay Foreign Service officer to become U.S. ambassador to Vietnam**, The Washington Blade reported. Ted Osius, who was nominated by President Obama for the position in May, was confirmed by voice vote as part of a group of four ambassadorial nominees. Osius served in Asia for most of his 25 years in foreign service, working at U.S. embassies in Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and New Delhi, India. Osius is the seventh openly gay person nominated by Obama to serve as a U.S. ambassador.

In Italy, a **Catholic cardinal is warning that same-sex marriage may lead to the destruction of family structure** if it becomes culturally accepted by the Catholic Church, according to Catholic Online. Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, the head of the Italian Bishops Conference, gave a warning Nov. 10 that gay marriage is “a Trojan horse” that will weaken the family. The mayor of Rome held a ceremony to recognize 16 gay marriages that had been performed outside of Italy, and this event may have prompted the cardinal’s remarks.

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Coalition exploring storage issues for homeless youth

CHICAGO—A coalition of foundations and advocates has come together to address the issue of storage of personal belongings for youth experiencing homelessness in the Chicago area. Lara Brooks, a longtime advocate for youth, has been hired as a consultant to investigate ways to provide storage at existing facilities, as well as to explore options for increasing overall storage capacity in the region.

The Chicago Youth Storage Initiative is being supported with the leadership of The Pierce Family Foundation and Polk Bros Foundation, and participation of other foundations including The Knight Foundation. The project will be coordinated by Publisher Tracy Baim of Windy City Times, which hosted the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Summit earlier this year. At that summit, which was attended by more than 300 service providers and advocates, including 100 youth, the problems of storage were stressed by youth attendees.

"The Pierce Foundation wanted to tackle this because many youth advocates had expressed interest in coming together to discuss solutions to some of the issues raised by the film *The Homestretch*, and also by the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Summit," said Pierce Family Foundation Executive Director Marianne Philbin. "The Pierce Foundation likes to move quickly, and is often able to step up and make investments at the front end of new projects. This effort is something we believe can generate results that matter, within a relatively short period of time."

"People who don't have a stable place to live often don't have anyplace to store their belongings, which leaves them open to loss or theft of documents, medications, clothing, books and other personal items," said Debbie Reznick, senior program officer with Polk Bros Foundation. "Storage will not only help practically, but will be used as an opportunity to engage youth who are not currently accessing services."

How do you get to school or job interviews in clean clothes, manage medicines, books, paperwork or daily needs, when you have nowhere to keep your things? San Diego recently opened its Transitional Storage Center; Seattle, Los Angeles and Minneapolis have storage programs underway, and this committee thought similar models might be workable in Chicago.

Far from being a trivial issue, homeless youth have identified solving the storage problem as one of the most important ways to alleviate day-to-day suffering and improve the immediate quality of life for individuals in unpredictable and temporary living situations. People making use of storage centers in other cities have noted that the availability of storage frees them from one level of worry and stress, and on a very practical level, enables them to make it to appointments, go to class or seek employment, relieved of the burden of carrying their possessions with them.

Consultant Lara Brooks has been working with LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness in Chicago since 2004. Brooks worked at the Broadway Youth Center from 2005 to 2013 in direct service and leadership roles. Currently, Brooks is a consultant and works with youth programs, drop-in centers, and youth housing programs across the city. Brooks' current clients include All Chicago-Making Homelessness History, University of Chicago's Care2Prevent Pediatric and Adolescent HIV Program, Chicago Department of Family & Support Services, and Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health.

"Young people told us at the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Summit that addressing storage issues was a huge need in Chicago," Brooks



Lara Brooks. Photo by Matt Simonette

said. "During the next six months, we will identify creative solutions through strategic partnerships, youth-driven program design, and capacity-building efforts with the goal of significantly increasing storage access in 2015. Storage is a surprisingly complex issue to address and is critically important to the health and well-being of young people experiencing homelessness. Storage is especially critical for LGBTQ youth who are disproportionately affected by homelessness and even more so for transgender and gender non-conforming youth who deserve gender affirming access points to basic needs services."

The youth storage project will address issues impacting all youth, even though the impetus came from the LGBTQ youth summit. "These youth deserve accessible storage options to prevent loss or theft of legal documentation, school books, and clothing that is a stepping stone to educational and employment goals. They need a place to keep items of sentimental value—such as pictures of loved ones, diplomas, and letters from family members," said Brooks.

Heather Parish, program director with the Pierce Foundation, Flora Koppel, executive director of Unity Parenting, and community volunteer Michael Mock of Lincoln Financial Advisors will also serve on the committee.

For additional information, contact Lara Brooks at larasbrooks@gmail.com, or Tracy Baim at editor@windycitymediagroup.com.

Trevor Project event Dec. 7

The Trevor Project will honor NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt, Yahoo! and transgender singer-songwriter Skylar Kergil at the TrevorLIVE Los Angeles Dec. 7 at the Hollywood Palladium, a press release stated.

Among those slated to appear/perform are Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, Kelly Osbourne, Wentworth Miller, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Alex Newell and Katherine Heigl. The Trevor Project is a national organization providing crisis-intervention and suicide-prevention services to LGBTQ people 13-24.



From left: Action & Homeless Youth participants David Wywialowski, Javon Garcia, Imani Rupert, Tracy Baim and Matthew Gottesfeld. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer

UChicago students host homeless youth panel

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSDERFER

On Nov. 19, the University of Chicago's (UChicago's) LGBTQ Social Justice and Activism organization Queers United in Power (QUIP) hosted a panel discussion at the institution's Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality. The discussion centered around how to take action in the fight against LGBTQ youth homelessness. The university's students assembled a line-up of speakers who are each on the front lines in that struggle.

They included Director of Outreach and Health for the Night Ministry David Wywialowski alongside the organization's HIV outreach worker, Javon Garcia. They were joined by Howard Brown's Broadway Youth Center Director Imani Rupert and Windy City Times Publisher/Executive Editor Tracy Baim.

The panel was moderated by QUIP member and University of Chicago junior Matthew Gottesfeld.

According to Gottesfeld's fellow members—University of Chicago juniors Kris Rosental and Sara Rubinstein—education is a key component in the accomplishment of QUIP's mission and has taken a variety of forms including LGBTQ 101 house-teaching programs presented to dorms and professors designed to make the campus a more inclusive space. QUIP's off-campus work connects them to groups and advocacy organizations in the Chicago community in order to increase their involvement in queer social change work across the city.

The events QUIP hosts throughout the semester are fashioned with not only educational but motivational components. "I was researching LGBTQ homelessness at UIC this summer," Rosental said. "Something I noticed was that the research was very disconnected from practice and the people working on it didn't have any experience with LGBTQ homeless youth."

Meanwhile, Rubinstein spent her summer participating in an internship with Affinity helping them with follow-up work from their co-organization of the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Summit that Windy City Times hosted in early May.

Each of Rosental's and Rubinstein's experiences inspired them to organize the evening's discussion entitled Action & LGBTQ Homelessness.

Through answers to questions posed by Gottesfeld and audience members packed into the facility, the panel covered a vast spectrum of concerns and, between them, painted a clear picture of the kind of life an LGBTQ homeless youth faces every day.

"There are a host of things that make it really difficult for someone just to be young in this country," Wywialowski stated. "A lot of times, when we talk about LGBTQ people, we're looking at this one part of someone's identity."

"We just need to think about housing before we can think about other things," he added citing Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. "With the vulnerable population that we are seeing—some of the young LGBTQ folks who either left home because it's not a safe place or were thrown out because of being who they are—we're out there connecting with them."

"When you're starting to do work, you need to think about making things as low barrier as possible," Rupert counseled the audience. "A lot of times you have all these rules about what people have to do in order to get what they need, which is honestly the silliest thing. We just want to offer services that young people can have access to. [They] need a place to live before they think about getting sober or anything else."

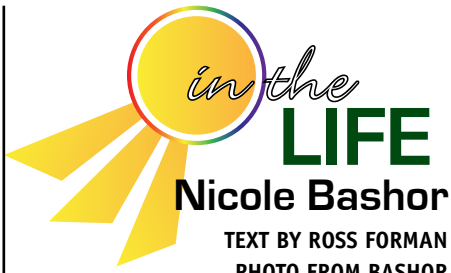
"More peer-to-peer support is needed," Baim added. "One of the biggest difficulties [LGBTQ homeless youth] have is that a lot of these social service agencies have huge staff turnover. So continuity of adult liaisons or mentors is difficult and a huge barrier to success."

"A lot of times they've created their own support systems, their own families in the street," Garcia said. "They've told me that 'I would rather be here on the streets with people I know and love than be living somewhere where I don't know anyone and no-one's looking out for me.'"

"We have a difficult time where our program exists because neighbors don't like to see people like us in a lot of places," Rupert said. "If a young person is homeless, trans* and of color, there's a lot of times when people get really mean. They say 'we don't like people that look like you.'"

In calling the students to action, Baim suggested a challenge to educational leaders in Chicago. "There are allegedly around 19,000 homeless youth in the Chicago Public School system," she said. "At the college level, the numbers are huge. We need to charge university and college presidents in the Chicago area to come to a summit with their housing managers and talk about how colleges themselves can come up with solutions for housing their youth."

"We need really smart people who really care about doing this kind of work," Rupert said. "This is an excellent opportunity to change the world to make [life] easier for someone. It's really important work and it's good to do."



TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
PHOTO FROM BASHOR

Hometown

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; has lived in Chicago for 13 years

Neighborhood

South Loop

Relationship Status

"I have a girlfriend."

Hobbies

"Traveling, attending concerts and music generally, cycling, and eating/drinking."

Job title

Intellectual-property attorney at Quarles & Brady

Favorite sports teams

Pittsburgh Steelers and Pittsburgh Penguins

Favorite pizza topping

Giardiniera

Favorite TV shows

Top Chef, Shark Tank and The Good Wife

Preferred drink at a bar

Craft beer

Little-known fact

"I've been to 48 states and most of Canada; I still haven't made it to North Dakota or Alaska."

Nicole Bashor has been an attorney for seven years and with her current firm for the past three years—and is award-winning.

She was named an Illinois Super Lawyer Rising Star in intellectual property, receiving the 40 Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 award this year.

"I love my job and the challenges that come with it," she said. "I help companies protect their brands, research and development efforts through intellectual property [patents, trademarks and copyrights]," she said. "I work with national and international companies in many industries, including manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, food and beverage, fashion, medical devices, and consumer products."

The best part of her job is just the diversity. "Working with such a wide variety of clients and solving the interesting problems that they face," she said. "I love being able to provide legal advice to my clients that is tailored specifically with their business objectives in mind."

The worst part is the time. "Like most of us, I wish that there were more [hours] in the day," she said. "I work with so many interesting clients and I want to help them all personally. Unfortunately, I find my time more limited than I would like and can't always solve a problem myself."

Bashor said she is "grateful" to have been honored with the award, "but I also realize that change does not happen as the result of just one person—I'm surrounded by fantastic, driven, and passionate individuals who inspire me to volunteer and try to make a difference through various organizations, [such as] Equality Illinois and the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC).

"It is humbling [knowing] that only 40 LGBT individuals receive the award nationally each year. I appreciate the public recognition, but I'm more proud of the fact that we have gay marriage in Illinois, stronger protections against bullying in school, and numerous other statewide and national initiatives thanks to a coalition of amazing people that extends far beyond myself."

Bashor has served in numerous capacities on the LAGBAC board, including chair of the mentoring committee, chair of the community



outreach committee, chair of the women's committee, and most recently, vice president. "The female membership of LAGBAC has grown significantly in the past few years now that we have [several] female-friendly events annually that are organized by the women's committee," she said. "Additionally, after numerous years of obstacles, the community outreach committee is working with the Center on Halsted to offer legal seminars specifically designed for our community. I'm proud of the work that these committees have accomplished over the past few years while I've been the chair."

National news

Seattle Pride released a press release mourning the passing of Spokane, Washington, native Brad Crelia, 29. Crelia—who was recently named to the 2014 POZ100 list—co-founded the online magazine HIVster.com with his friend Jesse James Kendall six months after learning he was HIV-positive himself. "The Seattle HIV/AIDS community has lost a defining voice in the passing of Brad Crelia," Seattle Pride President Eric Bennett said. "Our thoughts are with Brad's family and friends during this difficult time."

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declined to stay a district court ruling that struck down South Carolina's same-sex-marriage ban, Reuters reported. South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, a Republican, said in a statement his office would ask the U.S. Supreme Court to stay the district court's ruling—but that court upheld the appeal court's decision. South Carolina is now the 34th state to allow same-sex marriage.

Pride at Work Chicago, a coalition of LGBTQ persons in labor seeking to build LGBTQ worker power, called on the state legislature to take immediate action and vote to raise the minimum wage during this year's legislative veto session, according to a press release. The group stated, in part, "LGBTQ persons exist in every type of job and every level of education, income, and opportunity. There are both wealthy and poor LGBTQ people, and they live their lives with varying levels of visibility, or being out. Yet LGBTQ persons have higher rates of poverty and unemployment than non-LGBTQ people"

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VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY
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Community Marketing, Inc.



**RIZI
XAVIER
TIMANE**

Reflections on the Transgender Day of Remembrance

Every Nov. 20, transgender individuals and their allies around the world commemorate the Transgender Day of Remembrance. But make no mistake: this is not a holiday, and the ceremonies we hold are certainly not celebrations. Rather, the Day of Remembrance is a solemn time when we can come together and reflect upon the battles we have fought and continue to fight and those individuals we have lost—the transgender and other gender nonconforming individuals who were innocent victims of violence because of who they were, because they had the audacity to live as their authentic selves.

I would like to say I've never experienced this extreme sort of prejudice before, but like most trans people, I have my stories. While thank God there have never been any attempts on my life, there have been people around me who thought I would be better off—or they would be better off—if I were dead. While I was a university student in London, another young person studying there passed away, and some of my fellow African students (I am from Nigeria) made a point of saying, loudly and closely enough that they knew I would hear, that it should have been me instead.

Besides the defeating personal implications of hearing such a thing, this incident continues to be a sad reminder to me of how deeply many people undervalue transgender lives and how at any moment, someone out there could hate us enough to kill us. That it could easily be our pictures shown at memorial services on the Transgender Day of Remembrance. However, this is part of what the day is for: to remind us that we all share this heavy burden—that we are not alone in our persecution and suffering.

Is this comforting? In some ways, yes; it's always a comfort to know someone else feels as we do. But it's also problematic. That we even have to have such a day is, in my opinion, shameful not for those of us who partici-

pate or those we remember but for society as a whole—for the culture of conformity and hatred that keeps us hidden within ourselves, afraid to come out for fear of rejection and outright violence. I don't want a day of remembrance; I want a pride day, like the LGBT community has, or no day at all because the murders of transgender individuals have ended in every nation around the world.

How can we make this happen? How can we eradicate the need for a Transgender Day of Remembrance? In general we need more allies, more compassion, more understanding, and more tolerance. We need more safe spaces in which we can raise our voices and share our stories. We need mandatory diversity training in schools and universities, police departments, hospitals, and businesses so everyone will be aware of and understand transgender individuals and issues. We need nationwide laws to ban discrimination based on gender identity and presentation. We need all this for our safety. Most of all, we simply need the deaths to stop.

Dr. Rizi Xavier Timane is a transgender minister, author, recording artist, and an outspoken advocate for the LGBT community.

LETTERS

Immigration reaction

On Nov. 20, President Obama announced that he would seek executive action to protect some undocumented immigrants, in light of the House of Representatives' inaction regarding comprehensive immigration reform.

The president had previously warned that if the House did not pass immigration reform, he would ask the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to look into administrative actions he could take without Congress. Obama delayed his plans until after the midterm elections, angering many Latino leaders, with some warning that this would yield a lower turnout rate of Latinos on Election Day. Finally this past week, Obama delivered on his promise.

For some, this was truly a victory. The immigrant community and its allies placed enough pressure, and the administration finally responded. For many, however, this was a bittersweet moment: While a significant number of undocumented immigrants will benefit from the program, the majority will actually continue to be at risk for deportations. The campaign to stop deportations was led by many young immigrant activists, even though several leaders of the immigrant-rights movement kept insisted it was a failed strategy. However, we've always known that when our families are being torn apart, we will fight no matter what to protect them. Thus, we received some good news by the Obama administration, but we know that much work lies ahead.

The president's plan includes some form of deferred action for undocumented immigrants who have been in the country for more than five years, or are a parent of a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident (LRP) child. For those who qualify, they will be safe from deportations and receive a work permit for up to three years—after paying a fine. In addition, the executive action also expands the current Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program by removing an age limit—meaning, anyone who was brought to the country before the age of 15, regardless of their current age, can apply for DACA. Previously, only individuals under the age of 30 could apply. In total,

an estimated 4-5 million undocumented immigrants will now be able to live their lives without having to fear that they would be separated from their families.

For LGBTQ undocumented immigrants, the issue continues to be a complicated one. According to the Williams Institute, there are approximately 267,000 LGBTQ undocumented adult immigrants. Since the Supreme Court struck down section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) last June, undocumented immigrants in same-sex relationships with a U.S.-citizen, can petition to begin their process for residency. There are approximately 24,700 binational same-sex couples (meaning one partner is a U.S. citizen, the other is not), and there are 11,700 same-sex couples where both members are undocumented.

The latter sets of couples, therefore, cannot petition to gain lawful status. But they could possibly qualify under Obama's new plan. Approximately 22,500 undocumented immigrants in a same-sex relationship are raising children. In the majority of those couples, about 58 percent, both partners are undocumented. While there are some options for LGBTQ immigrants in relationships and those raising children, they only account for less than half of the entire LGBTQ immigrant population. This means that a majority of LGBTQ undocumented immigrants are still at risk, and quite possibly could be even bigger targets.

In order for Obama to get support from moderates, he had to ensure the U.S. public that safety continued to be his priority. Therefore, he will continue to deport those that his administration considers a threat and criminals. Although the president has shown to be a strong ally to the LGBTQ community, there might be some unintended consequences in his enforcement policies. Our community continues to be criminalized simply for engaging in survival work, and we continue to be targets through HIV criminalization laws. By being victims of systemic oppression, LGBTQ immigrants could ultimately get caught in deportation proceedings. ALMA has joined many other LGBTQ organizations and have called to put an end to the deportations of LGBTQ immigrants. For many, this could mean being sent back to the

closet, and for some it could be a death sentence.

While we celebrate with our community partners in this victory, we remain cautious about how this will affect the LGBTQ community. As a founding member of the LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Coalition, ALMA has and will continue to work with our community partners here in Illinois and across the country to educate about the intersections, we will continue to work with our elected officials to ensure they are aware how immigration policy affects LGBTQ individuals, and we will continue to push to stop all deportations and to win a compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform, no matter how long it takes.

The Advocacy Committee at ALMA
 Association of Latino/as Motivating Action

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GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by
Katie Sikora

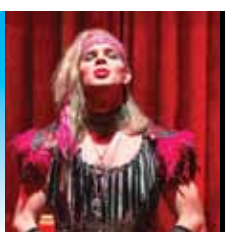
SWEET RELEASE

AIDS Foundation of Chicago's World of Chocolate (with one sugary treat pictured above) will take place Dec. 4. See page 29.

THEATER

Show and 'Tale.
Page 15

Photo from Dee Snider's Rock and Roll
Christmas Tale by Justin Barbin Photography



DISH

Come into my Parlor.
Page 28

Parlor Pizza Bar.
PR photo



MILESTONES

Queercast marks
#600.

Page 22

Photo of Amy Matheny
from Matheny



OFF-BROADWAY

'Sylvester' musical: Serving realness

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

Anthony Wayne has appeared in fantastic, Tony-winning Broadway shows including *Pippin*, *The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert*, and *Anything Goes*. Yet the openly gay, African-American Harlem resident admits there aren't a lot of roles out there for people of color his age, despite his formidable talents as a dancer, singer and actor.

So, in collaboration with his boyfriend, celebrity fashion stylist Kendall Bowman, Wayne decided to create a role and show entitled *Mighty Real: A Fabulous Sylvester Musical* to spotlight his range of abilities—and resuscitate a groundbreaking gay pop culture legend in the process.

"Sylvester was against the grain," said the Virginia-born Wayne. "He was a man who stood in his truth and who was able to pursue and do great things no matter what he went through. This was a chance to do something outside of the box. To do a leading role, to bring something to life, and celebrate the man at the same time."

Dubbed "The Queen of Disco," Sylvester (born Sylvester James Jr. in Los Angeles) performed some of the '70s most enduring and recognizable disco tunes and gay anthems including "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)," "Do Ya Wanna Funk," "Dance (Disco Heat)," and a soulful cover of Patti LaBelle's "You Are My Friend." In fact, June 25th saw a CD and double pink vinyl 12" release of *Mighty Real: Greatest Dance Hits*, featuring a new Ralphie Rosario dub remix.

More factoid realness: Sylvester performed

with San Francisco's legendary *The Cockettes* troupe during the early '70s, while big-voiced divas Martha Wash and Izora Rhodes flanked him during the late '70s as backup singers *Two Tons of Fun* (the ladies later went on to form *The Weather Girls*, of "It's Raining Men" fame). He gender-bent with flamboyant clothing and makeup, helping pave the way for RuPaul (and, surely, so much "realness" being served today). In 1988 he died from AIDS-related complications, but not without leaving a legacy and oft-covered music catalog behind.

In the show, which recently ran off-Broadway's Theatre at St. Clement's (423 W. 46th St.), Wayne channeled Sylvester, taking us through his life's highs and lows via monologues and favorite songs. For even those familiar with Sylvester, the show is rich with in-depth, little known information. "And everything is fabulous," adds Bowman, who designed the glam outfits.

The show entails a first artistic collaboration between the romantic couple, who first met online circa 2010 while Wayne was appearing in Broadway's *Priscilla* as Jimmy ... although meeting offline almost didn't happen, Bowman admitted.

"I was kind of skeptical," Bowman said. "He was on Broadway and wanted to meet after his show, and I wasn't sure why he wanted to meet after 11:30 at night. I'm like, honey, Central Park after 11:30 at night, nothing's gonna happen."

However, not only did they finally meet, but Bowman showed up to see Wayne sing a number from *RENT* at a Town Hall event and was



Anthony Wayne as Sylvester.

struck by his talent. Right then, the seed for *Mighty Real* was sown. "Kendall turned to me and said, 'we need to do something, people need to hear your voice,'" Wayne recalled. "The idea of the show was already bouncing around, and we went from there."

A 2010 episode of VH1's music biography series, *Unsung*, devoted to Sylvester proved an invaluable inspiration and wellspring of facts and information. More details were culled from research and talks with Sylvester's surviving friends and colleagues. Wayne got to work writing the show, while Bowman, who has styled the likes of Kanye West ("He's laid back, he's not as crazy as people make him out to be," he attests), re-created some of Sylvester's actual costumes, including the open-front white jacket seen in publicity materials.

"Sylvester would ride around on a moped with a fur mink coat on," Bowman said. "It was always about fur and diamonds and glamorous things. We tried to incorporate all that into the show. Not only with him—we did the same thing for the *Two Tons of Fun*. Every outfit is a recreation."

To portray *Two Tons'* Izora and Martha, the couple enlisted two of Wayne's Priscilla co-stars, Anastacia McCleskey and Jacqueline B. Arnold. One could say this was serendipity, as the pair performed "It's Raining Men" in that show, giving them a sort of warm-up for the roles. Priscilla served as a sort of warm-up for Wayne as well, since offstage he tends to be introverted and quiet. "Being around all the personalities at Priscilla, all the over the topness helped me create the Sylvester image and essence," he said. "It was the glitz and glamour and bigness of who he was. This is me and you're gonna love it."

An early, concert-style version of the show—titled "Fabulous, One More Time: A Sylvester Concert"—was performed in September 2012 at NYC's (le) Poisson Rouge. Further pre-runs took place in Washington, D.C. and in Miami at the Versace Mansion. "We slept in the Versace beds, too!" Bowman added. "It was fabulous—gold everywhere." The Off-Broadway incarnation of the production is now fleshed-out narratively, less a concert than full-bodied musical, with "more story, more songs, and more fun."

Of course, the people connected with the show hope everyone will come see the show, and savor a dose of essential disco realness. "People who love music, who want to see fabulousness," Bowman said. "It's not a traditional theater setting. After the overture everyone is standing up. It's like a party!"

Mighty Real: A Fabulous Sylvester Musical will hit New York City again Jan. 18, 2015, and then will be in San Francisco. Visit <http://www.FabulousSylvester.com> or www.Ticketmaster.com.



Porgy and Bess. Photo by Dan Rest

OPERA REVIEW

Porgy and Bess

Libretto: DuBose and Dorothy Heyward
with Ira Gershwin; Score: George Gershwin
At: Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker Dr.
Tickets: 312-827-5600 or www.lyricopera.org; \$20-\$249
Runs through Dec. 20

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Porgy and Bess may be considered by many critics to be “The Great American Opera,” but that hasn’t stopped ongoing debate about how and where this 1935 opus by composer George Gershwin should be produced. The Lyric Opera of Chicago’s current revival of director Francesca Zambello’s production isn’t in the direct firing line of the most recent controversy, but it inadvertently affects Windy City audiences.

Composer/lyricist Stephen Sondheim publicly condemned the 2012 Broadway revival of Porgy and Bess when he got word that director Diane Paulus was making changes and cuts with playwrights Suzan Lori-Parks and Diedre Murray to make the work more palpable for today’s musical theater audiences. The score was also reworked for a drastically reduced orchestra and keys were lowered, all with the permission of the Gershwin estate.

Despite the controversy, Paulus’ Porgy and Bess would win the 2012 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical, later prompting a national tour that went out in 2013. But Chicago audiences never got to see that tour, most likely because the Lyric had already planned its full-scale revival for 2014.

Having seen Porgy and Bess on Broadway in 2012, the Lyric’s 2008 production and Court Theatre’s intimate 2011 staging rescored for a jazz ensemble, I’m glad to see the work performed again with Gershwin’s own original orchestrations with a large chorus to get the full effect of its aural grandeur. And that’s even though Zambello’s production features a number of minor cuts to Gershwin’s full score, which would only be noticeable to die-hard fans.

The Lyric’s Porgy and Bess is also ideally cast with unamplified singers doing plenty of vocal justice to the score. Bass-baritone Eric Owens imbues his beggar Porgy with plenty of burished vocal power, which contrasts and blends with the gorgeous floating upper range of soprano Adina Aaron as the good-time girl Bess.

Tenor Jermaine Smith returns to the role of Sportin’ Life, once again proving invaluable with his sly and convincing turn. Also making

an impressive return from 2008 is baritone Eric Greene, though this time he’s graduated from the family man Jake (assumed securely now by Norman Garrett) to the hulking villain Crown.

If there are drawbacks to the Lyric’s Porgy and Bess, it’s with the level of acting. Though vocally impeccable, the Serena of soprano Karen Slack was marred by a performance that indicated her tragic character’s emotions instead of fully embodying them. The big fight scenes choreographed by Chuck Coyl also came off as very stagey.

Yet the Lyric’s revival of Porgy and Bess presents Gershwin’s masterpiece on a grand and gripping operatic scale. And for that, Chicago audiences should be very grateful.

CRITICS’ PICKS

Camelot, Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, through Jan. 4. Director/choreographer Alan Souza shakes up the classic 1960 Lerner and Loewe musical with a welcome revisionist approach that emphasizes the show’s sexuality and violence. SCM

The Inside, MPAAT at Greenhouse Theater Center, through Nov. 30. Breaking with stereotype is a lonely job, says the soliloquizing heroine of Lydia R. Diamond’s early observation of privileged north shore vie-de-bohème. MSB

Strandline, A Red Orchid Theatre, through Dec. 7. Abbie Spallen’s Ireland is not the nostalgic ruritania we Yankees are accustomed to seeing, but a post-civil war society as amoral and treacherous as the Balkans or Ukraine. MSB

Titanic, Griffin Theatre at Theater Wit, through Dec. 7. This beautifully sung and intimate production makes a very strong case for Maury Yeston’s five-time Tony-winning musical based upon the 1912 maritime disaster to be staged in a small theater rather than a big Broadway barn. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Point and Shoot

Playwright: Jake L. Freund and Liz Ellison
At: Cold Basement Dramatics at The Den, 1333 N. Milwaukee
Tickets: www.pointandshoot.brownpapertickets.com; \$15
Runs through: Dec. 7

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The mission of Cold Basement Dramatics is “telling stories about things we hide from ourselves and others,” but this tale of a 1950s gay man isn’t quite on-target although Point and Shoot is well-produced. Unlike many low-budget off-Loop shows, it’s attentive to period design details from the bobby socks and dungarees of teenager Diana (Sonja Lynn Mata), to men’s undershirts (athletic shirts vs. the ubiquitous T-shirt of later decades), to the black dial telephone and vintage camera. Kudos to director Jake L. Freund and his designers.

The 75-minute play itself is a mixed bag, although convincingly acted with crisp and pithy dialogue. Reportedly based on real events, it was developed and improvised by the ensemble before Freund and Liz Ellison finalized it. It concerns John Locke (Alex Lavelle), perhaps 30, who moves to Ocean Beach, California in 1955. Thing is, he isn’t hiding anything. The word “gay” isn’t spoken (nor more standard 1950’s epithets such as fag, queer, pansy or fruit), but the noisy parties John throws (often inviting sailors from the nearby naval base), the photos on his

walls and the arty films he has made leave little doubt. So the play isn’t about the closet or hiding who you are.

Rather, it’s about John’s friendship with Diana Hopper, the daughter of his straight-laced neighbors. She’s 15 when the play begins (although her precise age isn’t made clear, nor is the passage of time). At 18, Diana loses her virginity to a sailor at one of John’s parties. Her parents—especially her father—blame John and force Diana and the hapless sailor (Nicholas Caesar) into a shotgun wedding, which John tries to forestall, enduring a brutal beating from Diana’s father (Stephen Dunn). There also are three ghost-like former lovers of John, whom he left under circumstances not precisely spelled out. The gist of the play is that John, with his before-times openness and generous personality, is an agent-provocateur who seems to create messes he can’t clean up and leaves behind.

Point and Shoot is an interesting stew but has too much going on for its length. John’s gayness is coincidental to the chief storyline—his relationship with Diana—and we see too little of Diana’s parents to know how their attitude toward John evolves. Then community scold Mrs. McAllen (a comic cameo by Mark Maxwell, who doubles as a former lover) appears only once—to no effect. She needs to have a purpose. Actually, John needs a purpose as the play’s hero, some decisive action. Right now, he’s a passive participant in the key events. We need to know more (for example, the backstory with the lovers) in order to understand what John hides from himself.



Lady Balls. Photo by Shannon Jenkins, Flaming City Photography

THEATER REVIEW

Lady Balls

Playwright: John Loos
At: Annoyance Theater, 851 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773-697-9693;
www.theannoyance.com; \$20
Runs through: Jan. 22

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Playwright John Loos was once a photographer for his school yearbook—duty endowing him with an insider’s view of the “unchecked aggression, emotion, joy, loss and friendship” associated with women’s collegiate basketball. His account of the fictional Tallahassee Lady Fireballs encompasses all of these themes, paying homage to the tropes of sweat-and-soap epics while still delivering plenty of Annoyance’s trademark bawdiness.

The Fireballs have taken the state championship every year except 1998, the year of a stadium shooting. Their success is attributed to the coaching of Debra Champion, whose win-at-any-cost obsession stems from Electra conflicts with her abusive dad, uneasiness over her lingering attraction to rival coach Linda Silverslit and confusion over her own biological ambiguity. (WNBA buffs looking for parallels to the career of the legendary Pat Summitt can stop here.) Coach Deb’s endocrine system, you see, produces an overabundance of testosterone, leading to the growth of embryonic testicles within her ovaries—hence “lady balls.” Upon learning that these extraneous organs

may someday migrate through her body like deadly blood clots, her priorities undergo a change toward more humanitarian goals.

Her young players are no less perplexed, facing such distractions as nightmare visions of opponents crippled by rage-fueled fouls and pregnancies incurred during post-game hot tub soaks (off-duty jocks go to “gentlemen’s clubs,” but hoopster-girls shake out at spas), not to mention a team medic who never saw a sports injury that couldn’t be cured by micro-massage in—um, just the right places. Even the villains are granted a kind of justification, as when Gwendolyn Brooke Shields, the New Age widow of the school’s late athletic director, vows to avenge the destruction of her art center to make way for a new gymnasium.

Steering this scenario in the role of Coach Deb is Loos himself, his mesomorphic physique and stentorian baritone undiminished by wig, padding, scarlet high-heeled pumps and, at one point, merkin-embellished panty hose. Sayjal Joshi, Becca Levin and Julie Marchiano likewise create scene-stealing characters, and the entire ensemble is to be commended for keeping the scattershot mayhem firmly grounded in its premise. As in an actual match, there is almost too much action packed into the show’s 90-minute-plus-intermission running time to absorb in one sitting. (Did I mention the individual flashbacks, the expository songs provided by stageside musicians, Deb’s appearance on The View and a brief history of women athletes dating from antiquity?) Just mind your own corner’s play-in-progress and remember that, ultimately, it’s the game that counts.



Dee Snider's Rock and Roll Christmas Tale. Photo by Justin Barbin Photography

THEATER REVIEW

Dee Snider's Rock and Roll Christmas Tale

Playwright: book, music and lyrics by Dee Snider
At: Broadway In Chicago at the Broadway Playhouse, 175 E. Chestnut St.
Tickets: 800-775-2000;
www.broadwayinchicago.com; \$30-\$90
Runs through: Jan. 4

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Paula Killen's Music Kills a Memory features a simultaneous harmony medley of "Superstar" and "Piece of My Heart"—a feat relying on the melodies sharing the same chord progression. After Dee Snider discovered similar structural parallels existing in certain traditional Christmas anthems and his own hit-making compositions for the 1980s rock band Twisted Sister—well, what could be more logical than a nostalgic mash-up combining both musical genres?

The skinnier-than-a-D-string plot revolves around a band called Daisy Cutter—misspelled "Daisy Cuter" to the chagrin of its members—whom success has eluded for too long. "Other bands have a following—yours has a leaving!" declares the club owner, who gives them until Christmas eve to attract some customers. At the urging of burnt-out ex-rocker Scratch, lead singer D.D. calls upon his belief in a talisman bestowed on him by Ozzy Osborne to orchestrate himself and his reluctant bandmates a contract with the most ruthless A&R agent of

them all: Lucifer himself.

Then the fun begins: No sooner do the eternally-damned quartet strike up their signature rendition of "Can't Stop Rock and Roll" than they suddenly find themselves playing "Rest You Merry, Gentlemen." Then "Raise Some Hell" mysteriously segues into "Silver Bells." These new hybrid arrangements meet with popular recognition, but D.D. refuses to dilute his art's fundamentally satanic ethos—indeed, the climax of the evening's score is an instrumental duel between "We're Not Gonna Take It" and "Come All Ye Faithful" (with reinforcements from "Jingle Bells"—go on, sing it and see for yourself). This theological ambivalence is soon resolved by the band's dyslexic legacy, however, with everyone emerging the wiser for their experience.

Composer Snider appears onstage in the dual roles of the Narrator and an exorcist forced to switch liturgical sides, leading an exuberant young cast whom he assures us all play their own instruments. A subplot involving the Cutter drummer's unspoken crush on the club boss-lady provides opportunities for a quiet ballad (and send-up of tutu-fantasy dream sequences), as does the pep-talk prompted by D.D.'s existential crisis—both sung with steely sweetness by Keely Vasquez. The 90-minute text could still use some tweaking to make every word count, but a script needing only one rewrite and an ensemble needing only to lose their big-budget press-night jitters is already well on its way to becoming a welcome compromise in the sugar vs. snark holiday entertainment wars.

SPOTLIGHT



Writer and performer David Sedaris skyrocketed to fame with his essay **The Santaland Diaries**, which detailed the quirky ins and outs of performing as an elf in Macy's Department Store in New York. First it was broadcast via radio on NPR, then published and eventually transformed into a hit one-man show by director Joe Mantello. Mitchell Fain returns to star in the Chicago production, which has been the purview of Theater Wit for many holiday seasons.

The Santaland Diaries continues now through Sunday, Dec. 28, at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. Tickets are \$24-\$36; call 773-975-8150 or visit www.theater-wit.org. Photo of Fain by Johnny Knight

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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 breast-feed. 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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Patient Information

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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 (Vasacor[®], 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[®])

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- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal[®])
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- 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.

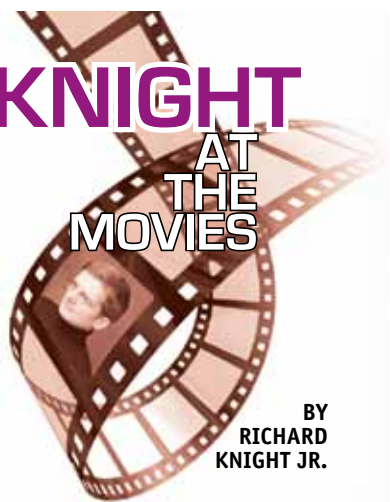
This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235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

Issued: October 2013



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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT JR.

Happy Valley; film notes

Amir Bar-Lev's documentaries *My Kid Could Paint That* and *The Tillman Story* brilliantly illuminated the real stories behind the media's pumped-up coverage of their subject matters—and he does much the same in **Happy Valley**, his documentary about the fallout that befell Penn State University and the school's beloved football coach Joe Paterno in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky child sex-abuse scandal of 2011.

Unlike the first two films, which featured clearly defined villains, Bar-Lev sidesteps the monstrous Sandusky, who was second in command to Paterno and whose criminal behavior went unchecked for years. (He was convicted of 45 counts of child abuse in 2012.) Instead, the film attempts to examine more complex questions in a clear-eyed manner: whether the rampant football fever in the ironically named town in Pennsylvania seemingly swept aside anything that even remotely threatened said obsession and was a factor in the case.

There's also the question if Paterno—who reportedly detested his second in command and who clearly didn't do enough when he was informed about Sandusky's criminal behavior—was too severely punished after his inaction was brought to light. After an illustrious career spanning nearly 40 years in which he was so revered he was referred to as "Saint Joe," did Paterno's punishment fit the crime? Was the NCAA too harsh in its reprisals against Penn State, and make it a scapegoat in what one on-camera subject dubs a "shaming spectacle?"

To explore those questions and several others, Bar-Lev interviews students, faculty members, townspeople and surviving members of Paterno's family—his two sons and his widow who decry (naturally) the abuse but who also (naturally, as well) express grief and bitterness at Paterno's name being dragged in the mud and for being promptly cut out of history—a history of winning seasons and titles that he oversaw.

The anger, guilt and dismay on the part of the fans is palpable in a sequence in front of a statue of the coach in which several spectators are determined to get their photos with Paterno's sculpture in spite of the presence of a silent protester holding a handwritten sign tagging the once-esteemed man as a liar and pedophile enabler. The confrontations between this anonymous man and a stream of Penn Staters who hurl abuse and epithets at him gets right at the heart of the thorny, moral issues of the case. (The sculpture was subsequently removed and the defensive fans remain.)

The only victim identified in the film is Matt Sandusky, who was adopted out of a harsh poverty that he vividly recalls. Association with Jerry Sandusky was akin to winning a "golden ticket," Matt says; although he was abused early on, the film shows his loyalty to not only his adopted family (who have since disowned him), and his realization that blowing the whistle would permanently alter the landscape of the town kept him silent. Still reeling from the fallout of the case and Paterno's firing, the NCAA's heavy financial fine and game sanctions (stripping away years of victories and a

ban from participating in bowl games for four years) for Penn State has, indeed, altered life in Happy Valley.

Whether viewers will find that the punishments fit the crimes or that Paterno and Penn State were unjustly targeted because of their close proximity to the guilty party, Bar-Lev's underlying suggestion certainly resonates: that in a place where a game is elevated to the level of religion, with basic morals thrown under the bus in the process—as seems to have been the case at Penn State—something is clearly out of whack.

Happy Valley is having its Chicago premiere run beginning Friday, Nov. 28, at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St. http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/happy_valley

Film notes:

—Out director-co-writer Ira Sach's **Love Is Strange**, the story of the travails that beset an elderly gay couple (the marvelous John Lithgow and Alfred Molina) after they legally marry in Manhattan, is not only one of the best "gay movies" of the year—it's one of the best, period. This tender, beautifully observed romantic drama that tackles a lot of other issues along the way is back in Chicago with a feature run at the Gene Siskel Film Center beginning Friday, Nov. 28. http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/love_is_strange

—The hills are alive again: Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, those multiple Von Trapp kiddies dressed in clothes made from curtains and a bevy of singing nuns are making their annual return to the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., when **Sound of Music Sing-a-Long** returns for multiple screening events beginning Friday, Nov. 28, and continuing through Sunday, Dec. 7 (at various times). The screenings feature onscreen lyrics, fun packs and a costume contest, so get out your wimples, girls. <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com/collections/sound-of-music-sing-a-long-2014>

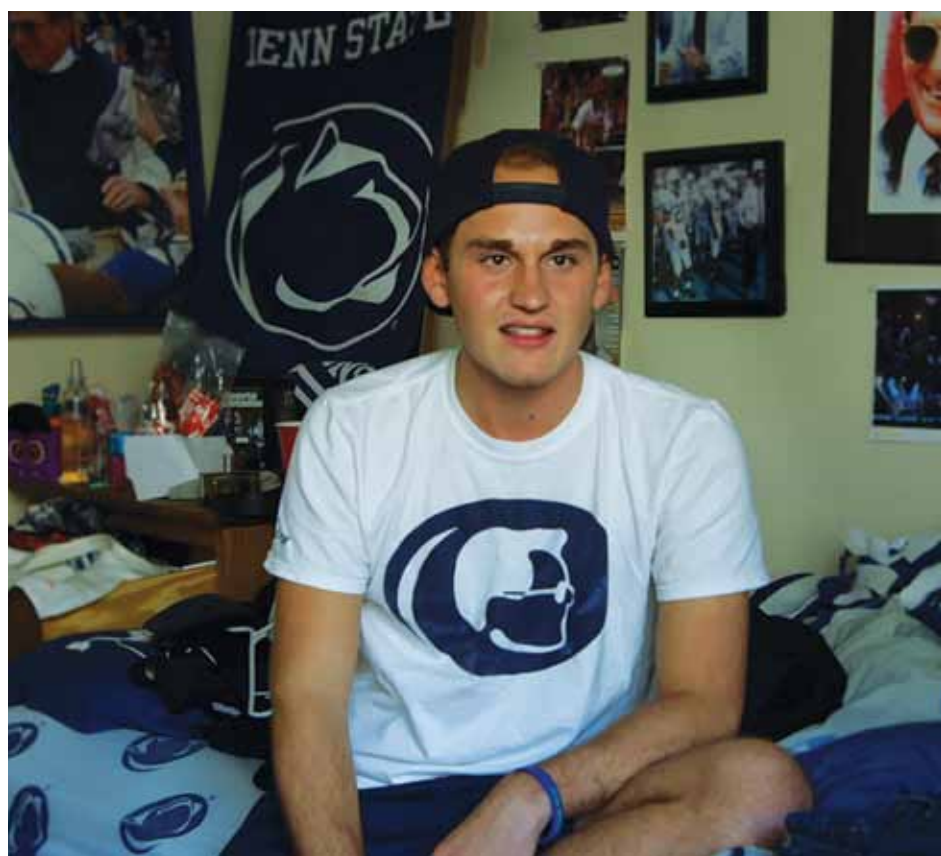
—Save the date: The holiday season kicks off with back-to-back matinee screenings of **Scrooge & Marley** (which I co-wrote and directed, and which Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim executive-produced) at the Music Box on Saturday, Dec. 6, and Sunday, Dec. 7 at noon. Each screening will feature a festive pre-show carol sing-a-long. http://www.musicboxtheatre.com/events/scrooge-and-marley-entry_date-formaty-m-j-d-entry_date-formatmathia

—Before *Moonstruck*, before *Mask*, even before playing a lesbian in *Silkwood*, Cher made her acting mark in Robert Altman's 1982 film **Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean**. Based on the critically acclaimed stage play (also directed by Altman) by Ed Graczyk and featuring an amazing cast of actors—Sandy Dennis, Kathy Bates, Karen Black, Marta Heflin, Sudie Bond and the openly gay Mark Patton (who went on to star in the quasi-gay-themed *Nightmare on Elm Street 2*)—the movie has finally been released for home viewing (on a terrific looking Blu-ray from Olive Films).

The material focuses on a reunion of former James Dean fan club members who gather in the sun-baked, dusty Texas drug store that once hosted their meetings. Naturally, long-gestating secrets are finally revealed, old wounds reopened and hidden desires made plain. One of those secrets involves the sexual transition of one of the characters. Although it's rather talky, Altman nevertheless finds ingenious ways to keep things moving and the performances are emotionally compelling. <http://www.olivefilms.com/films/come-back-to-the-5-dime-jimmy-dean-jimmy-dean-blu-ray/>

—Two queer-themed movies available on DVD and online streaming worth noting: *Del Shores'* film version of his critically acclaim play **Southern Baptist Sissies** (which played at Reeling in 2013) and T.S. Slaughter's raunchy, ribald comedy **The Gays**.

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



Tyler Estright of the Penn State Class of 2013 in *Happy Valley*. Courtesy of Music Box Films



Storie Devereaux in "Black Vocality II." Photo by Vern Hester

Musical event examines the Black experience

BY VERN HESTER

On Nov. 18-19, The Columbia College Center for Black Music Research (CBMR) presented "Black Vocality II: Cultural Memory, Identities, and Practices of African-American Singing Styles."

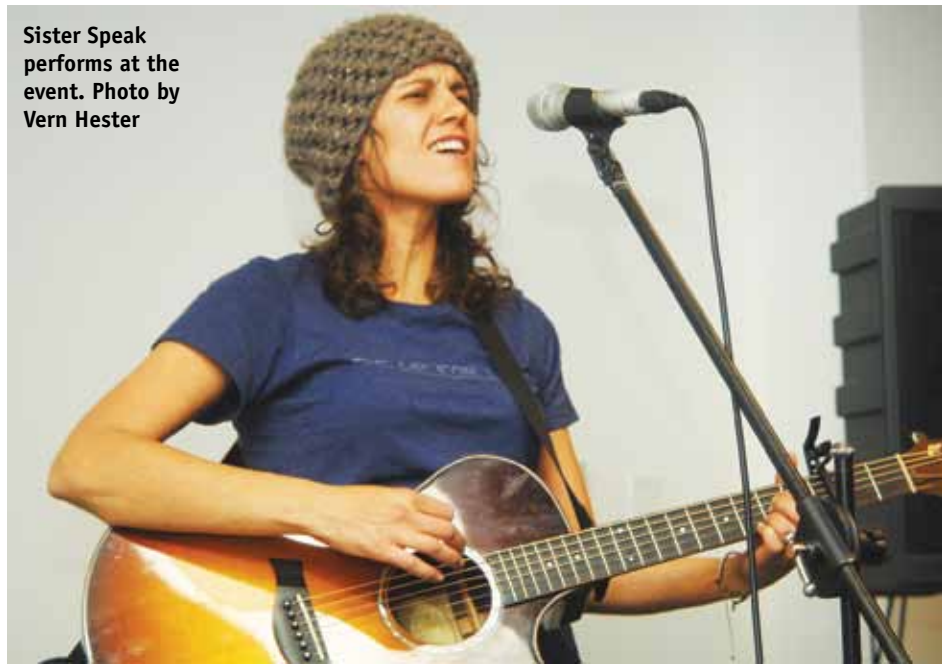
The event presented a series of scholars, singers and vocal performers who explored the ways in which singing has shaped, defined and re-contextualized the Black experience. Far from being an arid academic symposium, *Black Vocality II* included a beat-boxing workshop; discussions on Sam Cooke and Albert Ayler; author E. Patrick Johnson performing a segment of his "Performing the Voices of Others: The Experience of Sweet Tea;" an in-depth discussion on icon Nina Simone and her impact on her times; and a full-scale concert by various artists in celebration of her work.

The Nov. 19 symposium on Simone kicked off with a now-famous quote attributed to Richard Pryor: "White people had Judy Garland. ... We had Nina Simone." Noted author and music critic Aaron Cohen, authors Salamishah Tillet and Emily J. Lordi, and performer Napoleon Maddox investigated

how Simone, with just her voice and talent, was able to stand as a beacon during the civil-rights movement in the 1960s. Simone's influence and art brought worldwide attention to a largely domestic issue not through politics but through her emotional and blunt music. Lordi's presentation linked Simone with queer icon Audre Lorde, and revealed how they were able to transcend what appeared to be cultural disadvantages and turn them into history-changing advances.

The symposium closed with a multifaceted concert with re-interpretations of some Simone's most memorable recordings: "My Baby Cares for Me," "House of the Rising Sun," "Feeling Good," "Be My Husband," "Wild is the Wind," "Strange Fruit" and "I Loves You Porgy." The performers included Allegra Dolores, Ayanna Spaulding, LaShera Zenise Moore, Yaw, Storie Devereaux, Tammy McCann and Napoleon Maddox.

The event was designed and curated by former CBMR resident fellow Gianpaolo Chiriaco as a component of Project ROTVOS-CIAME (The Role of Traditional Vocal Styles in Reshaping Cultural Identities Related to African Diasporas in America and Europe).



Sister Speak performs at the event. Photo by Vern Hester



Above: Jackie Anderson (left) and Chef Shiane Wilcoxen. Left: Attendee tries on clothes. Photos by Vern Hester

Center, chef host homeless dinner

BY VERN HESTER

On Nov. 22, Q-Tea-Pie Chef Shiane Wilcoxen, in partnership with the Center on Halsted, hosted the third annual Thanksgiving dinner for homeless and at-risk youth.

The event was held in the Center's "Youth Space" and featured a free winter bazaar, a raffle, a massive dinner spread, an awards ceremony, free toiletries and a climactic performance by the duo Sister Speak. One of the highlights of the evening was LGBT pioneer Jackie Anderson's address to the youthful audience.

Supporters of the event included Alpha Pi Psi Sorority, Christopher's House of Hope, Team 101 Chicago, Omega Pi Psi Fraternity, and The Humble Hearts Foundation.

More photos are available online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Barlesque shatters fundraising record

Barlesque: Workout, TPAN's seventh annual month-long online strip-athon and fundraiser pitting bartenders from Chicago's LGBT bars against each other in the quest to choose "Chicago's Sexiest Bartender," held its closing party Sun., Nov. 23 at Progress Bar, 3359 N. Halsted St. As of midnight, it was announced that they had raised a total of \$72,581, in addition to \$19,000 from a variety of sponsors. This brought the grand total to \$91,581, which is well in excess of last year's record amount of just over \$58,000.

Brian Kapolka (representing Club Krave in Blue Island) was the winning bartender, raising \$11,915. He beat out 15 other bartenders, most of which had raised at least \$2,000 each.

The contest took place throughout the month of November and included many individual fundraisers at each of the participating bars, plus a website, through which donors could peruse photos of the contestants, in increasing levels of undress according to the total amount which had been donated.

Text and photo by Kirk Williamson. See many more photos in this week's Nightspots.



Top row (from left): Progress Bar owner David Sikora, TPAN CEO Patti Capouch, Barlesque winner Brian Kapolka. Top row (from right): Club Krave owners Jason Howell and Johnny Corcoran. Bottom row (from left): Host Debbie Fox, Barlesque coordinators Sean Blay and Jeanne Newman

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Windy City Queercast marks 600th show

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSERFER

On the evening of April 11, 2006, the very first Windy City Queercast was appropriately heralded with Pearl Jam's 1991 debut single, "Alive." Radio celebrity and Queercast host Amy Matheny and Peter Mavrik (a DJ and co-host at the time) began by remarking on the beautiful early spring weather. "What a gorgeous day in the city," Mavrik exclaimed. "It's coming. You can feel it in the air. It's ready to burst forth!"

And burst forth Queercast did, with biweekly and then weekly podcasts that grew out of the Windy City Radio LGBT FM and AM shows, hosted by Matheny and an array of co-hosts including now-Lambda Legal Midwest Regional Director Jim Bennett as well as activist and Morten Group President Mary Morten.

Windy City Radio had launched following the 2001 Windy City Times purchase of LesBiGay Radio from its founder, Alan Amberg, in 2001. Matheny was a host on LesBiGay Radio which earned a place in the National Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame as the nation's first daily, drive time show for an LGBT audience.

However, even a one-hour Sunday-night show on Windy City Radio's FM station was a costly undertaking. By 2004, podcasting was beginning to take off as a worldwide Internet phenomenon. One year later, Matheny and her colleagues had an idea. "We wondered 'what if we went to online radio because the real estate's free and you can talk all the time?'" Matheny told Windy City Times as she looked back upon over eight years of Queercast. "Things were shifting in 2005 and you just realized that the Internet age was really taking over."

With the support of Windy City Times, Matheny teamed with Mavrik, who took care of the technological end of the podcast while Matheny rigorously tended to the rest of the details of each show. "This never would have happened without Peter," she said.

On Nov. 17, 2014, Matheny—alongside performance artist, actor and longtime Queercast co-host Mitchell Fain—celebrated Queercast's 600th show. "If you'd told me in 2006 that, every week, I would be talking about LGBT issues on a show that anyone can listen to for free unedited, uncensored... I mean pretty much anything and everything has happened; laughing fits, tears, compelling new things, breaking news and, of course, catching up with friends," Matheny said at the open of the broadcast. "I have talked to a lot of interesting people."

Some of those interesting people have included a then-unknown Lady Gaga, Cyndi Lauper, Jennifer Hudson, RuPaul, Helen Mirren, Levi Kreis, kd lang, Margaret Cho, Cheyenne Jackson, Del Shores, Sandra Bernhard, Jennifer Beals, Lucy Lawless, Lynda Carter, Carson Kressley, Betty Buckley, Candis Cayne, Sarah Waters, Clay Aiken, Sharon Gless, Judy Shepard, Leslie Jordan, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers of the Indigo Girls, Lily Tomlin, Colton Ford, Andy Cohen, Joan Rivers and Idina Menzel.

While some celebrities made Matheny nervous and conversations varied from icy and blunt to the kind of openness shared by a pair of old friends over a glass of wine, she recalled each one as a distinctly memorable moment in Queercast's history—in one case, tragically so. She had interviewed Hudson Oct. 23, 2008, to talk about the Oscar-winning actress and singer's new album release. Fewer than 24 hours later, Hudson's mother and brother were found slain on the South Side. Within days, the body of her young nephew was discovered. "When I talked to her, she was on such a high," Matheny remembered. "And then the next thing you know...."

Throughout its history, Queercast was there while the pendulum swung not only for individuals, but the entire LGBTQ community.

"I've been on the radio almost every week



Amy Matheny. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

since 1997," Matheny said. "It surprises me just how much has changed and how far we have come as a community. To watch history unfold over a decade and a half is pretty extraordinary. There are just so many people, like all the different guest co-hosts and the hundreds of people we've interviewed who have impacted and put their mark on Queercast."

Matheny's slate of rotating co-hosts each brought their own unique brand of acumen born from every facet of the LGBT community. Talents such as Mavrik, Fain, Deb Pearce, Colman Domingo, Alexandra Billings, Kelli Simpkins, Stephen Rader, Ms. Cleo, Scott Duff, news editor Andrew Davis and news anchor Kirk Williamson have brought perspectives on topics ranging from lighthearted reviews of the Oscars or Tonys to impactful discussions about gender identity and sexuality. There have also been national and international news affecting gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and gender nonconforming people in entertainment and the political arena as well as stories making headlines or those that were intensely personal—shared by foster and PFLAG parents as well as ministers, among others.

Unrestricted by time, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or the needs of advertisers, Matheny and her team made certain that conversations either between the co-hosts or with their interview subjects were raw and unedited. No matter what they had to say or how they said it, everybody had a voice on Queercast.

Queercasts were helped along by invaluable contributors such as podcast editor Di Bauden, Cynthia Holmes, Windy City Times entertainment writer Jerry Nunn and film critic Richard J. Knight Jr., as well as individuals nationwide and from countries around the world.

Matheny says she has never missed a show, no matter what her state of mind or physical condition. The result from a once-innovative idea that has formed into a community resource has endowed her with the accomplished pride native to any milestone.

"We're there, every week," Matheny said. "That's what I am proudest of. Being present in the here and now of what is going on in the LGBT community with a forum for people to talk and hear real people's stories. That's basically what we're doing; we're storytelling every week."

BOOKS

Talking with iconic author Felice Picano

BY LAUREN E. CHILDERS

Felice Picano made a stop in Chicago to promote his latest memoir *Nights at Rizzoli*. The Center on Halsted hosted a reading for Picano and Carlos T. Mock. Picano has written three memoirs to date including *Nights at Rizzoli*, *True Stories* and *True Stories Too*, all unique in that the reader gets a vision of each historical moment in addition to the author's life. Typically known for his fiction writing, this style of writing is present in each memoir.

"I've led an extremely adventurous life... as I only discovered a few years ago. I've met all kinds of extraordinary people and so essentially that's what I'm doing: writing about people, places, and things and less about myself," said Picano. "I'm like the character watching all this happen."

Carlos T. Mock, who was on the group book tour with Picano similarly expressed: "One of the nice things about the books—the reason I really like them—is they not only tell his story but he tells the story of gay culture during the 60s and 70s."

Nights at Rizzoli depicts a life through the lens of a gay man in New York who lucked into a job at the elegant Manhattan bookstore—Rizzoli—that captures Picano's life as well as the lives of many others.

"It really was like a meeting place during that period. So in effect, *Nights at Rizzoli*, is about my very glamorous night life and my almost sorted life as a gay man—not really looking for a relationship."

Many famous writers and celebrities would come together at Rizzoli which allowed Picano to compile a laundry list of famous clientele, collecting a stock of stories to tell about his interactions with them.

"[I went] to work for a company I knew nothing about and [found] myself in the center of the most glamorous place in the world at that time," recalled Picano.

Picano uses his works of non-fiction to investigate his own life. For instance in *True Stories Too*, Picano investigates a real life murder mystery that happened in his family. A reader came up to Picano while he was on book tour, presented him with an old news article and inquired whether this unsolved murder of a person with the same last name could be related. He recognized the name and address as belonging to his grandmother.

"Each one of these [stories] is some kind of oddity," said Picano in reference to his memoirs.

In addition to his writing career, Picano also considers himself to be an activist. He was involved in both the Gay Liberation Front, the first large scale gay activist organization, and the Gay Activist Alliance. Later he also joined the Gay Men's Health Crisis as more and more of his friends passed away due to AIDS complications.

Present during the Stonewall rebellion, Picano recalled, "I was not at Stonewall [Inn]. I was across the street 900 yards away at a party picking up the bartender. When we finally got downstairs at three o'clock in the morning we couldn't believe what we saw. Shortly after that is when the activism began on those street corners in Greenwich Village."

Picano is also a founding member of the Violet Quill—a pioneering group of gay male writers in the 1980s. Among the membership was Edmund White and Andrew Holleran. The primary interest of the group was gay publishing:

"I was writing gay [literature] in the '60s



with absolutely no hope of anybody publishing them," Picano said. "There was no possibility and no outlets. And I just wrote them anyway."

"You have to put it into context. At that time there was no such thing as gay literature—period," explained Mock. "He and [the people at Violet Quill], they started meeting at they started publishing themselves to get sold."

The members of Violet Quill also pressured the media in efforts to publicize books.

"We would approach them and say, 'Four good lesbian novels have been published in the past year and you haven't reviewed a single one'... until they did something about it," said Picano.

Violet Quill's papers are stored at Yale's library where they collect American writing groups. Their papers sit alongside Transcendentalists such as Emerson and Thoreau among others.

Picano's activism continues into today, as he teaches queer literature courses at Antioch College in Los Angeles and has written approximately 35 novels to date under the gay literature genre.

"I still like to make trouble," joked Picano.

TV veteran Verica to direct film in Chicago area

Television veteran Tom Verica (*How to Get Away with Murder*) is making his feature directorial debut with the indie *Building Bridges*, which is slated to film in the Chicago area next spring, *ReelChicago.com* noted.

Verica plays Viola Davis' husband on ABC's *How to Get Away with Murder*, but is also a resident director and co-executive producer on lead-in show *Scandal* as well as a longtime associate of show creator Shonda Rhimes.

Building Bridges is based on the true story of a Washington small town engineer Ron Moore, who painfully rebuilds his life after his 14-year old son fatally shot his mother and younger sister and then committed suicide in 1996.

"Bridges" will star Cullen Douglas, Elizabeth Perkins (*Weeds*), KaDee Strickland (*Private Practice*), out gay actor Guillermo Diaz (*Scandal*) and Steppenwolf Theatre Company Ensemble member Alana Arenas.

Jeff Perry—who plays the gay character Cyrus on *Scandal*, and is a co-founder/actor of Steppenwolf—is co-producing the film.

WINDY CITY TIMES' 2014

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

week one of two

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS



Disco fever

You certainly can judge a book by its cover. In this case, **Disco: An Encyclopedic Guide to the Cover Art of Disco** (\$49.95; Amazon.com) shows just that. There are covers of records by artists such as Donna Summer, Village People, Teddy Pendergrass and O'Jays as well as lesser-known musicians. Be warned, though: The fashions of that time are on full display, too.



I'll just have one glass

Tell the world (or just visitors at home) just what working was like with the **"How Was Your Day?" wine glass** (BigMouthToys.com). Just an opinion: If you find yourself drinking from the "Don't Ask!" level several days in a row, you may need to change your life in some way.



The greatest love of all

Whitney Houston Love: Her Greatest Performances: The six-time Grammy-award winning singer's first-ever live album features the most memorable live performances from her storied career. Among the features are Houston's 1991 rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the Super Bowl, her 1983 debut on The Merv Griffin Show and her duet with Mariah Carey at the 1999 Academy Awards.



Print condition

For those who like to get literary, **Out of Print** (www.outofprintclothing.com) has a variety of novelty items, including clothes, jewelry and even coaster sets. One of my favorites? The iPhone case that has the cover of *The Great Gatsby* we all read in high school (the one with the darker blue background, complete with a woman's eyes and lips); inside, that case reads, "Hello, old sport!"



Feeling the Love

A number of companies submitted candies for consideration, but **Norman Love Confections** (www.normanloveconfections.com) won, hands down, for its decadent truffles (with flavors such as eggnog latte, candy cane and S'mores)—and assortments start at \$6.25.



A kit above

Bevel, by Walker & Company, is a subscription service that offers a full-range shaving system. Each 30-day starter kit (\$59.95; get-bevel.com) features a double-edge safety razor along with blades, a badger shaving brush, priming oil, shaving cream and restoring balm. (Each kit after is for 90 days, and is \$29.95). I have to admit: These items are pretty high-quality.





It's a sin

The seven deadly sins have never looked so tempting as they are as depicted in the **Homeroetic Orthodox calendar** (Orthodox-Calendar.com or Amazon.com), which fights homophobia in the Orthodox region. I'll say it again: Gluttony never looked so good.

Multitasking

Une Bobine (\$35; www.fusechicken.com/products/bobine) is a flexible and eclectic stand/dock/sync/charge cable for your iPhone, iPod or Android. The cable can be flexed in different positions, coiled, wrapped around objects—the only limit is your imagination.



Knockaround guys

Knockaround Sunglasses (<https://knockaround.com/>) has a variety of items that fit every sort of taste and personality—and they're priced pretty reasonably (\$14-\$30). There are monochrome, aviators, polarized, limited-edition and other items. You'll be the coolest-looking soul around—as your glasses reflect the snow in Chicago (or the sun while vacationing in Palm Springs).

Feel the pressure

The efficient (and colorful) **SilverStone microwave pressure cooker** (\$69.99; Amazon.com) is something any chef wannabe will appreciate. In addition, the package includes a removable steamer plate and a recipe booklet to inspire a variety of delicious, easy-to-prepare dishes. Easy to cook? Sign me up—although if it involves okra, I'm skipping it.



I'll drink to that

Show your pride with a bottle of **Equality Vodka** (\$29.99; www.equalityvodka.com or 210-816-3557). For its first two years the brand, which just launched this month, has committed to donating a portion of sales to the Lambda Legal Defense Fund. Here's to equality!



In brief...

TomboyX has come out with its own **boxer briefs for women** (\$27; www.tomboyx.com). The company boasts that its underwear has a perfect fit, comfort and no pouch. Now we've truly reached equality.

Band together

Hammacher Schlemmer has introduced the **Comfortable TV Listening Headband** (\$149.95; www.hammacher.com), which has lightweight, ultra-thin stereo speakers inside the fabric that connect wirelessly to the included Bluetooth transmitter that plugs into a television. This way, you can listen to Homeland (or—sigh—Keeping Up with the Kardashians) without bothering your partner.



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Jean therapy

Betabrand's **Gay Jeans** (\$98; <http://www.betabrand.com/rainbow-denim-slim-fit-gay-jeans.html>) are like any other five-pocket denims—except that when the indigo dye fades away from washing, you (and others) will see a rainbow of yarn. Fabulous!



Ave, Maria

Out actress Maria Bello (Coyote Ugly; A History of Violence; The Jane Austen Book Club) narrates **Betrayed** (\$24.49 for audiobook download), the new novel by New York Times best-selling and Edgar Award-winning author Lisa Scottoline. And if you know Scottoline's work, you know there's some serious drama (and action) happening.

(red) reckoning

(red) joins forces with iconic brands to bring great products to help in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The store at www.RED.org has everything from The Killers' "Christmas in L.A." single to tennis backpacks to luggage tags to an "ADO(RED)" onesie for babies.



Time will reveal

Tissot watches (<http://us.tissotshop.com/>) are stylish and, in some cases, multifunctional. For example, the Tissot T-Touch Expert Solar (\$1,150) has 25 functions, including compass, altimeter, chronograph, thermo, alarm and more. What—it doesn't make coffee?



andersonville HOLIDAY EVENTS

LATE & LATE-ER NIGHT ANDERSONVILLE
December 5th & December 19th
Shops stay open late with discounts, entertainment and holiday treats. Download the Late Night Coupon at www.andersonville.org

JULMARKNAD "HOLIDAY MARKET"
December 6th & December 7th
Traditional Swedish crafts, food, and entertainment at the Swedish American Museum plus other holiday festivities throughout the neighborhood.

ST. LUCIA FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
December 13th
A candlelit, carol-filled procession on Clark St., followed by singing and treats at the Museum. Admission \$1 or toy or can of food to benefit Care for Real, Edgewater's food pantry.

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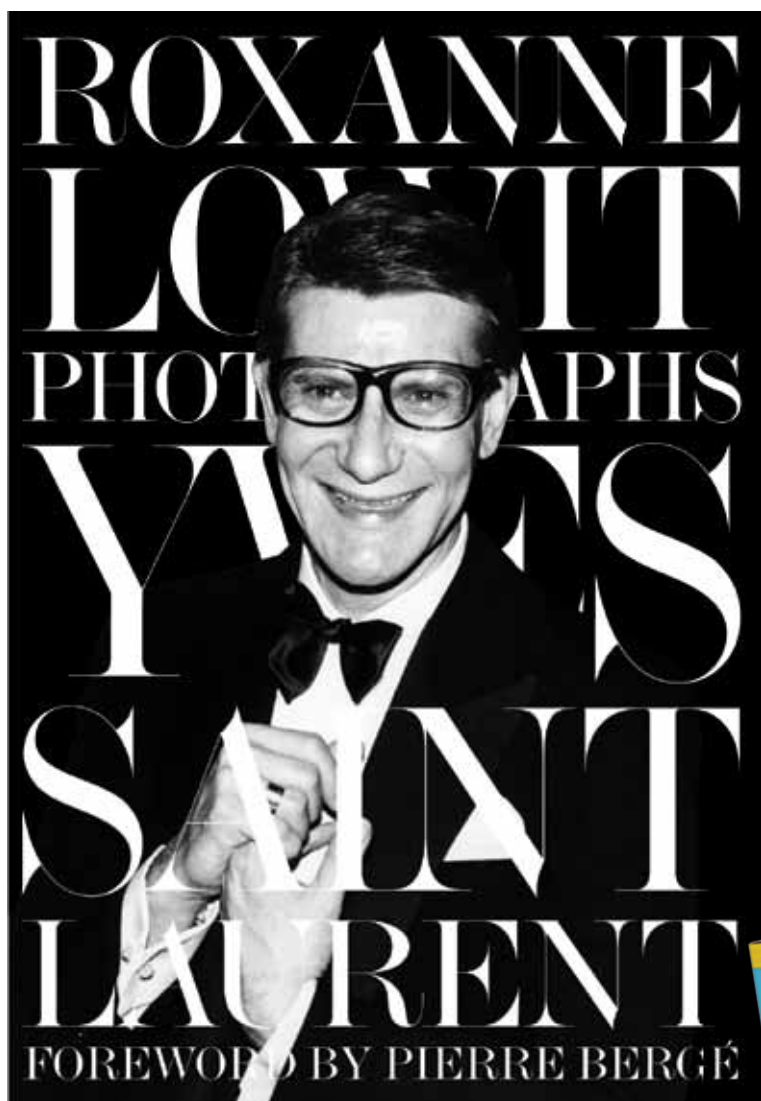
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All about Yves

From Thames & Hudson publishing company, **Yves Saint Laurent** (\$50; www.thamesandhudsonusa.com) is Roxanne Lowit's personal photographic history of Saint Laurent from 1978, the year she first met him, to the last show he gave in 2002. Featuring contributions from individuals such as Catherine Deneuve, this is a must-have for any fashionista.



And ... action!

For those who like being adventurous, you can capture those moments with the **DVR 787 HD Affordable Action Camera** (\$69.99; www.OfficeDepot.com). It includes a touch screen, waterproof case, bike and helmet mounts, and even a remote control.



Flicks and treats

Cinephiles will definitely appreciate a subscription to **IndieFlix** (<https://indieflix.com/>), which offers movies you will probably not find almost anywhere else. (I love Netflix, but I bet most of these items are not there.) The LGBTQ channel alone offers movies such as *Audit*, *To Play or To Die*, *Vacationland*, *Fagbug* and *Prora*.



You bring me Joy

HSN's Joy Mangano and supermodel Iman (aka David Bowie's wife) have teamed to debut their all new **Joy & IMAN Multi-Pocket Luxe Genuine Leather Handbag** (\$79.99). Available only on HSN, HSN.com and HSN mobile, these chic and fashionable items come in eight colors—Jet black, rich cognac, crimson red, classic navy, sunset orange, cappuccino, latte, lavender purple, London gray and deep emerald.



Keeping dates

One of the best gifts you can get someone is one of those page-a-day calendars—especially if they cover topics the recipients find intriguing. **Workman Publishing** (www.PageADay.com) has a huge assortment of these items, including "1,000 Places to See Before You Die," "Shoes," "Zoo Portraits," "Mind Benders" and "308 Really Bad Jokes + 57 Hilarious Puns." (Regarding the last item, here's one entry: "How many police officers does it take to change a lightbulb? None. It always turns itself in." Judge for yourself.)



Wine and yours

If you're one of those who does not drink your entire bottle of wine in one sitting (and there are a few of you out there), **Savino** (www.SavinoWine.com) just might be the perfect gift. Savino is a glassware product that keeps your wine fresh for up to a week—and, on top of that, it looks pretty cool. So save that chardonnay until the end of the week, when you might need it to cope with everything that happened during your work week.



Plum kind of wonderful

Put down the spirits you always try and go for something different. Liqueurs such as **Unicum Plum** (\$31.99), **Godiva Dark Chocolate Liqueur** (\$29.99) and **Bailey's Chocolate Cherry** (\$21) offer unique ways to spice up the holidays without breaking the bank.



Of note...

Let's get local: **Chicago Symphony Center** (CSO.org) gift certificates—good for ticket purchases for CSO and Symphony Center Presents shows—are the perfect gift for concert enthusiasts. Side note: For music-themed merchandise and CSO Resound recordings, including Verdi's *Otello* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (led by music director Riccardo Muti), visit the CSO's Symphony Store at 67 E. Adams St.

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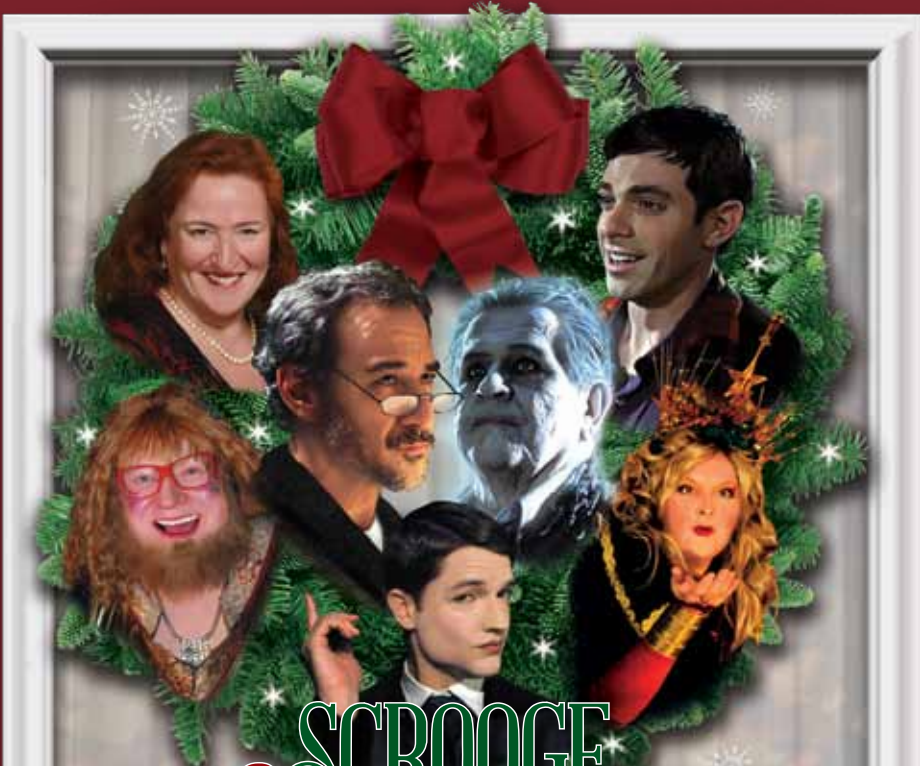
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CALENDAR

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WINDY CITY TIMES *nightspots*

Wed., Nov. 26

Depeche Mode/New Order: A Multimedia Mixdown Featuring guest DJ Kamar and resident DJ Greg Haus. 10:00pm - 4:00am Berlin Nightclub 954 W Belmont Ave Chicago <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Queen! vs. Men's Room Thanksgiving Throwdown DJs Michael Serafini, Garrett David, Harry + Jpeg, and Shaun White. Hosts Sissy Spastik, Jojo Baby, Mister Wallace, and Aceboombap. \$10 in advance; \$10 before midnight, \$12 after midnight. 10:00pm - 4:00am Smart Bar 3730 N Clark

Thursday, Nov. 27

LGBTQ bowling league Every Thursday through Dec. 18 except on Thanksgiving. Info at outbowlingleague2014@outlook.com. 8:00pm - 12:00pm Naperville Brunswick Zone XL, 1515 Aurora Ave., Naperville

Friday, Nov. 28

Love Me Forever! Oh! Oh! Oh! By gay cartoonist Jeremy Sorese, a series of illustrations, selected from The Best American Comics 2013, exploring the idea of getting married. On display in the Congress Corridor through March 8, 2015. 9:00am - 5:00am Harold Washington College 30 E. Lake St. Chicago 312-747-4050 <http://chipublib.org>

Liberace! With glittering costumes and chandeliers, musician and performer Jack Forbes Wilson will reprise his triumphant portrayal of Liberace from the Rep's 2010/11 Season. Through Jan. 11, 2015. \$40 2:00pm Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E Wells St., Milwaukee, WI <http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com>

When Harry Met Irving Celebration of the music of Harold Arlen and Irving Berlin starring Judy Rossignuolo-Rice and Denise McGowan Tracy. With musical direction by Beckie Menzie. Arlen's compositions from The Wizard of Oz will be featured. \$20. 8:00pm Skokie Theatre 7924 Lincoln Ave Skokie, IL 60077 847-677-7761 <http://www.skokietheatre.org>

Halsted's Live: The Breakfast Club ('80s cover band) Live music hits Halsted's! No cover. Late night menu. 10:30pm -

1:30am Halsted's Bar and Grill 3441 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.halstedschicago.com>

Saturday, Nov. 29

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, Chicago-area GLBT Chapter Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance chapter specifically founded for Chicago-area GLBT community with mood disorders or other significant psychological conditions, as well as their friends, partners, and family members. All are welcome. 11:00am - 12:30am Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.dbsa-glbt-chicago.com/>

Grown Men Thanksgiving Weekend Party An event for the mature audience. Music by DJ Greg Gray. \$15 advance. \$20 door. alwaysgentlemen@gmail.com 9:00pm - 2:00am The South Loop Hotel, 11 West 26th, Chicago

Bearly Legal GayCo Productions, Chicago's longest-lasting LGBTQ sketch comedy group, turns 18 years old this year, and is debuting a brand new sketch comedy show in the heart of Boystown. Through Dec. 20. \$18 (students pay \$13). 10:00pm The Playground Theater 3209 N Halsted St, Chicago 773-871-3793 <http://GayCo.com/bearlylegal> Tickets: <http://bearlylegal.eventbrite.com>

Sunday, Nov. 30

Holiday Shopping Kick Off LGBT holiday kick off shopping event. Meet at guest services desk at 1 pm and head upstairs to shop. At 3 pm coffee social hour at Starbucks. 1:00pm - 3:00pm Water-tower Place 845 N Michigan Ave, Chicago <http://www.lgbtneighborsinbridgeport-chicago.org/about.html>

In These Boxes One-day-only World AIDS Day performance of Dudley Saunders' work, a mix of live music, transmedia and video art that explores the human need to keep the dead from disappearing by holding on to their things. Benefits Duncan Erley Coming Out the Closet Fund. \$10 7:00pm Links Hall 3111 N. Western Ave Chicago 773-281-0824 Tickets: <http://linkshall.ticketfly.com/event/669093-poonies-cabaret-in-these-chicago/>

Royalty, A New Dynasty of Fashion Begins: Winter Fashion Show 2014 Fashion show, a hair show and a holiday gift expo fourteen stories high benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago whose mission is to empower at-risk youth 7:00pm - 11:00pm Chicago Mart Plaza, 350 West Mart Center Drive, Chicago 312-254-5009 <http://www.metroalsonpro.com> Tickets: <http://www.royaltychicago.eventbrite.com>

Monday, Dec. 1

LGBT Neighbors In Bridgeport Pot Luck and Gift Exchange Bring a covered dish to share with everyone or a side. Bring unisex and gift wrapped \$10-dollar gifts. \$5 suggested donation 7:00pm - 9:00pm Annex building, 643 W 31st St, Chicago <http://www.lgbtneighborsinbridgeport-chicago.org>

World AIDS Day with CALOR Comprension y Apoyo a Latinos en Oposicion al Retrovirus observes World AIDS Day. The Miguel A. Morales Spirit of Excellence Award will be awarded to Iliana Gilliland, director of care at AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Free. RSVP required. 4:00pm - 9:00pm Latin Rhythms Dance Studio, 210 N. Racine Ave., Chicago 773-385-9080

Francesca's donates for AIDS Chicago-area Italian restaurant group Francesca's will donate 15 percent of net bills to AIDS Foundation of Chicago when flier at link is presented. 4:00pm - 10:00pm Various locations 312-922-2322 http://www.aidschicago.org/francescas_slip.pdf

Vida/SIDA candlelight vigil and dinner Vida/SIDA will hold a candlelight vigil at La Casita de Don Pedro, 2625 W. Division Ave., at 5pm. A fundraising dinner follows at Nellie's Restaurant, 2458 W. Division Ave., from 6-8:30pm. 5:00pm - 8:30pm Two locations 773-394-4935

World AIDS Day Discussion Led by Tracy Baim, Victoria Noe, & Zach Stafford 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

HIV across the Continuum of Care Part of the Chicagoland World AIDS Day Collaborative program at Rush University Medical Center. Also see 10am entry. 10:30pm 1630 W. Harrison St., Chicago <http://stepupgettested.com>

Tuesday, Dec. 2

David Bowie Is The first retrospective of the extraordinary career of David Bowie—one of the most pioneering and influential performers of our time. More than 400 objects from the David Bowie Archive. \$25. Through Jan. 4, 2015 12:00pm Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) 220 East Chi-



OUTSIDE THE 'BOX'

Sun., Nov. 30

Dudley Saunders' (above) show "In These Boxes" will take place at Links Hall, 3111 N. Western Ave.

Photo by Dean Carpentier

cago Ave Chicago 312-397-4068 Tickets: <http://www2.mcchicago.org/exhibition/david-bowie-is>

Dim sum Asians & Friends Chicago, first Sunday of each month. 12:30pm Furama 4936 N. Broadway Chicago <http://www.afchicago.org>

Vives Q: First Tuesdays Vives Q is a necessary safe-space for LGBTQ youth and young adults to express themselves and celebrate their identities through art, music, spoken word, dance and inter-generational dialogue. 6:00pm - 8:00pm National Museum of Mexican Art 1852 W. 19th St. Chicago <http://bit.ly/1woJloJ>

Austin CBC Collaborative commemoration Keynote speakers will include state Rep. LaShawn Ford and Dr. Maya Green. 10:00am - 2:00pm Austin Health Center, 4800 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago <http://austincbc.org>

Wed., Dec. 3

American Women Rebuilding France 1917-1924 Documents the work of hundreds of American women who left comfortable lives in the US to volunteer humanitarian service in France during and after the WWII. Through Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015 12:00pm Newberry Library 60 W Walton St Chicago <http://www.newberry.org/09172014-american-women-rebuilding-france-1917-1924>

Thursday, Dec. 4

One of a Kind Show More than 600 juried artists including Canadian photographer

Dale M. Reid who's work focuses on landscapes and floral images. Reid has lived as a woman for the past 8-9 years, after working in the business world for 25 years. Through Dec. 7. 11:00am - 8:00pm Merchandise Mart 222 W Merchandise Mart Plaza Chicago <http://www.oneofakindshowchicago.com>

In the Driver's Seat: Turning off the GPS and Creating Your Own Career Path Chicago Women in Philanthropy present a book signing and conversation with Rebecca Sive, author of "Every Day is Election Day: A Woman's Guide to Winning Any Office, from the PTA to the White House." \$25 CWIP members, \$30 non-CWIP members 4:00pm - 6:00pm The Cara Program, 237 S. Desplaines St., Chicago Tickets: http://www.cwiponline.org/site/epage/155586_1007.htm

AIDS Foundation of Chicago's World of Chocolate Indulge in a night of sweet and savory treats from traditional truffles and white chocolate ganache to more savory delicacies like chicken in a chocolate mole sauce, hosted by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago to commemorate World AIDS Day and celebrate the progress the HIV/AIDS community has made in ending the epidemic. \$125 6:00pm - 9:00pm Union Station 210 S Canal Chicago 312-334-0935 <http://aidschicago.org/chocolate>

Holiday Housewalk & Market fundraising event Benefits the IWS Children's Clinic located in Oak Park 6:00pm Nineteenth Century Club, 178 Forest Ave., Chicago <http://www.childrensclinicwv.org>

American Veterans for Equal Rights monthly meeting All veterans and those interested in veteran issues and activities are welcome. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago 773-472-6469 <http://www.averchicago.com>

Friday, Dec. 5

College of DuPage Pride Alliance Speaker Series Diah Mehdi, Chief Clinical Officer at AIDS Foundation, on HIV/AIDS and STDs in Chicago 12:00pm - 1:00pm BIC 3245, 425 Fawell Blvd., College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn <http://www.facebook.com/CODPrideAlliance>

Men's Speed Dating Enjoy a cash bar, ugly sweater contest, prizes, egg nog, while searching for the man of your dreams in this round-robin evening of speed dating. \$10 Pre-registration, \$15 at door 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org> Tickets: <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/SpeedDating>

the DISH WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



Parlor Pizza Bar

BY MEGHAN STREET

There's a casual new dining option in the West Loop, which usually tends to focus on more upscale restaurants. Parlor Pizza Bar opened in September, just in time for patrons to luxuriate in summer's lasts gasps on the patio. For now, you'll be enjoying the uniquely topped thin crust pizzas inside (next to one of the blazing wood-fired ovens, if you're lucky).

The Green St. space is massive. High ceilings with exposed duct work and beams give it a warehouse vibe. A huge bar anchors the front of the house and an equally large pizza bar sits in back. In between is an explosion of reclaimed wood tables and bistro chairs and oversized black leather booths. Two brown leather tufted sofas sit back to back in the center of the dining room, serving as stylish ban-

quettes. They're nice looking and a good idea in theory, until you're seated at one of them and find yourself about a foot below your dining companion who's sitting in a regular chair.

When I visited—on a weeknight—Parlor Pizza Bar was bursting at the seams with jovial (read: loud) diners, so I can't imagine the frenetic pace at the place on a Saturday night. Music is blaring, TVs are flashing, servers wielding hot pizzas are weaving in between overcrowded tables—it's complete sensory overload. If you're looking for a place to kick off an action-packed night, you'll love it here. If you want to share a meal with someone who you actually want to speak to, order your pizza at the to-go window and take it home and eat it there because conversation is difficult inside this bustling pizza emporium.

That said, the pizza is damn good. The bubbly brown Neopolitan-style crust is Italian, but the toppings, for the most part, are decidedly American which, in this case, is not a bad thing because the kooky-sounding combinations (cherry peppers, BBQ pork and pineapple or fried chicken with jalapeno cream sauce, for example) are executed really well.

The "Burrata Be Kidding Me" pizza is one of the more classic pies, and Parlor's version



Brussel sprout pizza ay Parlor Pizza Bar.

is divine. Ample smears of creamy burrata are nestled beneath a pile of fresh, lemony arugula and the whole thing is topped off with a generous drizzle of fragrant truffle oil that you can smell even as the pizza approaches your table.

I was crazy about the "I Feel Like Bacon Love" pizza. This pie begins with rich and savory leek bechamel. Next comes a layer of potatoes sliced paper-thin, and the decadent pizza is topped off with lots of white cheddar, plenty of juicy bits of bacon and fresh scallions. It's kind of like potato skins in pizza form. It easily

could have been way too much, but thanks to the high quality of the ingredients and careful attention paid to balancing the ingredient proportions, it ends up being just right (if incredibly filling).

Pizza is obviously the star of the show here, but if you're famished or dining with a large group, you might want to order up some apps to share. Think bar grub classics (wings, nachos, French fries), but all enhanced by the same kind of clever ingredient swaps you see on the pizzas. The kale and artichoke dip is quite good. I couldn't necessarily detect that I was eating kale instead of the typical spinach you'd find in this kind of dip, but bonus points for making a super food so darn delicious. For something a bit lighter (a good idea if you want to enjoy the decadent pizzas coming your way), opt for the Brussels sprouts with pancetta and parmasean.

If you go to Parlor for drinks (perhaps with a side of pizza), you will be in good company and have plenty of libations to choose from. There are more than a dozen craft brews on tap, a good-enough wine list and a few specialty cocktails.

Parlor Pizza Bar is located at 108 N. Green St.; call 312-600-6090 or visit www.parlorchicago.com.

Do you need some more sugar and spice in your life? Follow me on Twitter (@SugarAndSpiceMS) for news and views on Chicago's dining scene.

AFC prepares for World of Chocolate

BY LIZ BAUDLER

On Thursday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m., The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) will present the 13th annual World of Chocolate (WoC) at Union Station, at South Riverside Plaza. Both AFC President/CEO John Peller and Jill Allread, one of WoC's co-chairs, talked with Windy City Times about this year's undertakings.

While Peller has been with AFC for nine years

mentioned that Callebaut donates all the raw chocolate for the event. "It's an incredible donation that is worth a lot of money, as you can imagine, and that really encourages the chocolatiers to participate and helps the event raise more money. Their sponsor is invaluable," he said.

Peller also explained how chocolatiers come to be involved. "We really rely on the co-chairs for that," he said. "Greg Hyder, with the Peni-



Rev. Doris Green (right) and another attendee at 2011's World of Chocolate. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

and attended WoC many times, this is his first time in charge. Allread has a long history of involvement with both AFC and WoC. Ever since she interviewed an AIDS patient as a young reporter in Indiana, she wanted to support the cause. "In 1994, my agency, Public Communications Inc. (PCI), was invited by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago to help create a communications program for AFC's 10th anniversary celebration," Allread said. "Ever since, PCI has provided PR/communications counsel and support to AFC and I have been an individual donor."

Allread explained the event's origins: "World of Chocolate replaced AFC's previous World AIDS Day event called All the Trimmings, which featured the sale of decorative ornaments, many created by people with HIV and AIDS and their supports. Decadence Defined is the theme of AFC's 13th World of Chocolate, an elegant, festive event that commemorates World AIDS Day and begins the season of appreciation and celebration. World of Chocolate celebrates our love of savory and sweet chocolate that puts nearly everyone in a fun mood."

Peller and Allread called WoC "a signature event" on the city's holiday calendar. Comparing WoC to AFC's AIDS Run and Walk and the organization's anniversary galas, Peller said, "We try to have a variety of events that are accessible to folks at every level that they're able to give. We consider the World of Chocolate to be a more mid-ticket price, mass audience event. The tickets are \$125 for the basic level, and that's a little more accessible than the very fancy gala type event."

Money raised at WoC's supports AFC's general operating costs. Peller said AFC "continues to lead the fight in the Chicagoland area and also do work nationally, internationally, and also at the state level in the fight against HIV." He mentioned AFC's history of advocacy work with female condoms and pre-exposure prophylactics (PrEP), providing HIV testing and supportive services such as housing for patients.

Both Peller and Allread expressed gratitude for those who help make WoC possible. Peller

nula, does a lot of work reaching out to chocolatiers. There's also a lot of word of mouth among the chocolatiers and restaurant owners and candy makers. We also do outreach to restaurants and hotels and to small business owners to encourage them to participate, so there's really a lot of ways that we get chocolatiers involved."

Allread added, "the four co chairs work with the incredibly talented AFC team led by [AFC fundraising director] Rhett Lindsay. They do the bulk of the work, but we help by advising, planning, networking, making asks, and getting others people engaged. We actually begin meeting in May to discuss the venue, theme, ticket prices, sponsors, and most importantly what we can do to make the event new and fresh. Co-chairs have lots of meeting, so thank goodness we have a very fun team including Glen Pietrandoni of Walgreens, J. Ben Stringfellow of McDonalds and Greg Hyder of the Peninsula Hotel. We let Greg, who is a fantastic first-time co-chair, host all of our meetings at the Peninsula. As a result, attendance is excellent."

This will be WoC's second year at Union Station. Peller said, "It's always great to use a venue the second time, so you can get everything as close to exactly right the second time around. We were at a hotel for a long time but then decided to go to Union Station because we started to outgrow the space." Both Peller and Allread are expecting about 1,500 attendees, and Peller mentioned a raffle with prizes including "a date night for 12 months or dinner at a really fancy restaurant for two for an entire year, and trips to New York and LA."

Some chocolatiers who will appear include Mercat a la Planxa, mEAT on Chestnut, ZED451 and Chocolat Uzma Sharif. Allread said that she's excited about the event's "energy and new participants." Peller said his favorite part of the evening is to "see everything laid out pristinely before the hungry masses have started to get their fingers on everything. That's a good reason to get there early."

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Ty Herndon, Billy Gilman come out of the closet

Country music star Ty Herndon announced he is "an out, proud, and happy gay man" in an interview with Entertainment Tonight that aired Nov. 20, according to Advocate.com.

The singer's career includes 17 Billboard hits over a span of nearly two decades. ("What Mattered Most," "Living in a Moment" and "It Must Be Love" are his three number-one hits, and released the album Lies I Told Myself in 2013.) Herndon revealed he stayed closeted because he feared public knowledge of his sexuality would have a negative impact on his career.

"Traditionally in country music, we don't see a lot of support for the LGBT community, but that's changing so much," he told Entertainment Tonight. "Nashville is changing so much. I mean, my goodness ... Kacey Musgraves won Song of the Year for [the lyrics] 'follow your arrow, wherever it points,' and two amazing songwriters that happened to be gay wrote that song."

Rumors about Herndon's sexuality first surfaced in 1995, when an undercover male police officer alleged the star exposed himself in a park.

Herndon also revealed he has been in "an awesome relationship" with a man "for a good number of years," saying, "[I] love him very much and he loves me."

Interestingly, Herndon's announcement that he is gay has prompted a second country singer—Billy Gilman—to come out on

the same day, USA Today reported.

In a five-and-a-half minute video posted to YouTube, Gilman said, "It's difficult for me to make this video, not because I'm ashamed of being a gay male artist, or a gay person. But it's pretty silly to know that I'm ashamed of doing this knowing that ... because I'm in a genre, in an industry that is ashamed of me for being me."

In 2000, Gilman became the youngest singer ever to have a Top 40 hit on Billboard's country singles chart, being just 12 years old when his debut single, "One Voice," hit number 20. Gilman, now 26, premiered a single, "Say You Will," in July, but says he received no interest in his new music from major record labels when he shopped it in Nashville.

Director Mike Nichols dies

Mike Nichols, the entertainment icon and husband of ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer, died suddenly at the age of 83, ABC News reported.

Nichols was born in Germany in 1931, and came to the United States when he was 7, when his family escaped Nazi Germany. He graduated from the Walden School in New York City, and began pursuing theater while attending the University of Chicago in the early 1950s.

Nichols—one of the few to win the EGOT: an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony—directed Broadway and film hits such as The Graduate, The Birdcage, Death of a Salesman, Angels in America, Carnal Knowledge and Working Girl.



Auto companies at the top of the equality index—but why is Hyundai there?

BY RICHARD READ, GAYWHEELS.COM

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has just released its 2015 Corporate Equality Index (CEI), which rates the United States' biggest companies on their LGBT-friendly policies. We're happy to report that the auto industry picked up one A+ member since last year's report was issued, but there's also at least one curious presence near the top.

Scoring

HRC's 2015 CEI scores corporations across nine different areas. If a company fares well in the first eight, it can receive a perfect score of 100. However, companies can also lose 25 points for high-profile anti-LGBT problems. In fact, companies like Exxon that have no LGBT-friendly policies and headline-grabbing instances of homophobia earned scores of -25.

- HRC's nine scoring criteria are:
- Prohibits Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation (15 points)
 - Prohibits Discrimination Based on Gender Identity or Expression (15 points)
 - Offers Partner Health/Medical Insurance (15 points)
 - Has Parity Across Other "Soft" Benefits for Partners (10 points) (half credit for parity across some, but not all benefits)
 - Offers Transgender-Inclusive Health Insurance Coverage (10 points)
 - Firm-wide Organizational Competency Programs (10 points)
 - Has Employer-Supported Employee Resource Group OR Firm-Wide Diversity Council (10 points) OR Would Support ERG if Employees Express Interest (half credit)
 - Positively Engages the External LGBT Community (15 points) (partial credit of 5 points given for less than 3 efforts)

Responsible Citizenship Employers will have 25 points deducted from their score for a large-scale official or public anti-LGBT blemish on their recent records (-25 points)

Surveys are sent to every Fortune 500 company based in the U.S. Other companies here and abroad can self-report if they like, though obviously, there's no requirement that they do.

Results

The 2014 Corporate Equality Index gave six automakers—Chrysler, Ford, GM, Nissan, Toyota, and Volkswagen—perfect scores. They've all received 100s again this year, as has a new entry, Tesla. Congrats to all, and Elon Musk, if you're reading this, welcome to the fold!

Subaru clocks in with a very respectable score of 90. Once again, the company has fallen short on transgender-inclusive healthcare, but given Subaru's reputation as being especially LGBT-friendly, we hope that will change soon.

The only other automaker on the 2015 CEI is, oddly enough, Hyundai, which remains on our very, very short list of non-LGBT-friendly automakers. The company claims to have non-discrimination policies in place for LGBT workers, as well as health benefits for same-sex spouses and transgender employees. As a result, it's earned a score of 70 from the HRC.

The problem is this: We know that Hyundai offers its white-collar workers LGBT protections and benefits. However, its blue-collar workers—the men and women who work on the company's assembly lines—aren't treated the same way. Although we'd expect this "two-state" policy to change over time, we've received no indication that it has. So, let the record show: we're dubious. We've reached out to HRC for clarification.

Good news, bad news

HRC's 2015 Corporate Equality IndexThe good news is that LGBT employees continue to gain ground in their push for workplace equality. Generally speaking, the number of 100-point companies on HRC's CEI has continued to grow over the past several years, and as marriage equality and other LGBT-friendly laws create greater respect for LGBT rights, we'd expect state laws and corporate policies to evolve alongside them.

In other words, we don't want to say "there's no going back," because political movements like ours always progress in fits and starts. However, the future is looking pretty darned good for LGBT workers in the United States.

The bad news is that homophobia continues to slow us down. The folks in charge of companies like Penske Automotive (CEI score: 0) can



Nissan—which manufactures the 2013 370Z Roadster above—got a perfect score on Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index. Photo from Gaywheels.com

surely see the writing on the wall. But they're digging in their heels, hoping in vain that time will begin to run backward and their regressive policies will come back in fashion. As my father used to say when I asked him for something highly, highly out of the ordinary: ain't gonna happen.

And so, the auto industry is left in the middle of the pack. As you'll see from page nine of the

2015 CEI, we have more 100-point companies than the oil and gas, real estate and airline sectors. Heck, we're even outpacing telecoms. But we have a long way to go before we catch up with the insurance industry, hotels, and a host of other industries.

So our message to you is: Don't stop pushing.

SPORTS NEWS

Jason Collins to retire from NBA

Jason Collins, who became the first openly gay athlete in North America's four recognized major team sports when he played for the Brooklyn Nets earlier this year, is retiring from the NBA, the center wrote in columns on SI.com and ThePlayersTribune.com, according to ESPN.com.

On ThePlayersTribune.com, he wrote, "In order to understand why I am so lucky to be sitting here today as a person who is finally comfortable in his own skin, you need to understand how basketball saved me. I needed to live the past few years as an openly gay basketball player in order to be at peace retiring today."

Collins, 35, wrote on SI.com that he officially will announce his retirement at the Barclays Center before the Nets host the Milwaukee Bucks Nov. 19.

Collins played 22 games for the Nets last season. He was not on any NBA roster this season.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Joffrey's 'Nutcracker' Dec. 5-28

The Joffrey Ballet will celebrate the 27th annual presentation of Robert Joffrey's The Nutcracker in a 24-performance engagement at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., on Dec. 5-28.

Joffrey Ballet Co-Founder Gerald Arpino contributed to Robert Joffrey's version, having choreographed the Land of the Snow scene, which closes Act I, and the Waltz of the Flowers in Act II.

The full Joffrey company is joined onstage by local children's choruses and over 118 young dancers from Chicago and beyond. The Chicago Philharmonic, which Scott Speck conducts, provides live accompaniment of the classic Tchaikovsky score for every performance.

Tickets are \$32-\$134; stop by the box office, call 800- 982-2787 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

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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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