

BETTY  
BUCKLEY  
DISCUSSES  
HER NEW  
ALBUM



PAGE 22

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

FEB. 25, 2015  
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ACTIVIST  
BARBARA 'ROBBIE'  
SMITH DIES  
PAGE 7

# RUNOFF

## Garcia v. Emanuel April 7



A LOOK AT  
MURDERS  
OF TRANS  
INDIVIDUALS  
PAGE 8



Rahm Emanuel. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

Incumbent Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel will face a runoff against challenger Jesus Garcia April 7. Emanuel did not get the simple majority of votes needed to win.

The results shocked the political establishment and brought back memories of Harold Washington's 1983 upset victory to become Chicago first African American mayor.

Incumbent Ald. Deb Mell, the council's only openly lesbian alderman, is headed to a runoff in the 33rd Ward.

Carlos Ramirez-Rosa, an openly gay Latino newcomer, upset incumbent Rey Colon in the 35th Ward, becoming the first openly gay Latino alderman in Chicago. Another Latino gay man, Raymond Lopez, received the most votes in his race for 15th Ward alderman, but he will face a runoff. This could lead to two new openly gay aldermen in Chicago.

The 46th will have a gay vs. lesbian runoff—James Cappleman the incumbent vs. challenger Amy Crawford. Incumbent Tom Tunney coasted to easy victory in the 44th Ward.



Jesus 'Chuy' Garcia. Photo by Hal Baim

SEE PAGE 6 FOR MORE DETAILS AND  
ELECTION RESULTS

## LIVING LEGEND



page 10

Local trans icon Gloria Allen talks about the highs and lows of her life. See page 10. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

## LA VIDA LOCA

page 26



Singer Ricky Martin talks about his love life, shirtless selfies and his family. See page 26. Publicity photo



TEGAN AND SARA  
PART OF THE  
OSCARS ROUNDUP  
PAGE 25

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# this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

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Images on cover (left, from top): Photo of Betty Buckley by Victory Tischler-Blue; photo of Barbara "Robbie" Smith; Facebook photo of Kristina Grant Infiniti; screen shot of Tegan and Sara

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**COLM SCHOOLING**  
Actor Colm Feore (left) talks about his upcoming movie King Lear as well as an AIDS drama that means a lot to him.  
*Photo by David Hou*

**MAKING HER-STORY**



Her HRC's "Va-Va-Vaudeville" featured all types of talent.  
*Photo by Kat Fitzgerald*

**PIT AND FABULOUS**



There's a lot of show coverage this week, including a concert with Pitbull (above) and Enrique Iglesias as well as two Bent Nights columns.  
*Photo by Jerry Nunn*

**A MATTER OF HEALTH**  
The Chicago Department of Public Health discusses an increase in the cases of shigellosis, which is being traced to the North Side gay and bi population.

**SETTING THE BAR**  
FashionBar held its 2015 fall/winter fashion show at The Drake Hotel.

**THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT**  
Find out the latest about David Geffen, Tyler Perry and Orange Is the New Black.

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# Looming dilemma: Choosing an advocate

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Just beyond the Feb. 27 deadline for filing their briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court to lay out their arguments against state bans on marriage for same-sex couples, the 36 attorneys signed onto those briefs have another looming task. They must choose who will go before the nine justices in April to deliver the arguments orally.

The event will be historic—even more so than the oral argument delivered by Ted Olson when he appeared before the court in March 2013 to urge the court to strike down California's ban on same-sex marriage. Representing hundreds of thousands of same-sex couples and their families in the high-profile appearance will also be a privilege that hundreds of attorneys have helped make possible through many dozens of court cases through two decades. And the attorneys who carry the mantle at the Supreme Court will inevitably feel the weight of a profound responsibility.

Who will get the honor and burden?

The U.S. Supreme Court has made that question a little more difficult than usual. It has asked the plaintiffs in four different cases across four different states to choose only two attorneys—one to tackle each of the two questions the court has limited argument to.

Right now, the 36 attorneys representing those plaintiffs don't want to talk about who will argue the cases; they are concentrating on meeting the Feb. 27 deadline for their written argument briefs. Several said the group was not yet discussing even how to make the decision among themselves.

Although the group does not have to choose among themselves, several of them are eminently qualified and interested.

"Who wouldn't like to argue this before the high court?!" said Mary Bonauto, the attorney who represented plaintiff couples in Massachusetts before the state supreme court there to win the historic decision in 2003 that led to that state becoming the first to allow marriage for same-sex couples.

Bonauto, the civil rights director for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), is one of five attorneys signed onto the briefs in the Michigan case *DeBoer v. Snyder*.

In recent years, various studies have suggested that attorneys with experience arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court are more likely to win there. Harvard Law Professor Richard Lazarus put it this way, in a 2008 article: "[W]hether counsel in a Supreme Court case is an experienced Supreme Court advocate is a significant determinant in the outcome of the case."

There are plenty of reasons to believe that is true, but there are also factors that may be skewing data toward that conclusion.

A Reuters report last December, which included interviews with all the justices except Chief Justice John Roberts, suggested the Supreme Court is somewhat clubby when it comes to oral arguments.

In the last term, said Reuters, 53 percent of the cases argued included at least one attorney who was a former clerk to the Supreme Court justices. Almost 20 percent of the attorneys arguing before the court in the past decade were from a group of only eight male lawyers with "especially deep connections to justices past and present." Seven of the eight had worked for a justice or in the U.S. solicitor general's office—or both.

Those eight include former Solicitors General Ted Olson and Seth Waxman, the latter being a lead author for a brief from a group of Republicans who favored striking down Proposition 8.

"In this ever more intimate circle, lawyers say, chemistry with the court is key," reported



Jennifer Pizer.  
Photo from Lambda Legal

Reuters. The justices "speak glowingly of the repeat performers, explaining that elite lawyers help them understand and sift through complex legal issues."

The 36 attorneys on the marriage equality side of the four Sixth Circuit cases—which include nine attorneys from the three major LGBT legal groups (GLAD, Lambda Legal and NCLR)—must soon decide whether to play to that chemistry.

With previous historic LGBT cases, the decision was somewhat easier. The 2003 *Lawrence v. Texas* case was primarily a Lambda Legal case, so the decision was essentially an internal one at Lambda. The 1996 *Romer v. Evans* case, regarding Colorado Amendment 2, came down to a comfort level the Colorado plaintiffs had with their chosen local attorney, a former state supreme court justice.

Choosing who will argue the Sixth Circuit marriage cases will likely be more difficult because of the involvement of so many attorneys, several groups, and the long, complicated litigation history that got these cases here.

Jenny Pizer, a senior attorney with Lambda Legal, said there is "no set way" for how to make the decision.

"There are numerous immensely talented, effective, and compelling advocates involved in these cases and working on this issue, so there are potentially many right choices," she said. "There is an embarrassment of riches of top legal talent."

The overriding consideration, Pizer added, will be "who gives us the best way for success at the Supreme Court that will have the strongest long-term resonance."

Meanwhile, in other developments, the U.S. Supreme Court on February 9 rejected a request from the state of Alabama to stay enforcement of a federal district court's order that the state stop enforcing its laws against marriage for same-sex couples. Despite other efforts by the state to avoid complying with the federal judge's ruling, many same-sex couples are now obtaining marriage licenses from various state clerks.

As with previous refusals to issue stays, Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas were the only justices to indicate that they would have granted a stay. The three-page dissent, penned by Thomas, said it was "ordinary practice" for the high court to grant such stays and the court's refusal to grant the stay to Alabama "may well be seen as a signal of the [Supreme] Court's intended resolution" of the marriage ban question. Thomas criticized the refusal to grant the stay as "another example of this Court's increasingly cavalier attitude toward the States," "popular referendums," and elected representatives.

"I would have shown the people of Alabama the respect they deserve," wrote Thomas, "and preserved the status quo while the Court resolves this important constitutional question."

Next week: A look at some of the possibilities.

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## Transcending the Blacklist

BY ASHLEY LOVE



### Coalitions Consist of Distinct Communities

On Jan. 20, 2015 President Obama became the first sitting president during the annual State of the Union Address to make the socially conscious decision to distinctly recognize three communities: 'Transgender', 'Bisexual' and 'Lesbian' Americans.

The President remarked, "And there's one last pillar of our leadership, and that's the example of our values. As Americans, we respect human dignity [...] . That's why we ... condemn the persecution of women, or religious minorities, or people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. We do these things not only because they are the right thing to do, but because ultimately they will make us safer."

As many trans\* and bisexual advocates take issue in being mislabeled 'gay', the President's 'L, B, T' acknowledgement has further added to discussions about language, 'community' words and the right to self-identify. LGBT non-profits and media professionals are being reminded that inaccurately pushing 'gay' as an umbrella term onto non-gay trans people socially engineers misperceptions which harmfully speak against their individual narratives.

Potential allies are inadvertently misled by non-trans decision-makers to misinterpret sexual orientation as being interchangeable with transgender gender identity or a transsexual medical condition,

to create a space in the English language where women could identify as themselves first, instead of married or single. Before then there was no moniker where a woman could just be herself. This same principle fostered the movement where lesbians of the '70s and '80s said 'You can't just say 'gay' and assume lesbians are included.' In the early 1980s Los Angeles feminists succeeded in having the L.A. Gay Community Services Center add 'lesbian' to their title, and last year both the transgender and bisexual communities finally won their quest for name inclusion."

Bisexual advocates are more visible in LGBT organizing spaces yet bi-phobic and bi-denial sentiments still occur in both straight and gay/lesbian spaces, so it's understandable that many bi folks took to social media to high-five the State of the Union's 'bisexual' shout-out.

A positive shift is occurring as bisexual groups applaud monumental gains in community awareness and inclusion, such as the White House honoring 2013's annual "Celebrate Bisexuality Day" by holding their "first-ever bisexual roundtable" with many noted bisexual advocates in attendance. Then last summer BiNet USA's president Faith Cheltenham was the first openly bisexual national leader invited to stand with a president as he signed an executive

order, referring to President Obama barring federal contractors from discriminating against LGBT employees.

Cheltenham tells *Transcending the Blacklist*, "With President Obama historically including the words 'bisexual', 'transgender' and 'lesbian' in the State of the Union he has made it very

"Words really do matter as they have the power to inspire enlightenment, or, if misused, they can derail public understanding."

clear that we are citizens worthy of protection just like any other. This may prove a critical step in continuing a rainbow revolution, fostered on behalf of EVERYONE in our diverse LGBTQ community."

It's essential that transsexual and transgender Americans have their narratives and unique needs accurately conveyed instead of problematically gay-washed and misrepresented by non-trans decision makers, queer academia, Hollywood 'transface', non-profits (with little to no trans\* board members) and media outlets.

Our LGB allies can responsibly assist our education efforts by taking the president's cue in not misusing 'gay' as an umbrella term, especially since most women of transsexual history are heterosexual. Words really do matter as they have the power to inspire enlightenment, or, if misused, they can derail public understanding.

President Obama choosing the far-reaching and influential State of the Union platform to boldly affirm the trans community's right to protections greatly uplifts the country's collective consciousness concerning trans\*visibility and social inclusion.

Journalist and media advocate Ashley Love has written for or has been interviewed by *The New York Times*, *L.A. Times*, *BBC*, *BET*, *NPR*, *Reuters TV*, *Guardian*, *Washington Blade* and *Advocate* about feminist, transsexual and social-justice issues. From hosting and co-writing MTV/Logo's edu-tainment series 'LGB to the T', authoring the *Trans Forming Media* blog or organizing *Black Trans\* Women's Lives Matter*, she's devoted to raising trans\* education and inspiring cultural change.



# HUD tells homeless shelters to respect self-identified gender

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released long-awaited guidance to ensure equal access for transgender people in homeless shelters, according to a press release from the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE).

The guidance, issued to shelters and transitional housing programs across the country, call for access to shelter and programs to be based on a person's self-identified gender. This follows similar guidance issued by the Department of Justice in 2014 for domestic violence shelters and other programs funded by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

However, while NCTE lauded this development, the release also stated, "we recognize that equal access to the current homeless services system is not enough. We share the goal of ending homelessness—and on the way to that goal, we must improve the way we provide housing."

Audrey Thomas—CEO of Deborah's Place, a Chicago shelter for homeless women—ap-

plauded the development. In an email to Windy City Times, she stated, "We are committed to ending homelessness for all, and we know that women and transgender individuals are both especially vulnerable to the underlying causes of homelessness."

"While we welcome the new HUD guidance, we will also continue to improve our staff and volunteers' awareness of gender inclusion, ensuring that all female-identified and nonbinary individuals find a welcoming, supportive community at Deborah's Place. We also believe that shelters are only a temporary and short-term solution to the complex problem of homelessness. All people need access to safe, affordable housing and supportive services to help them remain housed."

Several other homeless shelters—including Interfaith House, The Night Ministry and the Pacific Garden Mission—had not responded as of the press deadline.

—Andrew Davis

## Defense secretary talks trans troops

At a town hall in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter answered a question concerning service by transgender people, saying "I don't think anything but their suitability for service should preclude them," according to a press release from the American Military Partner Association (AMPA).

AMPA member and medical corps officer U.S. Navy LCDR Jesse M. Ehrenfeld is the service member who asked the question to Carter.

AMPA responded to the statement with a call to action urging Carter to quickly order the review of regulations that prevent the estimated 15,500 transgender service members currently in uniform from serving.

"We urge Secretary Carter to put action to his comments by ordering an immediate review of the outdated regulations that prevent transgender service members from serving our nation openly and honestly," said Human Rights Campaign Government Affairs Director David Stacy in a separate statement. "As Secretary Carter pointed out, all that should matter is the ability to do the job."

## Gay man chief of staff for Defense Secretary Carter

Eric Fanning, who is openly gay, has been appointed the chief of staff for new Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, SDGLN.com reported.

In June 2013, Fanning was named acting Air Force secretary; at the time, he became the highest ranking LGBT person in the Defense Department. Fanning had been confirmed as the Air Force Undersecretary in April 2013. Prior to his Air Force post, Fanning was Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy and deputy director of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, according to the Air Force Times.

The American Military Partner Association (AMPA) issued a statement in light of the development. "We are thrilled to see Fanning's appointment because of his experience first and foremost," said AMPA President Ashley Broadway-Mack. "Knowing that he's an openly gay man in such an important role is a milestone and a sign of how far we've come, espe-

cially when only a few years ago LGBT service members could not serve openly."

The original article is at <http://sdgln.com/news/2015/02/18/openly-gay-man-appointed-chief-staff-secretary-defense#sthash.1p58EQqQ.dpbs>.

## HRC report warns of anti-LGBT bills

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) issued a report and resource guide, "Chipping Away at Equality," that compiles more than two dozen new, sweeping and seemingly coordinated pieces of legislation in more than a dozen states across the country—all geared toward undermining LGBT equality via religious language, according to a press release.

Many of the measures are modeled on a failed attempt in Arizona last year that drew condemnation from businesses, faith communities and elected officials in both parties. Gov. Jan Brewer ultimately vetoed that proposal.

Some of the states with such measures, according to HRC, are Indiana, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Georgia, Michigan and Mississippi.

The report is at [http://hrc-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/files/assets/resources/ChippingAwayAtEquality\\_Document.pdf](http://hrc-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/files/assets/resources/ChippingAwayAtEquality_Document.pdf).

## Fed agency: Wal-Mart biased against lesbian

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) said Wal-Mart discriminated against a lesbian employee who sought health coverage for her ailing wife and has ordered "a just resolution" for violating her civil rights, according to an Associated Press item in USA Today.

The EEOC ordered the retail giant to work with Jacqueline Cote of New Bedford, Massachusetts, who hopes the ruling will help her pay off \$100,000 in medical bills.

In a Jan. 29 EEOC ruling, the agency said Cote "was treated differently and denied benefits because of her sex."

The original article is at <http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2015/02/19/walmart-discrimination-charges-lesbians/23659179/>.

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# Emanuel to face Garcia in April runoff

BY MATT SIMONETTE

For the first time since the city switched to its current nonpartisan election format in the mid-1990s, there will be a run-off election to determine who will be mayor of Chicago.

With 97 percent of the polls reporting, no candidate acquired 50 percent of the vote, plus one additional vote, required to avoid a runoff. That means Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who had

45.36 percent of the vote, will face off against Cook County Commissioner Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, who had 33.93 percent.

Businessman/minister Willie Wilson trailed Emanuel and Garcia with 10.55 percent of the vote. Ald. Robert "Bob" Fioretti had 7.4 percent, while activist William "Dock" Walls had 2.76 percent.

Speaking at Chicago Journeyman Plumbers Hall, 1340 W. Washington Blvd., Emanuel said,

"This is a first step for a really important journey for our city. ... For those who voted for someone else, I hope to gain your confidence and support. While we are a city of different ideas and different opinions, we all share a common value. That value is, to build a city where every resident in every neighborhood has a fair shot at success for themselves and their children and the American dream is alive here in the city of Chicago."

Meanwhile at Alhambra Palace Restaurant, 1240 W. Randolph St., Garcia said that he and his supporters were "sick and tired of being sick and tired. We're going to build a new Chicago, a Chicago that works for everyone [and] a city that people will want to move to, not run away from."

Both Garcia and Emanuel received support from various segments of the city's LGBT community. Garcia released an extensive LGBT platform in early February, and a number of progressive LGBT activists released a statement in support of his campaign as well. Emanuel was endorsed by Equality Illinois PAC in mid-February.

In other citywide races, Susana Mendoza was re-elected to her post without opposition as city clerk. She was initially challenged by gay activist Marc Loveless, but Loveless was removed from the ballot. Also, City Treasurer Kurt Summers, recently appointed by Mayor Emanuel and unopposed in the election, will retain his position.

## Runoffs, resounding victories and crushing defeats in city council elections

BY ANDREW DAVIS AND GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

### Wards 1-25

"Runoff" was the name of the game in the aldermanic as well as mayoral races, as winning candidates hoped to avoid an April 7 runoff election by securing 50 percent of the votes plus one.

For example, 3rd Ward Ald. Pat Dowell and 4th Ward Ald. Will Burns won comfortably over their rivals. (These reports were as of 10:10 p.m. Feb. 24.) Leslie Hairston, of the 5th Ward, had 53 percent of the vote, leading five rivals including openly queer candidate Jocelyn Hare.

The 7th Ward featured a very tight race—which is likely to happen with eight candidates. Natasha Holmes and Gregory Mitchell were at the top with 24 and 22 percent of the vote, respectively.

The 2nd Ward (which Ald. Bob Fioretti gave up to run for mayor) has Brian Hopkins and Alyx Pattison leading four other candidates, with 30 and 24 percent, respectively.

In the 15th Ward, openly gay candidate Raymond A. Lopez led five other candidates, but did not get the majority needed to avoid a runoff, as he garnered 47 percent of the vote.

There was a tight race in the 16th Ward, as Toni Foulkes and Stephanie Coleman had 41 and 35 percent of the vote, respectively, paving the way for a runoff. Derrick Curtis and Lona Lane were in a dead heat in the 18th Ward, with each having 30 percent of the vote. The 24th

Ward featured a plethora of candidates (10), with Michael Scott and Vetriss Boyce garnering the most (31 and 17 percent, respectively).

### Wards 26-50

Two LGBT candidates in Wards 26-50 will join Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Jesus "Chuy" Garcia in a run-off election on April 7. For the others, it was a night of both close and resounding victories and crushing defeats.

Carlos Ramirez-Rosa will be the city's first openly gay Latino alderman after easily defeat-

ing longtime incumbent Rey Colon. Ramirez-Rosa received 67.34 percent of the vote to Colon's 32.66 percent.

As of 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, 46th Ward incumbent James Cappleman ended up in a run-off as he took 46.76 percent of the vote. Opponent Amy Crawford took 37.66 percent and Denice Davis ended up with 15.59 percent.

In the 33rd Ward, Ald. Deb Mell will face a run-off with 49.66 percent of the vote, while challenger Tim Meegan finished with 34.51 percent and Anissa Wanat closed out the group with 15.83 percent.

In the 39th Ward, openly gay Joe Laiacona took only 3.9 percent of a vote that left incumbent Ald. Margaret Laurino with 53 percent of the vote while challenger Robert Murphy took 43 percent.

In the 44th Ward, Tom Tunney, the city's first openly gay alderman, won comfortably with 67 percent of the vote. His closest challenger Mark Thomas took only 23.7 percent.

Other incumbents facing run-offs include Deborah L. Graham in the 29th Ward who took 39 percent of the vote, 31st Ald. Regner "Ray" Suarez with 47.68 percent of the vote, 37th Ward Ald. Emma M. Mitts with 48 percent of the vote, 41st Ward Ald. Mary O'Connor with 47.68 percent of the vote, 43rd Ward Ald. Michele Smith with 41 percent of the vote, and 45th Ward Ald. John S. Arena with 45 percent of the vote.

## How the LGBT candidates fared



Incumbent Tom Tunney (left) of the 44th Ward was reelected, while Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (right) defeated Rey Colón in the 35th.



The 46th Ward will see a runoff between incumbent James Cappleman (left) and challenger Amy Crawford (right).



Deb Mell (left), the incumbent alderman from the 33rd Ward, and Raymond Lopez (right) in the 15th will both face runoffs.



## 2015 Chicago election winners/runoff candidates

\* Candidate ran unchallenged

### CHICAGO MAYOR

**Runoff:**  
Rahm Emanuel (incumbent)  
Jesus "Chuy" Garcia

### CHICAGO CITY CLERK

Susana A. Mendoza (incumbent)\*

### CHICAGO CITY TREASURER

Kurt A. Summers (incumbent)\*

### CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL

#### ALDERMAN - 1st WARD

Proco "Joe" Moreno (incumbent)

#### ALDERMAN - 2nd WARD

**Runoff:**  
Brian Hopkins

Alyx S. Pattison

#### ALDERMAN - 3rd WARD

Pat Dowell (incumbent)

#### ALDERMAN - 4th WARD

William D. "Will" Burns (incumbent)

#### ALDERMAN - 5th WARD

Leslie A. Hairston (incumbent)

#### ALDERMAN - 6th WARD

Roderick T. Sawyer (incumbent)

#### ALDERMAN - 7th WARD

**Runoff:**  
Natashia L. Holmes (incumbent)

Gregory L. Mitchell

### ALDERMAN - 8th WARD

Michelle A. Harris (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 9th WARD

Anthony A. Beale (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 10th WARD

**Runoff:**

John A. Pope (incumbent)

Susan Sadlowski-Garza

### ALDERMAN - 11th WARD

**Runoff:**

John K. Kozlar

Patrick Daley Thompson

### ALDERMAN - 12th WARD

George Cardenas (incumbent)\*

### ALDERMAN - 13th WARD

Marty Quinn (incumbent)\*

### ALDERMAN - 14th WARD

Edward M. Burke (incumbent)\*

### ALDERMAN - 15th WARD

**Runoff:**

Raymond A. Lopez

Rafael Yañez

### ALDERMAN - 16th WARD

**Runoff:**

Toni L. Foulkes (incumbent)

Stephanie Coleman

### ALDERMAN - 17th WARD

David H. Moore

### ALDERMAN - 18th WARD

**Runoff:**

Lona Lane (incumbent)

Derrick G. Curtis

### ALDERMAN - 19th WARD

Matthew J. O'Shea (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 20th WARD

**Runoff:**

Willie B. Cochran (incumbent)

Kevin Bailey

### ALDERMAN - 21st WARD

**Runoff:**

Howard B. Brookins, Jr. (incumbent)

Marvin McNeil

### ALDERMAN - 22nd WARD

Ricardo Muñoz (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 23rd WARD

Michael R. Zaleski (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 24th WARD

**Runoff:**

Vetriss Boyce

Michael Scott, Jr.

### ALDERMAN - 25th WARD

Daniel "Danny" Solis (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 26th WARD

Roberto Maldonado (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 27th WARD

Walter Burnett, Jr. (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 28th WARD

Jason C. Ervin (incumbent)\*

### ALDERMAN - 29th WARD

**Runoff:**

Deborah L. Graham (incumbent)

Chris Taliaferro

### ALDERMAN - 30th WARD

Ariel E. Reboyras (incumbent)\*

### ALDERMAN - 31st WARD

**Runoff:**

Regner "Ray" Suarez (incumbent)

Milagros "Milly" Santiago

### ALDERMAN - 32nd WARD

Scott Waguespack (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 33rd WARD

**Runoff:**

Deborah L. Mell (incumbent)

Tim Meegan

### ALDERMAN - 34th WARD

Carrie M. Austin (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 35th WARD

Carlos Ramirez-Rosa

### ALDERMAN - 36th WARD

**Runoff:**

Omar Aquino

Gilbert Villegas

### ALDERMAN - 37th WARD

**Runoff:**

Emma M. Mitts (incumbent)

Tara Stamps

### ALDERMAN - 38th WARD

Nicholas Sposato (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 39th WARD

Margaret Laurino (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 40th WARD

Patrick J. O'Connor (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 41st WARD

**Runoff:**

Mary O'Connor (incumbent)

Anthony V. Napolitano

### ALDERMAN - 42nd WARD

Brendan Reilly (incumbent)\*

### ALDERMAN - 43rd WARD

**Runoff:**

Michelle Smith (incumbent)

Caroline Vickrey

### ALDERMAN - 44th WARD

Tom Tunney (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 45th WARD

**Runoff:**

John S. Arena (incumbent)

John Garrido

### ALDERMAN - 46th WARD

**Runoff:**

James Cappleman (incumbent)

Amy Crawford

### ALDERMAN - 47th WARD

Ameya Pawar (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 48th WARD

Harry Osterman (incumbent)\*

### ALDERMAN - 49th WARD

Joe Moore (incumbent)

### ALDERMAN - 50th WARD

Debra L. Silverstein (incumbent)



# Chicago activist Barbara 'Robbie' Smith dies

BY TRACY BAIM

Family and friends have announced the passing of beloved Chicago community member and mentor to many, Barbara "Robbie" Smith. Born May 25, 1946, Smith died Feb. 14. Her gay community activism started in the 1960s.

Smith was a longtime Affinity board member, managed the organization's finances for 12 years, was a founding member of Forty Plus, and was a founding member of the Affinity Trailblazers.

She was also a key participant in the Women of All Colors and Cultures Together social organization. She supported the Lesbian Community Care Project, Crossroads Fund and the

Chicago Foundation for Women.

She received her BA from Chicago State University, and worked in accounting and real estate sales.

In a 2007 interview with the Chicago Gay History Project, Smith said: "When I began living a lesbian lifestyle in the '60s, there was a lot of police harassment. It mostly centered on how you dressed. For example, women who wore 'fly-front' pants were frequently arrested for impersonation. ... My mentors were the older lesbians in the community."

Asked about defining moments in her life, Smith said: "There have been several in my life at this point, the first being the realization that my daughter was a born leader. Another would be that my involvement with Affinity



Barbara "Robbie" Smith.

has been a gift that I have been given. ... I think my personal legacy to the community would be a testament about the rewards that come from being a service to others."

Her friends said she was an amazing human being who was also wife and mother to two phenomenal women, Phyllis Johnson and Chris Smith, respectively. Robbie Smith and Johnson, partners since October 2001, married in late 2014.

A statement released from friends read: "Her transition has left a huge hole in our hearts. During these difficult days, please keep her family in your thoughts, prayers, chants, meditations."

Smith's memorial service will be Saturday, March 7, 2015, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago. Repast will follow the service.

The Chicago Gay History Project 2007 interview with Robbie Smith and Phyllis Johnson is posted at <http://chicagogayhistory.org/biography.html?id=694>.

## PASSAGES

### Jerre Robert Donnelly

Jerre Robert Donnelly of Chicago, Illinois, died Saturday, February 7th at his home after a brief reoccurrence of cancer. He was 73.

After his graduation from the University of Cincinnati and a successful career in retail design for several prominent companies in the United States and the United Kingdom, Mr. Donnelly earned his Master's degree from the Jane Addams School of Social Work at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Donnelly began his second career working with people with AIDS through the Howard Brown Health Clinic and continued as a psychiatric social worker on staff at Chicago-Read Hospital. He retired after fourteen years of service.



Jerre Robert Donnelly.

In his retirement, Donnelly taught weekly art classes for several clients in the residential program of Anixter Center.

Donnelly was among the early applicants for a civil-union license in Illinois. He and his husband, Timothy Stephen Wright, took advantage of the opportunity to convert their civil union into a true marriage when marriage equality became the law in Illinois.

Donnelly is survived by his husband; his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jack (Ann) Donnelly of Mason, Ohio; and numerous loving nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Memorial donations can be made online to the American Cancer Society ([www.cancer.org/donate](http://www.cancer.org/donate)).

Arrangements entrusted to Cremation Society of Illinois; 773-281-5058

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# U.S. murders of trans, gender-exploring people continue

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Following the Feb. 10 murder of transgender woman Penny Proud in New Orleans, the community nationwide was stunned as two more trans and gender-exploring individuals were slain in the United States within the span of five days.

On Feb. 13 in Akron, Ohio, 22-year-old Brian Golec was stabbed to death by Golec's father who is now in police custody under a charge of murder.

On Feb. 15, the body of 46-year-old Kristina Gomez-Reinwald, known as Kristina Grant Infiniti, was discovered in her home.

In the Golec case, both national and international media leaped on the story but with no accord as to Golec's own preference, they scrambled for a label regardless of assertions and desperate pleas to stop made by Golec's own family, fiancée and friends. The United Kingdom publication *The Daily Mail* referred to Golec as a "transgender daughter." The New York Daily News headline read "transgender son." People magazine followed suit but did acknowledge friends who said that Golec's "gender identity was fluid." CNN via its HLN website referred to Golec as a "transgender person."

A Feb. 18 statement from the National Coalition of Anti Violence Programs (NCAVP) said that "Golec hated labels."

Golec's obituary posted on the Newcomer Funeral Home & Cremation Services website described the Ohio Virtual Academy graduate and musician as "a deeply spiritual and artistic person" with interests that included "painting, jewelry making, meditation, martial arts, video games, and anime."

In his farewell, Golec's friend David Timko said "You are a beautiful soul and will be missed on this earth more than you ever realized. Thank you for inspiring me and for putting so much love out into the world with what little time you were given. The world needs more people who think like you, not less."

On the blog *Riot in the Rain*, Australian game developer Riot Jayne cut through the frenzied dust brought on by the sudden onslaught of media interest. According to Jayne, the confusion began with a post on Facebook by a member of an Akron trans support group "who, upon hearing of Brian's death, and remembering them as Bri, took to Facebook to discuss their grief over yet another trans woman passing."

"Unfortunately we cannot learn what Brian would have preferred in terms of pronouns, but we can trust the many many friends and family who have come out to say that although they are very open and accepting of trans people, Brian was not identifying as a trans woman, despite the gender exploration in Brian's life," Jayne wrote. "We—of all people—should do our part in making sure that Brian be remembered as they would have preferred."

On a community Facebook page set up to remember Golec one friend wrote "I've thought about all the controversy around Brian's gender; how angry and wrathful some people are about it, I've thought about my own anger at his father and my desire for vengeance, I've been so mad that I was shaking. I've been so overcome with grief that I couldn't even cry. Then, unbidden, come thoughts of peace."

In the Gomez-Reinwald murder, the NCAVP stated Feb. 19 that "local advocacy organizations and community members believe this was an intimate partner violence homicide."

By now, vigils for slain transgender individu-



Brian Golec. Facebook photo

als had become a weekly occurrence. Gomez-Reinwald's was held on Feb. 19, while local television news affiliates kept their own precedent by ignoring GLAAD's media guidelines on reporting about the transgender community.

NBC 6 South Florida's video report referred to her as a "transgender man" while CBS Miami noted that the vigil was held "to raise awareness about crimes against transgendered people."

In a far more respectful piece headlined "6 Transgender Women Have Been Murdered in 2015 and No One is Talking About It," MTV Journalist Katie Speller wrote that Gomez-Reinwald "was an accomplished performer in the Miami House Scene's balls—pageant competitions that involve skills in dance, drag and performance. She was known for her love of old-school drama, her passion for flamenco music and her love of memorable feather-filled performances. She had a brother she adored, a mother who stood by her, and a family of both transgender and drag sisters she mentored and looked out for."

According to WSVN 7 News, her friends described her as a "beautiful person" who shared whatever she had when somebody needed it.

One post on her Facebook vigil page read "She has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much; Who has enjoyed the trust of women, the respect of men and the love of little children; Who has filled her niche and accomplished her task; Who has never lacked appreciation of Earth's beauty or failed to express it; Who has left the world better than she found it, Whether an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul; Who has always looked for the best in others and given them the best she had; Whose life was an inspiration; Whose memory a benediction."

As of Feb. 21, the tally of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals murdered in the U.S. depends upon the media source. One thing everyone appears to agree upon: Whether the figure is six or eight, it's too many.

Including pictures of each of the transgender women or gender non-conforming individuals of color murdered so far in 2015—Lamar Edwards (20), Lamia Beard (30), Ty Nunee Underwood (24), Yazmin Vash Payne (33) Taja Gabrielle De Jesus (36), Penny Proud (21) and Grant Infiniti—the sign for the Torch of Friendship vigil held in downtown Miami on Feb. 19 read "2015 just started. Please stop killing us."

On the pop culture website *The Mary Sue*, writer Marcy Cook wondered "Is the media up in arms about this insanely high murder rate? Two people caught Ebola in the U.S. and the

media went into a frenzy that lasted weeks. After six murders of TWoC the media has barely reacted."

"We need more public awareness and respect campaigns, more people speaking out against this violence, and more protections, particularly for transgender people, from harassment and discrimination," stated the NCAVP. "This is an outrage, and we all have to commit as a nation to ending this violence."

## Domestic violence also an epidemic

The Grant Infiniti murder is also part of another disturbing trend in the LGBT community, intimate partner violence. Mirroring the general society, the LGBT community certainly has its share of such murders.

The NCAVP reported on the intimate partner violence homicide of Oscar Mendez in Lawrence, Massachusetts. According to local media, Miguel Rivera, 50, is accused of fatally stabbing his boyfriend, Oscar Mendez, 39, at their apartment.

This is the seventh intimate partner, family or stalking related homicide of an LGBT person that NCAVP has responded to in 2015. NCAVP has responded to 13 LGBT homicides in 2015. "To the best of our knowledge, seven of the incidents have been intimate partner,

family or stalking violence-related and six have been hate violence-related. However, as with all incidents, as we get more information we may find that the homicides has different motivations than originally reported," the group stated.

"In 2015 we are seeing an alarming number of intimate partner violence related homicides of LGBTQ people," said Chai Jindasurat, co-director of community organizing and public advocacy at the New York City Anti Violence Project. "We need more education, services, and prevention programs that seek to end intimate partner violence in LGBT and HIV-affected communities."

In NCAVP's report *Intimate Partner Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV Affected Communities* in 2013, released on Oct. 15, 2014, there were 21 IPV homicides in 2012 and 2013. In 2013, 76 percent of victims were gay men. Both years represent the highest number of homicides ever recorded to NCAVP. This is up from 19 IPV homicides in 2011 and more than three times the 6 documented homicides in 2010. Additionally, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lesbians, gay men and bisexual people experience intimate partner violence at the same or higher rates as non-LGB people.

## A year of marriage equality shows high demand, diversity

BY MARGO ANDERSON

On Feb. 18, the Cook County Clerk's office released a report providing data from one year of same-sex marriage in Cook County. The report shows a high number of marriage licenses and also shows great diversity in the gender, age, race, occupation and area of residence of these marriages.

Cook County Clerk David Orr was granted clearance to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples on Feb. 21, 2014. Since then, more than 6,500 same-sex couples have married in Cook County. In comparison, about 32,000 marriage licenses are issued annually to opposite-sex couples. According to the American Community Survey of 2010, almost 1 percent of the couple households in Illinois are same-sex couples. Orr told *Windy City Times*, "It proves very significantly that there's a demand ... an overwhelming desire of couples who have loved each other for so long to get married."

And this desire cuts across all age groups. Of those receiving same-sex marriage licenses, 74 couples were in their teens and 42 couples were over eighty years old. "Thousands of people have been wanting this" Orr said. "It's a victory for people who have waited for so long."

The demand for marriage also seems to be split along gender lines. Fifty-two percent of couples identified as male and forty-eight percent of couples identified as female.

The race of same-sex couples receiving licenses was roughly representative of the population of Cook County. Of those who gave their race, more than 50 percent are Caucasian, more than 10 percent are Hispanic, more than 10 percent are African-American and about 5 percent are Asian or another race. According to the U.S. Census, the population of Cook County is more than half Caucasian, about 25 percent Hispanic, about 25 percent African-American, and almost 10 percent Asian.

The geographic location of marriage licenses is equally diverse. At least one license was issued to a couple in nearly every Chicago zip code and almost every Cook County municipality. About half of the marriage licenses were issued for residents of Chicago. But

the Cook county municipalities of Evanston and Oak Park also received high numbers of marriage licenses.

The ability to get marriage licenses has also drawn in couples from outside of Cook County. Over three hundred couples from other Illinois counties came to Cook County to get married. And almost two thousand same-sex couples from 41 other states and Puerto Rico came to Cook County for the same reason. Some couples traveled internationally including fourteen couples from countries such as China, Russia, Spain, England, Germany, Austria, and Thailand.

In the area of education, more than 80 percent of spouses had either attended or graduated from college and 25 percent had received a post-graduate or doctorate degree. There were hundreds of occupations listed by those receiving licenses. The most common occupations were teachers, individuals within medical professions, lawyers and members of the U.S. military. But other occupations included truck drivers, factory workers, farmers and welders.

"The thing for me that I am so pleased and so proud about is," said Orr, "is that it was done so successfully. ... It was done very professionally and very positively." Well over a thousand couples were able to convert a civil union to a marriage, free of charge. These licenses were backdated to the day of the original civil union. Of these couples, more than 300 were issued licenses that were backdated to June 2011, the first month that civil unions were allowed in Cook County. The most popular day to obtain a marriage license was June 2, 2014, the same day that the entire state of Illinois received marriage equality.

Orr told *Windy City Times* that the diversity he has seen in same-sex marriage compares favorably to the diversity seen in opposite-sex marriage. He believes that the diversity of same-sex marriages "continues to reflect the diversity of Cook County." He expects that, in the future, we may see the diversity of Cook County same-sex marriages increase as more couples from less diverse states are able to legally marry in their home state.

The full report is at <http://www.cookcountyclerk.com>.



# Two reports detail bias against trans Americans

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

When the U.S. Supreme Court rules on the issue of same-sex marriage later this year, many of the advocacy organizations and groups nationwide that have fought for a resolution to the issue are hopeful that LGBTQ equality will take a giant leap forward. However two reports released February 18 by the Denver-based LGBT think tank The Movement Advancement Project (MAP) starkly demonstrate that the transgender community remains snared in disproportionate inequity, discrimination and oppression in almost all areas of American life—employment, housing, K-12 and higher education, health care, pensions, the criminal justice system, immigration, obtaining credit, loans, financial aid or identification documents and even marriage.

The ramifications to the community in terms of poverty, societal attitudes and manifestations of violence against transgender individuals have been bluntly illustrated with the deaths of eight transgender women across the United States in the first seven weeks of 2015.

The data, stories and issues raised in the reports entitled “Understanding Issues Facing Transgender Americans” and “Paying an Unfair Price: The Penalty for Being Transgender in America” were assembled and co-authored by MAP alongside the Center for American Progress, the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE), and the Transgender Law Center, in partnership with Center for Community Change, Center for Popular Democracy, GLAAD, National Association of Social Workers and the National Education Association.

“Understanding Issues” details each sphere of society in which transgender residents face daily discrimination and offers brief recommendations on a local, state and federal level. The figures are sobering.

The report states that one-in-five transgender people have been refused a home or an apartment with laws protecting them on the books in only 18 states and D.C. In schools, 40 percent of gender non-conforming youth have reported some level of harassment with only 13 states offering laws against discrimination because of their gender identity. An astonishing 78 percent of transgender individuals reported being “mistreated or discriminated against at work” while up to 47 percent noted being unfairly denied a job at all. In terms of income, the report cited National Transgender Discrimination Survey (NTDS) figures which stated transgender Americans are “four times more likely to have a household income under \$10,000 per year than the population as a whole.”

Within the criminal-justice system, the report notes that one-in-six transgender people will have been incarcerated at some point in their lives. For Black transgender individuals that figure stands at 47 percent. “Reports from the Bureau of Justice Statistics find that 35 percent of transgender prisoners report experiencing sexual abuse in the last twelve months, compared to 4 percent of all prisoners,” the document states while indicating that the disproportionate numbers of low-income transgender people has led to a far greater frequency of police interactions and “higher levels police harassment, imprisonment and violence.”

“Unfair Price” examines that poverty in greater detail. The report lists what it calls two “primary failures of law” as the reason “transgender people in the United States face clear financial penalties and are left economically vulnerable”—pervasive discrimination and a lack of clear legal protections along with hostile educational environments.



Naomi Goldberg. Photo courtesy of Goldberg

The results are denial of employment or harassment while on the job, lower wages, denial of housing and even difficulty accessing homeless shelters, inordinate healthcare costs due to discrimination by insurance companies and healthcare providers and increased difficulty obtaining credit such as a credit card or student loan.

MAP policy specialist/researcher Naomi Goldberg was the lead author on that report while LGBT movement and policy analyst Heron Greenesmith piloted the creation of “Understanding Issues Facing Transgender Americans.”

Goldberg told Windy City Times that both reports received their genesis from earlier and exhaustive research released by MAP detailing issues facing the LGBT community as a whole. “Beginning last year, we starting releasing issue-specific guides,” she said. “Heron released one about the disparities that bisexual face in this country. Often both they and the transgender community are ignored when talking about LGBT people. So this guide about transgender [individuals] is meant to be used as an entry point for people to understand the key areas in which transgender people face challenges.”

Goldberg said she hopes that the reports will be used in multiple areas and across a spectrum of audiences including the media, policy makers and advocacy groups. “It’s meant to be another articulation of why protections are needed,” she said. “As we see the transgender community gain visibility, a lot of people are coming to understand what it means to be transgender in a new way and I think this guide can be an easily accessible tool for people to talk about the real challenges transgender people face. There’s a real opportunity here to articulate the concerns and the needs of the transgender community that is accessible and demystifying.”

As a cisgender woman, Goldberg acknowledged that as she began to piece the report together she was surprised at the sheer breadth of discrimination against the transgender community. “It was the ways in which discrimination affects all aspects of life,” she said. “In my opinion this is where the work really needs to be focused. We need to understand how to talk about the issues that transgender community face, how to provide recommendations to advance them in the policy sphere and also look at movement capacity—organizations that are

doing the work and how to support [them].”

However, Goldberg stressed that lack of data concerning the transgender community remains a huge obstacle in creating policy change. “We can probably say that the 2020 census will not be including questions of gender identity and expression,” she stated. “There’s going to be another fielding of the Transgender Discrimination Survey which uncovered and provided all of us with statistics to pair with people sharing their own stories. Gathering the data is going to be the long game but that is the path forward.”

“It’s not enough to say ‘we’re done’ when we

pass laws,” Goldberg added. “This is something the LGBT movement post marriage-equality is going to have to address.

For more information about MAP, visit <http://www.lgbtmap.org/>.

“Understanding Issues Facing Transgender Americans” is available at <http://www.lgbtmap.org/understanding-issues-facing-transgender-americans>.

“Paying an Unfair Price: The Financial Penalty for Being Transgender in America” can be found at <http://www.lgbtmap.org/unfair-price-transgender>.

## Chicagoans among Lambda additions

Lambda Legal announced it has elected three new leaders to serve on its board of directors, according to a press release.

They are Dr. Beth Meyerson, assistant professor of public health policy and administration at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana; Roderick Hawkins, vice president of external affairs with the Chicago Urban League; and David de Figueiredo, senior vice president and risk management manager with Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco.

Chicagoan Stephen Winters, former general counsel for BP America, has been elected co-chair of the national board.

“We are grateful that Stephen will take on this role as co-chair after several years of service on the board. We are also tremendously pleased to welcome these three new members to our board,” Lambda Legal Executive Director Kevin Cathcart said. “David, Beth and Roderick bring an exciting breadth of knowledge and talent to Lambda Legal, specializing in banking and investment, health policy research and administration, and non-profit communications. We greatly appreciate their willingness to volunteer their time and service.”

Hawkins has been a senior staff member with the nearly 100-year-old Chicago Urban League since 2007, overseeing the communication, marketing and external relations of the city’s largest civil-rights organization. Winters has served on Lambda Legal’s national board of directors since March 2012; since December 2013, he has been a member of the board’s executive committee.

## Milwaukee LGBT center names new executive director

The board of directors of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is pleased to announce the selection of Karen Gotzler as the organization’s new executive director, effective immediately, according to a press release.

Gotzler will take the role after serving as interim executive director since July.

Gotzler has been consulting with a wide range of organizations from businesses to government and nonprofit groups over the past 15 years as a part of Urban Strategies/Sector Management Consulting Group. Previously, she served as president/CEO of Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin.

An official welcome for Gotzler will be part of the Center’s annual meeting, to be held at 6 p.m., on Thursday, March 5, in the center’s community room, 1110 N. Market St.

## ACLU asks for changes at DCFS

Citing risk of harm to thousands of children in the care of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the ACLU of Illinois has asked a federal judge to order DCFS to jump-start reforms at the agency, according to a press release.

The request to the court comes after more than four months of unsuccessful negotiations during which the ACLU, which represents all foster children in DCFS custody, has allegedly repeatedly urged DCFS to address several problems. The problems reportedly include severe shortages of safe placements and necessary services.

A copy of the complaint is available at <http://www.aclu-il.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/bhmotion.pdf>.

## LPAC names first executive director

LPAC, the country’s first lesbian political action committee, announced political veteran Beth Shipp as the organization’s first executive director, according to a press release.

Shipp joins LPAC after serving as the political director of NARAL Pro-Choice America for 10 years. At NARAL, Shipp led all national political activities for the organization, including its electoral efforts, independent expenditure campaigns, and ballot initiative campaigns.



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# At the heart of 'Mama' Gloria Allen

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

It was Gloria Allen's mother Alma, grandmother Mildred Johnson, great-aunt Fannie Hearn and actress Sophia Loren whom she has said were the most inspirational in the past and present development, sensibilities and unshakable determination of a woman so beloved by all the souls she has touched that they call her "mama" without a moment's hesitation or doubt of kindred familiarity.

When Allen walked into the Center on Halsted's lobby one early February afternoon, her posture and air seemed regal. Her face was painted with the compassionate and infectious glow embodied through decades of personal beliefs and actions.

The transgender community and a fraction of its members may have taken center stage under a glaring media spotlight, but Allen boasts no magazine covers or book deals, no blistering editorials lauded over by legions of social-media followers, invitations to keynote symposiums or to be the expert on all that is transgender on a talk show—nor does she yearn to toast herself with them.

Yet many of the people in the Center's lobby who had been chatting, reading or tapping away at their cell phones immediately stopped what they were doing and waved an enthusiastic greeting at Allen's arrival. Some rose in happy anticipation of her hug—an empowering comfort that no matter what their troubles, all would be well if she had anything to say about it.

Allen was no stranger to anyone at the Center—staff or clients. When she made an impromptu request for a quiet room to talk with Windy City Times about her life, one was found immediately.

As she has been to the transgender individuals who have taken part in her Center on Halsted charm school—each in need of the firm guidance, steady hand and continual encouragement manifested in the best of the profession—when Allen was asked how she likes to be titled, her correction was that of a patient but firm teacher.

"You can't fit me into a pigeonhole," she said. "I'm just a person who's out there in love with life. I really do everything that I can when I can and if I'm needed to be there, I'm there."

Allen will turn 70 this year, and she relishes the milestone certain in the knowledge that there are more to come while maintaining a thoughtful and reverential gratitude at the prospect. "So many trans women of color don't make it to my age," she said. "There's a few out there and you can count them on your fingers. I am blessed and proud to be here to talk because older trans women should be heard. We walked that long mile to get here."

That long mile began for Allen at her grandparent's Bowling Green, Kentucky, farm in 1945—just as the world was celebrating victory over tyranny and oppression. She spent her early childhood alongside her parents and the first of what were to become 13 younger siblings. "I've always said I have that mother wit," she admitted. "I am the way I am today because I took on the role to help my mother out."

She described her early childhood in Kentucky as "amazing."

"My daddy was a mill worker and my grandfather was a coal miner, so they made good money," Allen recalled. "My mother worked as a registered nurse and she was a beauty queen so my grandmother kept the house. She was a very good homemaker, too, and an amazing woman. The household was fun and there was a lot of love there. We were so free. The outdoors was beautiful. There was a pond we could swim in and I learned to hunt, shoot and fish."

Between enjoying the spoils of farm life, Allen's young eyes watched everything her grandmother did with esteemed wonder. "She was the salt of the earth. Oh, I just loved her," Allen said with a smile. "She taught us love, how to sit down and eat. She was very beautiful, classy and loveable and she was the basis for all of us to be that way."

Allen added that her grandmother, mother and great-aunt knew who she was before she did. "They protected me and were always there to watch over me," she said. "I would be around these amazing women learning how to cook, clean, do my homework. To them, I was the gifted child. We'd sit down for a family dinner at the table and we were asked 'what do you want to be when you grow up?' So I said I wanted to be a nurse and my nine brothers would sit and chuckle, 'Boys don't become nurses.' But my parents would tell them that it takes all kinds of people to make up the world and that everybody's different."

The fashions and deportment of the 1950s woman fascinated a young Allen who was, at the time, presenting with male clothing. "Back then, there were no skinny girls," she said. "All of them were voluptuous and beautiful and they dressed like ladies—beautiful dresses with gloves, slips and silk stockings. My family would go to the movies for 25 cents and all the women were so glamorous. I would see the Arabian Nights harem girls dancing with their veils and I would emulate them when I got home."

Both Loren and Alma are glittered through Allen's memory. "My mother could walk into a room and captivate it because she had a beautiful figure," she said. "They called her the Black Marilyn Monroe."

Allen was only 4 when her father took a job in Chicago for U.S. Steel. The family relocated to South Side neighborhood of 89th and Green Bay. It was in this city that her life took a dramatic turn for the worse.

"Elementary school was devastating," she said. "The kids weren't friendly so I just stayed to myself. I knew how to protect myself and my younger siblings but there were 7th and 8th graders who would chase me home and push me down. After a while I started pushing them down and fighting back."

Her bedroom became a sanctuary from the city around her. "I would go into my room and I would cut out paper dolls," she said. "I'd make clothing and put it on them. This would soothe me. Some in my family would say, 'Boys don't play with paper dolls,' but my mother would say 'Let my child be the way my child wants to be.'"

But her mother, grandmother and great-aunt could not always be there to defend and protect her. With both her parents working, an 8-year-old Allen sometimes spent her days in the care of a babysitter who lived in the same apartment building.

"She had a 17-year-old son and his name was Frank," she remembered, her smile quickly fading from her face. "I'll never forget that name. He was a typical teenager. You know, his hormones were raging and he would send my brother out to play but not me. I had to stay in with him. He was ... he became attracted to me. It was a lot of touching and feeling on me. I didn't know what was going on. I was thinking it was a game. It was degrading. I didn't like it but I couldn't stop it from happening to me."

The abuse went on for a year. All the way until her twenties, Allen told no one, fearing she would not be believed. "It was a secret that became embedded in me," she said. "It haunted me throughout my life. I didn't want a man to put his hands on me. I would have issues with my brothers and my father. If they gave me a hug, I would just freeze up."

Allen was a 14-year-old freshman at Engle-



"Mama" Gloria Allen. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

wood High School who had yet to match her outward appearance with her inner self when she, one of her brothers and a cousin went to a movie matinee after church. "We were walking down Michigan Avenue heading home," she said. "There were four boys from my high school coming down the street toward us—two of them I went to grammar school with, the other two I didn't know."

According to Allen, the men ordered her cousin and brother to leave. "I'm standing there wondering why they were sending them away and not letting me go. Then they forced me into a gangway and up under a porch. I could hear somebody on the porch. But the four guys had me under it and they..." Allen struggled to form her words. "They forced me, you know, and everything just went haywire. They held me down and covered my mouth and I remember hearing the person up on the porch. Then all of a sudden the guys ran but one [of them] stayed behind. My father, God rest his soul, made it there and caught the guy. There was a barbed-wire fence and my dad was getting ready to crush his neck on the fence and I told my father 'Don't'..."

Allen paused to regain her composure, but made no attempt to dry the tears falling down her face. It was as if she needed them. "I told him 'Don't do it' because I didn't want him going to jail because of me," she said.

The men were eventually all caught by the police. But Allen's suffering was far from over. "At the trial, these guys had their lawyers say that I initiated everything," she said. "I'm sitting there and I felt so cheap. But the judge put them all away. Back at school, their girlfriends wanted to beat me up. My mother blamed herself and I had to convince her that it wasn't her fault."

Allen dropped out at 15. After a period of therapy, she enrolled at Hirsch High School. "I started doing much better and my parents were proud of me that I got back out there after something so traumatic," she said. "But I started having fun. I could really sing back then and I won a lot of people over after I performed in talent shows. I became more confident in myself. I only ran with the girls. I was in the top 20 in my class and, in my senior year, I was voted the friendliest, the one with the prettiest smile and the one most likely to succeed."

Around her, the '60s were at their tumultuous zenith. "The march on Washington had a big impact on me," Allen said. "I remember Martin Luther King coming to Cicero. But if I went over to Cicero, I would have either been lynched or murdered. The North Side wasn't any better. Blacks coming up north were all carded and profiled [by the CPD]. We had to have at least three pieces of ID with the same name on it. Halsted had so many clubs and a lot of gay men but transgender girls just did not exist."

Instead, Allen spent her weekend evenings performing at clubs on the South Side. "There was the Bonanza Club and the Burning Spear,"

she said, her smile returning in fond recollection. "The girls would put on shows there. My mother gave me her old dresses. But they were good clothes, designer clothes."

On one such evening, an 18-year-old Allen was preparing to leave by the back door of the Englewood family home. "My mother told me, 'No! You're going out the front door.' So when I came on out, everybody on the block was on their porches looking at me as I came down the stairs and walked down the street. They were applauding me and saying 'You are so beautiful. You should have done this a long time ago.' They loved me and I didn't know it."

Allen's self-confidence skyrocketed. At 27, she received her nursing certificate. But with her singing ability gaining her ever increasing local acclaim, she moved to New York's Greenwich Village neighborhood in 1969 determined to conquer the Broadway's stages. "I was loving it," she said. "I was going to take New York by storm. I would go to casting calls but I didn't make it."

Meanwhile, she frequented local bars with a couple of friends. "The police were vicious," Allen said. "They'd arrest you if you rolled your eyes at them. The violence against transgender women was horrific. They were being stabbed and found in garbage cans with their bodies chopped up. The police were killing us, too. They would raid the clubs and drag us out. It was like living in Salem during the witch hunts. If you were Black and transgender it was bad."

Then one June night, the police raided the Stonewall Inn. "We just got tired of it," Allen recalled. "The girls decided we're going to fight and we fought because we weren't going to take it anymore."

Because she lived through and participated in such a pivotal moment in history, the bitter irony of transgender individuals forming the genesis of the LGBT movement and promptly being forgotten by it is not lost on Allen. "Trans people weren't in existence at all," she said. "A lot of people would come to the clubs just to see the trans girls perform and we would put on a good show. They put us into categories—sex workers or entertainers. They didn't realize we were educated. The lesbians hated us and we couldn't understand why. It's changed now but when I was coming up, lesbians would fight us just because we were trans girls. The gay men didn't like us because we were feminine."

Struggling to make ends meet, Allen returned to Chicago in 1974 to take a job as the head nurse at a clinic. She found an apartment in Hyde Park and looked forward to weekends at the clubs. However, those nights were becoming increasingly dangerous. "A lot of trans girls were being murdered," she said. "You'd pick up the wrong guy in a club and he'd get you to your house, shoot you in the head, cut your throat or beat you to death. No one would ever investigate. It was just [the attitude of] 'This is what you get because you shouldn't be in women's clothing.'"



Police harassment was constant. "One time my cousin and her boyfriend were driving," she remembered. "They saw me and stopped. I got in and a police car followed us all the way to our destination and they arrested us."

The charge was loitering.

When in the lock-up, Allen was paraded up and down in front of the other inmates. "It was nasty and degrading but they didn't care," she said. "They did that to deter you from wearing a dress. It just made me more determined. I was an activist then and I remain one today."

Within eight years, something else was terrorizing Allen's community. "When AIDS came out, everyone I knew were dropping like flies," she said. "We didn't know what was going on."

Allen began talking to the girls working on the streets. "I tried to tell people 'you are much better than that,'" she recalled. "I would give them information on how to protect themselves because we used to run in small social circles. My mother told me when I was a teenager to protect myself. I didn't understand at the time, but she told me 'people mess round and they're not going to tell you about it.'"

Allen gave speeches to fellow parishioners of the Greater Metropolitan Baptist Church which included a sizeable gay presence. "People in my church were happy that I could stand up and tell them what we could do as human beings to save people," she said. "My pastor and I had words. I told him 'you're not going to preach the Gospel and tell a person that they can't come in because they're transgender. I dare you to put me out.'"

Allen remains a member of the church today.

"In church, in public I believe that people need love and support," she said. "When my mother, grandmother and aunt set the table, they always put an extra plate out. I used to ask 'who's coming to dinner?' They would tell me 'somebody might knock on the door and they might be hungry.'"

They were words which thundered on Allen's heart when she saw Chicago's homeless LGBT youth gathering outside the Center on Halst-

## Darrow symposium to explore undocumented, immigration

CHICAGO—On the seventy-eighth anniversary of famed attorney Clarence Darrow's death, this year's annual Darrow symposium on Friday, March 13, explores contemporary activism on the issues of undocumented laborers and immigration. Darrow's attitude is summarized by a quote from a 1929 debate on "Is Immigration Beneficial?" in which he said, "I am a foreigner; my people didn't get here until about 1710. They got here, and now I am asked to close the doors to the people who came over on a later ship."

This year's symposium views the issues through the work of three passionate and outspoken advocates for the undocumented. Tania Unzueta Carrasco is an immigrant queer community organizer and writer who is known nationally for using direct action and civil disobedience to fight against deportations and harsh immigration enforcement practices and policy. Catholic Sisters Patricia Murphy and JoAnn Persch founded the Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants, which works in



Tania Unzueta Carrasco.

detention centers, a deportation center, the immigration court and the Post-Detention Accompaniment program.

The day begins with a brief ceremony and flower-tossing near the Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park at 10 a.m., where Darrow's ashes were scattered after his death and where, as a bet, he once agreed his spirit would return if it turned out communication was possible

from the afterworld. The bridge is closed due to construction, so the ceremony will be just to the east of the Darrow tribute marker. For the past 58 years, through the annual commemoration ceremony and lecture, Darrow's spirit has returned—usually to remind us that his work is not yet done.

After the ritual outdoor flower-tossing, guests will move inside to the Museum of Science and Industry's Rosenwald Room (formerly the New Columbian Room) for light refreshments and presentations at 10:45 by the featured speakers. The program also includes an appearance by high school junior Marissa Howe, winner of the Clarence Darrow History Award (which is sponsored by the Clarence Darrow Commemorative Committee) at the 2014 Chicago Metro History Fair.

Darrow, who died March 13, 1938, is remembered for his crusading role as "attorney for the damned" in such controversial cases as the Scopes Monkey Trial, the Leopold and Loeb murder case, and the pardoning of the Haymarket anarchists.

For more details, see [www.darrowbridge.org](http://www.darrowbridge.org).

ed's doors. "They were hungry, dirty, no education and no love in their lives," she recalled. "And they would dress in stuff that I would be ashamed to put on—the butts and the breasts all hanging out. You can be sexy and classy, but never trashy."

"I don't understand people who hide from their past," Loren once said. "Everything you live through helps to make you the person you are now."

Allen knew that all the lessons she had learned from the people and events who were the shapers and teachers of her own life, could be applied in a charm school held at the Center and designed to give her students the same unwavering love, dignity and self-respect be-

queathed by the great women who raised her and paramount in each day spent honoring their legacies.

"Some of these kids change, some of them stop coming," Allen said. "You can tell them things but if they don't take heed to it, they don't. Life is complicated but it can be beautiful if you are prepared to work at it."

If there is anything that discourages Allen, it is the current divisions in the transgender community. "They've got too many categories for people," she said. "People are jealous. They're fighting against each other and the public are watching this. Remember, they're so quick to label all of us the same. We've got such a long way to go. Unite because it's a revolution

that's happening here."

For Allen, it is not a journey or a revolution that should end with the attainment of celebrity status. "I'm all for people getting up there," she said. "But when you do, reach out, grab that person who's down and pull them up with you. Don't just talk about 'you'. We know what you're doing but let's see what you're going to do to get other people where you are."

"I'm not ready to stop. I'm ready to give people what was given to me. These kids are my babies and if my mother, aunt and grandmother were here now, they'd be helping out."



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# Youth homelessness behind teaming of AFC, Vida/SIDA

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) and Vida/SIDA—a project of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC)—are teaming on a new initiative, El Rescate 2.0, to help HIV positive homeless youth get a new lease on life.

This isn't the first time that the AFC and Vida/SIDA has worked together on an initiative. AFC provides case management and prevention services including counseling and testing through Vida/SIDA's Ryan White Case Management program.

"El Rescate 2.0, an extension of our El Rescate program, is a scattered sites permanent supportive housing program for HIV-positive and LGBTQ youth ages 18-24," said Jorge Cestou, Vida/SIDA director of programs and services. "We started this initiative on Jan. 1 with 15 units available to HIV positive homeless youth. We hope to grow the program to 30 units by next year."

Cestou shared that the apartments will be located where the youth want to live with the main location being the Humboldt Park neighborhood.

"We think they will still live within the same area as El Rescate because that's where people go to work or school but they will have their own individual apartments which is different from the shared living arrangement that is El Rescate," said Angelique Miller, AFC's senior director of housing and behavioral health services. "We're being flexible with the ages and will take certain youth that are 17 or 25 if we have a spot available for them."

Cestou and Miller met each other while serving on the Chicago Area HIV Integrated Services Council. They teamed up about six months ago to work on this initiative following discussions in-house at the PRCC-Vida/SIDA about the things they needed to do for the clients who were graduating from the El Rescate program.

The Chicago Department of Public Health and the Illinois Department of Human Services are the primary sources of funding for this program.

"AFC is very excited to work with us on this program since this will be the first time they will have a youth program," said Cestou. "We're excited to partner with them because we're bringing something new to the community. This program is the first of its kind."

"I'm really excited about this program. I've been with AFC for a long time and created a lot of different programming that really identifies individuals that aren't served or haven't been served very well by traditional mainstream homeless programs. There are still a lot of fears, unknowns and stigma about HIV/AIDS in the regular homeless system," said Miller. "This is a big opportunity for us to support these individuals and really encourage other organizations to do something similar. I want to show that youth can be trusted with their own apartments with the proper supports in place so they can succeed in their life."

Miller explained that the program will provide a variety of services to the clients including one-on-one case management in their homes or at the office as well as assistance for issues such as substance use, mental health issues, employment, education and/or family situations.

"The case manager we have assigned to this program is already working with seven clients who are ready to graduate from the El Rescate program and will need to move into a more permanent space," said Cestou.

Cestou noted that they are planning on



Angelique Miller. Photo by Ed Negrón

working with a number of organizations they've partnered with in the past and are already hearing from groups that are interested in helping them with this program.

"We've partnered with Pedro Albizu Campos High School. They have an alternative program for young people up to age 24 who want to go to school so they can graduate with a high school diploma and not just a GED," said Cestou. "We're considering partnering with the University of Chicago. They have a mobile medical van that we want to make available for the program participants. The ultimate goal for the funding is so the participants will be able to attend their medical appointments and adhere to their HIV-medication schedules."

"We're going to do an evaluation component with our researcher at AFC. She's actually been working with us and Vida/SIDA to create the tools for these evaluations," said Miller. "We've been talking nationally to other AIDS-service organizations to see if we can collaborate with them about what we are doing so we can get national statistics and best practices that people in a few years can incorporate in their own communities across the nation."

"We will be making presentations to community-based organizations and the general public to make them aware of what we are doing with this program," said Cestou.

As for the next five years, Miller and Cestou hope they will have 200 units available. They are also looking to expand the program to include non-HIV positive homeless youth clients.

**For more information about the program, contact Cestou at [jorgec@prcc-chgo.org](mailto:jorgec@prcc-chgo.org) or call 773-278-6737.**

## El Rescate panel on homelessness March 3

El Rescate is hosting "The Latino Housing & Homelessness Question: A Panel Discussion" on Tuesday, March 3, 4:30-6 p.m., at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, 3015 W. Division St.

Panelists will include Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim, La Casa Norte's Sol Flores, Jackie Gonzalez of El Rescate, Illinois Department of Human Services Assistant Director of the Division of Family and Community Services Dan Harris, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Angie Miller and Evelyn Vasquez of the Chicago Department of Public Health.

The requested donation is \$25; visit <http://elrescatechicago.org/>.

## Patner memorial set for March 18

The memorial service for Andrew Patner has been rescheduled for Wed., March 18, at 7-9 p.m., in Orchestra Hall, 220 S. Michigan Ave.

There will be a reception following the service.

Patner, a longtime Chicago critic in print, radio and television, passed away Jan. 3. He was 55.

Patner was active within both in Chicago's fine-arts world, and LGBT and Jewish communities, among others. He was a commentator on WFMT radio, and his criticism appeared in Chicago Sun-Times, and wrote for Chicago Magazine, among numerous other publications, as well. He was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2013.

## Affinity, StoryCorps event on Feb. 26

On Thursday, Feb. 26, at 6-8 p.m., Affinity Community Services (Affinity) and StoryCorps OUTloud are hosting a program, "Queering Black History," at the Chicago Urban League, 4510 S. Michigan Ave., that features interviews of Black people who identify as LGBTQ and allies.

The conversation topics varied widely and included the importance of strong role models, coming out, participating in the Stonewall Riots and living in the South during the civil-rights struggles of the 1960s.

Visit <http://affinity95.org/acscontent/> and <http://storycorps.org/griot/>.

## HIV/AIDS advocates tackle ACA drug costs

BY MATT SIMONETTE

According to officials at AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC), only one insurer has so far responded to its letters expressing concern for coverage and cost of HIV medications on plans that are being offered on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace. Federal officials, meanwhile, noted in their parameters for insurers participating in 2016 Marketplace coverage that such pricing could be construed as discriminatory.

AFC and AIDS Legal Council of Chicago officials wrote to four insurers—Humana, Coventry, UnitedHealthcare and Health Alliance—the week of Jan. 26. Those plans all placed HIV medications on a specialty tier, which usually results in customers having to absorb extremely higher costs in order to obtain that medication.

Only Coventry has so far responded to the letters, according to Ramon Gardenhire, vice-president of policy for AFC. He added that AFC officials will discuss the matter with the company next month.

"We are looking at all our options with this," said Gardenhire. "If we continue to be met with radio silence, we won't have a choice but to file a complaint with the Illinois Department of Insurance."

Insurers in numerous states, in 2014, adjusted formularies so that specific HIV medications are either not covered, or are available at substantially higher costs to customers. Coventry, for example, classified most single-tablet regimens as "tier 5," or non-specialty drugs, and refused to cover costs for the medication Tivicay, according to the AFC-ALCC letter.

In correspondence with Health Alliance Insurance, Gardenhire and ALCC Executive Director Tom Yates note that that company classified single tablet regimens and the medication Truvada as tier 5. The letter to Humana notes that the average monthly cost to a customer on their plan requiring HIV medications would be between \$840.71 and \$1628.94. For United Healthcare customers it would be between \$720.61 and \$977.19.

This is a nationwide issue. A study that appeared in January in the New England Journal of Medicine suggested that about 25 percent of persons with HIV/AIDS in the ACA marketplace might have been subjected to such pricing. The study analyzed 48 plans in 12 states.

Consumer groups lodged complaints against four Florida insurers with the Department of Health and Human Services in May

2014. Those companies eventually lowered their prices, but the complaint itself is still unresolved. In California, Kaiser Permanente announced Feb. 19 that it would remove HIV medications from its highest tiers and issue refunds to customers who had been adversely affected by pricing changes, according to Bay Area Reporter.

The federal government seemingly weighed in on the issue Feb. 20, when the Department of Health & Human Services' Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight released its final 2016 final parameters for ACA marketplace insurers. The document says that many discriminatory situations have to be determined by authorities on a situational, case-by-case basis, but addresses tiered pricing that can be construed as de facto discrimination against persons with certain conditions.

"Having a specialty tier is not on its face discriminatory," according to the regulations, which would go into effect 60 days after they appear in the Federal Register, currently scheduled for Feb. 27. "However, placing most or all drugs for a certain condition on a high cost tier without regard to the actual cost the issuer pays for the drug may often be discriminatory in application when looking at the totality of the circumstances, and therefore prohibited. When CMS [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services] or the State requests a justification for such a practice, issuers should be able to identify an appropriate non-discriminatory reason that supports their benefit-design, including their formulary design."

AFC President/CEO John Peller said he and other officials were still analyzing the parameters, but called them "a strong statement against such practices."

The Illinois situation, in the meantime, is further complicated by indications in Gov. Bruce Rauner's budget, issued Feb. 18, that many low-income Illinoisans utilizing the AIDS Drugs Assistance Program would be shifted to the ACA Marketplace.

"As an organization, AFC has been embracing of the ACA," Gardenhire noted. "But the ACA does not have all the elements in place to uniformly help everyone."

Molly McAndrew, policy manager at AFC, added, "We often forget that the people we are talking about here are consumers. When they pay for a product—in this case, paying their premiums—there's a contract here and they are expecting something in return. With this 'adverse-tiering,' we have to consider whether insurers are breaking that contract."



*in the*  
**LIFE**  
**Matt Lind**  
TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN  
PHOTOS FROM LIND

**Neighborhood**  
Lincoln Park

**Job title**  
Senior consultancy analyst at Mintel, a market research firm

**Age**  
27

**Education**  
Graduated from Lockport H. S. in 2005, U. of Notre Dame in 2009

**Hobbies**  
Golf, skiing, running, and "spoiling my dog."

**Favorite TV show**  
The Simpsons

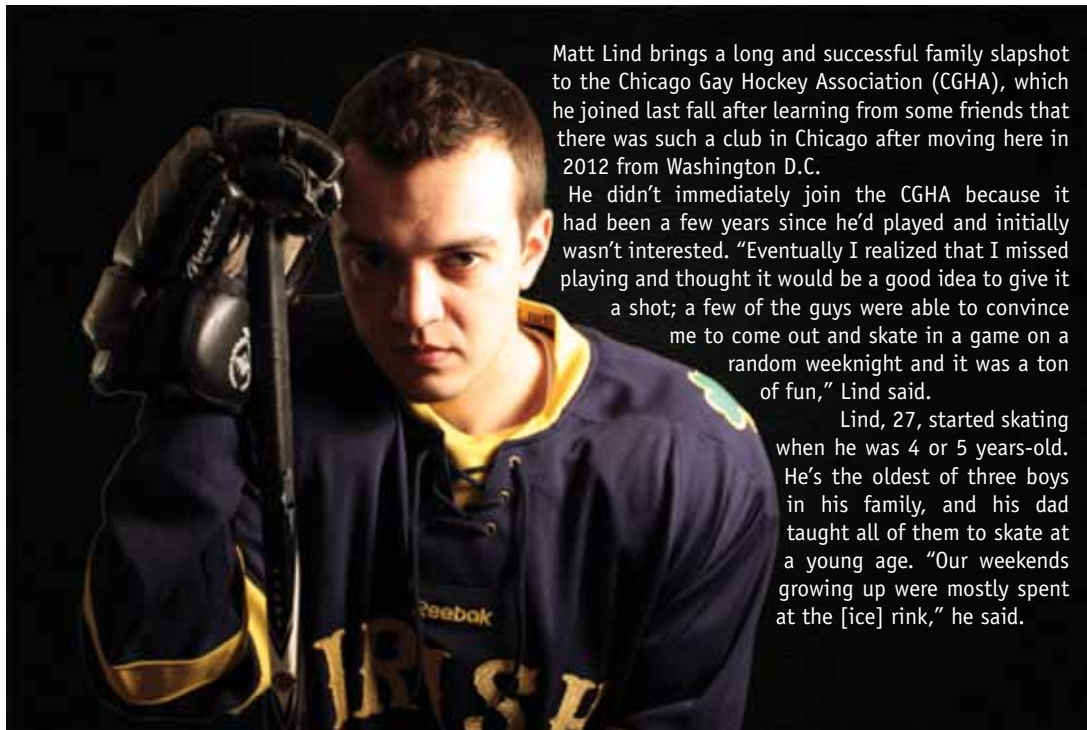
**Favorite movie**  
Mean Girls

**Favorite pizza toppings**  
Sausage and peppers

**Preferred drink at a bar**  
Vodka soda or an IPA

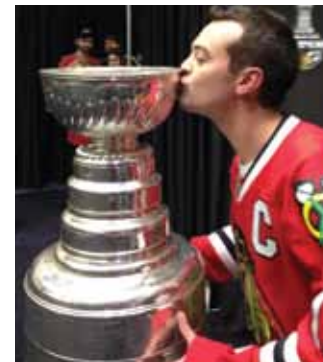
**Favorite NHL team**  
Chicago Blackhawks

**Little-known fact**  
"I was an intern at the White House in 2010."



Matt Lind brings a long and successful family slapshot to the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA), which he joined last fall after learning from some friends that there was such a club in Chicago after moving here in 2012 from Washington D.C. He didn't immediately join the CGHA because it had been a few years since he'd played and initially wasn't interested. "Eventually I realized that I missed playing and thought it would be a good idea to give it a shot; a few of the guys were able to convince me to come out and skate in a game on a random weeknight and it was a ton of fun," Lind said.

Lind, 27, started skating when he was 4 or 5 years-old. He's the oldest of three boys in his family, and his dad taught all of them to skate at a young age. "Our weekends growing up were mostly spent at the [ice] rink," he said.



Lind played hockey growing up in the Chicago area, with stints on clubs based in Bridgeview and later in Orland Park. He also started refereeing hockey around age 13, which he continued even after he stopped playing in high school. "My brothers were younger and continued to play, so I've always been close to the sport in one way or another," Lind said.



Lind, originally from Homer Glen, grew up playing forward, mostly left wing. He is now a defenseman for the CGHA, skating for the 95th Red Liners in a league at McFetridge Ice Rink on Chicago's north side. He shoots left-handed and sports jersey No. 25.

His brother Kevin also wore No. 25, as a defenseman for Notre Dame. Yes, that's the University of Notre Dame—and Kevin is now skating for the Utah Grizzlies, a minor league affiliate of the Anaheim Ducks that plays in the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL).

Matt is gay; Kevin is straight. "I think [playing for the CGHA] is beneficial in that it brings together the sport of hockey and the LGBT community—two groups that in my experience don't naturally coexist all that often," Lind said. "It's no secret that many LGBT athletes feel uncomfortable with their sexuality in the context of team sports; this is an organization where you can truly not have to worry about any of that kind of stuff. Whether you've played before or are looking to learn, there's a spot for you. They've really fine-tuned the organization to be inclusive of all types of players and levels of skill and competition."

Lind admitted that he missed the camaraderie of team sports when he skated away from the sport. Now back, he said, "it's great to have a set of friends that share a similar interest in hockey, but come from different walks of life. Outside the rink, there is a great built-in social element because of those commonalities we share."

Lind's hockey roots also stretch to Jeremy Roenick and Chris Chelios, two former superstars for the Chicago Blackhawks, among other teams in their Hall of Fame careers. Lind learned from the two, and other Hawks, at charity hockey camps. "We literally spent most of the week with our favorite hockey players—[at] practices, scrimmages, dry land [training], everything—and it was only [when] I was older that I realized how amazing that was," he said.

**WINDY CITY TIMES**  
*Gay and Lesbian*  
**Wedding Guide**

**THIRD EDITION**  
Winter/Spring 2015

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**STATE LAW**

**The Clarence Darrow Commemorative Committee**  
invites you to participate in its annual wreath-tossing and symposium commemorating Darrow  
**Friday, March 13, 2015**  
10 a.m.-noon  
A tribute on the anniversary of Darrow's death  
**Darrow, Undocumented Laborers and Immigration in the New Millennium**  
Speakers: **Tania Unzueta Carrasco**

Tania is an immigrant queer community organizer and writer. A nationally recognized leader in the undocumented and immigrant rights movement, Tania was one of the first undocumented youth to step into the public light to challenge immigration laws. Most recently she has been a key organizer for the "Not One More Deportation" campaign.

**Sister Patricia Murphy, RSM & Sister JoAnn Persch, RSM**

For the past 45 years Sisters Pat and JoAnn have worked together to minister to immigrants, refugees seeking political asylum as survivors of torture, and other under-represented populations – and to advocate for their basic rights. Every Friday they hold a well-attended interfaith vigil at a detention center and provide pastoral care twice a week to prisoners being deported from the U.S.

**Special Guest**  
Meet **Marissa Howe**, high school junior and winner of the Clarence Darrow History Award at the 2014 Chicago Metro History Fair.

Please join us at 10 a.m. just EAST of the Clarence Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park (the bridge is under construction) for the traditional tossing of flowers and brief speeches to commemorate Darrow; the Symposium begins at 10:45 a.m. in the Museum of Science and Industry: The Rosenwald Room (formerly the New Columbian Room). Beverages and rolls will be served. (The Darrow Bridge is behind the Museum of Science and Industry: Driving south on Lake Shore Drive, pass the light at 57th Drive and turn right at the next light [Science Drive]. You will come almost immediately to Columbia Drive. If you turn left and follow Columbia Drive there is parking near the bridge. You may park near the OmniMax Theater and walk south to the bridge. Parking is by the bridge.)

See [www.darrowbridge.org](http://www.darrowbridge.org) or call 773-387-2394



## VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

VOL. 30, No. 22, Feb. 25, 2015

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

 Community Marketing, Inc.



REV.  
IRENE  
MONROE

## A road map beyond Black History Month

Black History Month (which kicked off Feb. 1) became a national annual observance in 1926. The goal of the month is to honor and celebrate the achievements of African-Americans.

If Dr. Carter Woodson, the "Father of Black History," were alive today, he would be proud of the tenacity of the African-American community. It speaks volumes about our survival here on this American soil, after centuries of slavery, decades of lynching and years of racial profiling.

However, for decades now, Black History Month has not broached the topic of the socio-political construction of white privilege.

There's a reason why.

During Black History Month in 2009, Attorney General Eric Holder received scathing criticism for his speech on race. His critics said the tone and tenor of the speech was confrontational and accusatory.

"Though this nation has proudly thought of itself as an ethnic melting pot," Holder said, "in things racial we have always been and continue to be, in too many ways, essentially a nation of cowards."

Many communities of color contest that white people—straight or LGBTQ—show no real invested interest in engaging in this country's needed dialogue on race. While many whites have confessed their aversion to such a dialogue, stating that while a cultural defense of "white guilt" plays a role in their reticence, so too does their cultural fear of "black rage" for inadvertently saying the wrong thing.

It's a polemic that has been avoided because of the politics of political correctness as well

as how any discussion on race, no matter who's stirring the conversation—a rabid racist, the president or Holder—invariably inflame our emotions more than inform our faculties.

Ironically, or tragically, the aversion to a conversation about race not only continues to harm people of color, but it also harms whites as well.

In her recent book *Waking Up White*, and *Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, Cambridge author Debby Irving wrote the following:

"I can think of no bigger misstep in American history than the invention and perpetuation of the idea of white superiority. It allows white children to believe they are exceptional and entitled while allowing children of color to believe they are inferior and less deserving. ... Unless adults understand racism, they will, as I did, unknowingly teach it to their children."

On one hand, we have the dominate culture's continued indelicate dance of white privilege and single-issue platforms which thwart coalition building with communities of color. On the other we have some people of color dismissing the notion that white marginalized and struggling groups (white women, LGBTQ, the poor) may have something to offer communities of color in terms of advice and shared (not same) experiences.

Both hands are right. And both hands are wrong. The only way forward it to keep talking about race. But how do we make our way through the current tangle of misguided good intentions and valid suspicions?

My answer: Past harms need to be redressed.

For example, the killing of unarmed Black males has awakened the movement. "Black Lives Matter" has taken to the streets.

Sadly, civil rights struggles in this country—Black, women and LGBTQ—have primarily been understood and demonstrated as tribal and unconnected rather than intersectional and interdependent of each other. But that is a false assumption.

When we look at how we moved forward on the issue of same-sex marriage, LGBTQ activists remember that an African-American woman named Mildred Loving set the precedent for marriage equality. Loving gained notoriety when the U.S. Supreme Court decided in her

hung out on Christopher Street. Each night we walked up and down that street socializing, and the Stonewall Inn was always a place to drop into, as was a restaurant called the Silver Dollar.

Jerry—a lifelong New Yorker and a man with an opinion who was not afraid to share it—was out and proud. So it was natural for him, like others of our generation, to build something

from the ashes of Stonewall. We did, and it was called Gay Liberation Front.

If you study LGBT history, it was GLF that first came up with the idea of forming not only a movement for equality but a full LGBT community, with services to all. And, even in 1969, that included trans people and youth.

That first year was a tense one, since at each meeting we attempted to realize who we were rather than embracing the labels that society had cast upon us. We debated every element of sexuality, feminism, masculinity, monogamy and more. These discussions often broke into heated debates. Jerry was one of those individuals who tried to pull us together in unity.

Over the years, while others debated Stonewall, including Jerry, there was one truth he and I shared. The high point of that time period wasn't that we were at Stonewall, but rather that first year of GLF. Why? On the first anniversary of Stonewall, we held what is now considered the first gay Pride march. On that day, Jerry said, "In one year we went from darkness to sunlight."

Jerry, you were a ray of sunlight, and your sisters and brothers of GLF will miss you. But like you, we'll continue that flame, but now with you in our hearts.

Mark Segal is publisher of Philadelphia Gay News. He can be followed on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MarkSegalPGN](http://www.facebook.com/MarkSegalPGN) or Twitter at <https://twitter.com/PhilaGayNews>.

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Mark Segal is publisher of Philadelphia Gay News. He can be followed on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MarkSegalPGN](http://www.facebook.com/MarkSegalPGN) or Twitter at <https://twitter.com/PhilaGayNews>.



MARK  
SEGAL

### MARK MY WORDS

## Loss of a pioneer

My friend Jerry Hoose died recently. You most likely don't know the name, but he affected your life; he certainly affected mine.

In 1969, I was 18 and, knowing I was gay, like many other LGBT people, I didn't want relatives or friends to know. About 99 percent of our community was in the closet at that time. There was only a handful of those who were out and fighting our battles for equality. In all honesty, these very brave individuals, aside from being out and providing a safe place to gather and keep our small community informed, weren't able to create a mass movement.

Then came Stonewall—and the world changed.

Jerry, like me, was who people now call Stonewall veterans. I moved to New York City on May 10, 1969. At that time, one of the few people I knew was Jerry, since we both

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## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by  
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## 'TRIAL' AND TRIBULATION

Windy City Times reviews *The Trial of Moses Fleetwood Walker*, which is at the Black Ensemble Theater. See page 20.

## THEATER

Hair apparent.  
Page 20Photo from *Marie Antoinette*  
by Michael Brosilow

## DISH

Dive in.  
Page 27Photo of Dive Bar's shrimp slider  
by Andrew Davis

## SPORTS

Man on the run.  
Page 30Photo of Curt Hupe  
courtesy of Hupe

## SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

## Jill Grove goes mad for 'Elektra'

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Lesbian mezzo-soprano Jill Grove has appeared in some of the most critically acclaimed new recent productions at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Who could forget her topless tribal Klytämnestra waging interfamily battle in Richard Strauss' Greek tragedy *Elektra* in 2012? Or Grove as the earthy swamp witch Jezibaba in Antonin Dvorak's *Rusalka* in 2014?

Now Grove gets to put her stamp on a completely new role for the Lyric. Grove stars as the grandmother Regina Segal in the world premiere of *The Property*, a chamber opera scored for members of the Chicago-area Maxwell Street Klezmer Band that was commissioned by the Lyric to play as a compliment to its premiere of Mieczyslaw Weinberg's 1968 opera *The Passenger*, which deals with the Holocaust.

"I love Lyric Opera of Chicago and so I would pretty much do anything for them," said Grove via telephone after a recent rehearsal for *The Property*. "It's an opportunity to play a normal, regular woman instead of a witch, or you know, a mother from hell."

*The Property* is inspired by a graphic novel by Israeli author Rutu Modan, and it tells the story of a grandmother and her granddaughter, Mica (soprano Anne Slovin), who travel to Warsaw to reclaim a family property that was lost during World War II. But Regina and her granddaughter face some uncomfortable truths about their past as they encounter people there like former family friend Roman Gorski (baritone James Maddalena) and their Polish tour guide, Tomasz (baritone Nathaniel Olson).

*The Property* features a score by Los Angeles-

based Polish composer Wlad Marhulets, with a libretto by Stephanie Fleishchmann who adapted the novel with director Eric Einhorn. It's sung in English, though there are times when Grove and company have to sing in Hebrew and Polish, too.

"It's a beautiful, intimate and lovely little chamber opera, and it's wonderful creating a role," said Grove, noting how Marhulets is essentially fitting the character of Regina to her voice. "He's asked, 'How high do you want to sing?' 'How low do you want to sing?' So it's really been tailored to what I like to sing."

And because *The Property* is a new opera, Grove gets to put her stamp on the role and bring her own physicality to it instead of being compared to a string of other singers who have played iconic roles and applied expected singing and staging templates to works in the standard operatic repertory.

Grove said she knows that the smaller venues at the University of Chicago and in Skokie, where *The Property* will be performed, will bring greater scrutiny to her performance—especially when compared to the Lyric's magnificent and massive art deco Civic Opera House, where she has previously triumphed in works like *Lulu*, *Hansel & Gretel* and Wagner's *Ring Cycle*.

"It's all very exciting, but it's also frightening as well," Grove said. "Doing something a little more intimate is great. It's allowing me to exercise some different acting and singing muscles instead of just singing full-out opera all the time. I'm honored and very happy that they've asked me to be a part of this project."

Lyric audiences will get to see Grove again



Jill Grove. Photo by Dario Acosta

next season in a new staging of Alban Berg's *Wozzeck* by out director Sir David McVicar, and she's keen to find out his approach to the expressionistic 1925 opera especially after she had such critical acclaim in his Lyric productions of *Elektra* and *Rusalka*. And for those opera fans who like to travel, Grove appears in the remainder of the current season in *Rusalka* for Houston Grand Opera and in Igor Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* for Utah Opera which is using the acclaimed 1970s production by gay British artist David Hockney.

"Being a working mom and opera singer is always challenging," said Grove when asked

about her life as a co-parent with her ex-wife to her soon to be seven-year-old son, Gryffen. "And trying to keep a personal life on the road is difficult, but I'm certainly giving it a good try."

The world premiere of *The Property* is performed at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25 and 26 and 1 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago, 915 E. 60th St., then at 7:30 p.m. March 4 and 5 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Sung in English with some Hebrew and Polish. Tickets are \$20-\$40; call 312-827-5600 or Chicago performances, or 847-673-6300 for Skokie performances.

The Lyric Opera of Chicago premiere of *The Passenger* continues at the Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr. Sung in multiple languages with projected English translations. Tickets are \$20-\$369; call 312-827-5600 or visit [www.lyricopera.org](http://www.lyricopera.org) for more information.

## Rivendell to honor Willa Taylor

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble will hold its 2015 Salon fundraiser—to benefit programming at Rivendell Theatre—on Thursday, March 19, at Level Office, 73 W. Monroe St.

Willa Taylor—director of education and community engagement at the Goodman Theatre, U.S. Navy veteran and discussion panelist for Rivendell's production of *Women at War*—will be honored with the 2015 WREN Award for advocating for women theater artists.

The VIP reception will take place at 5 p.m., with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction at 6 p.m., and the award presentation at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is \$80-\$125 each; call 773-334-7728 or visit [RivendellTheatre.org](http://RivendellTheatre.org).



## What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD 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, methylethylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozone, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio<sup>®</sup>), 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<sup>®</sup>).

### What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

**Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:**

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

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

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

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

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

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



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

## I started my personal revolution

Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.

**STRIBILD** is a complete HIV-1 treatment in **1 pill**, once a day.

Ask if it's right for you.

**STRIBILD**<sup>®</sup>   
elvitegravir 150mg/ cobicistat 150mg/ emtricitabine  
200mg/ tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

 GILEAD



## Patient Information

### STRIBILD® (STRY-bild) (elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/ tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

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

#### What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine** used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD can also be used to replace current HIV-1 medicines for some adults who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL of virus in their blood), and have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months and have never failed past HIV-1 treatment, and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- **STRIBILD is a complete HIV-1 medicine** and should not be used with any 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®)
- midazolam, when taken by mouth
- pimozide (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort

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

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

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

#### What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

##### STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

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



Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

**The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:**

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

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

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your doctor 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 over-the-counter 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<sup>®</sup>, Pacerone<sup>®</sup>)
  - atorvastatin (Lipitor<sup>®</sup>, Caduet<sup>®</sup>)
  - bepridil hydrochloride (Vasacor<sup>®</sup>, Bepadin<sup>®</sup>)
  - bosentan (Tracleer<sup>®</sup>)
  - buspirone
  - carbamazepine (Carbatrol<sup>®</sup>, Epitol<sup>®</sup>, Equetro<sup>®</sup>, Tegretol<sup>®</sup>)
  - clarithromycin (Biaxin<sup>®</sup>, Prevpac<sup>®</sup>)
  - clonazepam (Klonopin<sup>®</sup>)
  - clorazepate (Gen-xene<sup>®</sup>, Tranxene<sup>®</sup>)
  - colchicine (Colcrys<sup>®</sup>)

- medicines that contain dexamethasone
- diazepam (Valium<sup>®</sup>)
- digoxin (Lanoxin<sup>®</sup>)
- disopyramide (Norpace<sup>®</sup>)
- estazolam
- ethosuximide (Zarontin<sup>®</sup>)
- flecainide (Tambocor<sup>®</sup>)
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent<sup>®</sup>, Flonase<sup>®</sup>, Flovent Diskus<sup>®</sup>, Flovent HFA<sup>®</sup>, Veramyst<sup>®</sup>)
- itraconazole (Sporanox<sup>®</sup>)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral<sup>®</sup>)
- lidocaine (Xylocaine<sup>®</sup>)
- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal<sup>®</sup>)
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal<sup>®</sup>)
- phenytoin (Dilantin<sup>®</sup>, Phenytek<sup>®</sup>)
- propafenone (Rythmol<sup>®</sup>)
- quinidine (Neudexta<sup>®</sup>)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin<sup>®</sup>)
- rifapentine (Priftin<sup>®</sup>)
- risperidone (Risperdal<sup>®</sup>, Risperdal Consta<sup>®</sup>)
- salmeterol (Serevent<sup>®</sup>) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus<sup>®</sup>, Advair HFA<sup>®</sup>)
- sildenafil (Viagra<sup>®</sup>), tadalafil (Cialis<sup>®</sup>) or vardenafil (Levitra<sup>®</sup>, Staxyn<sup>®</sup>), 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<sup>®</sup>), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend<sup>®</sup>)
- warfarin (Coumadin<sup>®</sup>, Jantoven<sup>®</sup>)
- zolpidem (Ambien<sup>®</sup>, Edlular<sup>®</sup>, Intermezzo<sup>®</sup>, Zolpimist<sup>®</sup>)

**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](http://www.STRIBILD.com).

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The Trial of Moses Fleetwood Walker. Photo by Danny Nicholas

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Trial of Moses Fleetwood Walker

Playwright: Ervin Gardner

At: Black Ensemble Theater,  
4450 N. Clark St.

Tickets: 773-769-4451;

www.blackensemble.org; \$55-\$65

Runs through: March 15

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

There's nothing like a courtroom drama for spelling out the issues of its day to audiences. This is no less true when the play under scrutiny is a 2015 world premiere proposing to recount the events of a real-life trial transpiring in 1891.

The defendant is Moses Fleetwood Walker, the mixed-race son of an Ohio doctor. We are told that, following his early career as a major league baseball player recruited from Oberlin College, he purchased property, published a newspaper and was granted patents on several inventions. Whether it was the accomplishments evidencing his status as an exemplary citizen, or the lucky circumstance to be arrested in Syracuse, New York, for fatally wounding a white man during a street fight, Walker finds himself receiving the full protection of the law for his plea of self-defense. This is small comfort to his family and supporters, despite his lawyers' assurance that justice will prevail.

For cheating playgoers who conducted pre-curtain research revealing the facts of the case, Ervin Gardner's procedural will invoke the familiar tropes of its genre—"Gentlemen, this is a courtroom, not a theater"—while voicing remarks, drawn from the court records, of an ugliness shocking to our modern sensibilities. ("To what tribe do you belong?" the prosecution demands of Walker, seeking to suggest an ancestral propensity for violence.) Gardner's narrative also differs from its prototypes in that there are no flashbacks rendering us privy to undocumented information, the action moving outside the courtroom only once, when Walker's brother addresses members of the press. The Vox Populi instead is represented by two groups of gallery spectators—one white, one black, seated in separate quarters—who debate the outcome of the case presented before the all-white all-male jury.

Beneath the suspense generated by Gardner's articulate dialogue as we await the jury

foreman's announcement of the verdict is another curiosity observed by long-time Black Ensemble audiences—namely, the absence of songs, dances, and musicians visible onstage. Oh, Robert Reddrick and his instrumentalists are concealed offstage, where they supply string-band incidental music punctuating the arguments in progress, but there is no mistaking this exercise in classical American realism (occasional expository video projections notwithstanding) for a "musical" of the kind associated with Jackie Taylor's company. Toetappers needn't fear abandonment, however. As the BET artistic director noted in her curtain speech, the mission of addressing additional topics to those previously examined signals, not a closing, but an opening of doors into a future auspiciously heralded by this superlative production.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Accidentally Like a Martyr**, A Red Orchid Theatre, extended through March 15. Audiences demanding one more round with the old gay men who call Grant James Varjas' shabby lower Manhattan bar home have delayed "last call." MSB

**The Apple Family Plays**, TimeLine Theatre, through April 19. The affluent, middle-aged Apple siblings discuss each other, life and politics on Election Day 2010 and 2012 in two works playing in repertory. Reality has bruised their liberal idealism and life expectations in Richard Nelson's warm-hearted, witty and political plays, brilliantly acted. JA

**A Nice Indian Boy**, Rasaka Theatre Company at Victory Gardens Richard C. Christiansen Theater, through March 8. Interracial same-sex lovers are happily united after following the precepts of Bollywood's most famous film in Madhuri Shekar's sweetly romantic comedy. MSB

**Sondheim on Sondheim**, Porchlight Music Theatre, through March 15. Marvel at the writing practices, inspirations and life stories behind Broadway songwriter Stephen Sondheim in this superlative documentary musical revue staged by director Nick Bowling and featuring the amazingly talented music director Austin Cook. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge  
and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

### Marie Antoinette

Playwright: David Adjmi

At: Steppenwolf Theatre,

1650 N. Halsted St.

Tickets: 312-335-1650;

www.steppenwolf.org; \$20-\$86

Runs through: May 10

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

From A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court to Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, the juxtaposition of history's icons with familiar contemporary culture has never failed to amuse playgoers. At its best, this translation serves as a teaching aid, rendering the events of the past more accessible and its perpetrators more human. At worst, it trivializes their accomplishments and the significance thereof.

Whether David Adjmi's original purpose inclined toward the former or the latter in his account of Marie Antoinette, the "butterfly" queen whose execution marked the end of the French monarchy, there is no disputing his motifs lending themselves to neo-1960s agitprop caricature: our heroine and her posse make their entrance garbed like antebellum Katy Perrys in cupcake gowns and Day-glo hair taller than Julie Taymor's Lion King masks. She bullies her husband, King Louis XVI, like a big sister bossing a little brother. Her Disneyish play-farm confidantes include a pet sheep (not represented by a puppet, as Adjmi's narrative style leads us to expect, but by a live actor).

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Other Place

Playwright: Sharr White

At: Profiles Theatre, The Main

Stage, 4139 N. Broadway

Tickets: 773-549-1815 or

www.profiles theatre.org; \$35-\$40

Runs through April 5

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Steppenwolf Theatre Company ensemble member Laurie Metcalf received a slew of critical raves and a Tony Award nomination for her performance in Sharr White's drama *The Other Place*. With the unreliable narrator character of Boston neurologist Julianna Smithton, White had written a role demanding a supreme acting workout from any actress since it runs the emotional gamut.

Metcalf first starred in *The Other Place* off-Broadway in 2011 and then when it transferred to Broadway in 2013. So there were Chicago theater fans who understandably hoped that *The Other Place* would be another triumphant acting vehicle for Metcalf to return to Steppenwolf.

Instead, the Chicago premiere of *The Other Place* has landed at Profiles Theatre, which has become a Windy City home to White's work after previously producing his drama *Annapurna* last season. More Profiles connections to White continue since its *Annapurna* co-star Lia D. Mortensen is now playing Julianna in *The Other Place*.

Mortensen certainly commands the stage as a professional woman at a career pinnacle, especially as she clinically and sarcastically picks apart the way she can command a convention room full of well-heeled male doctors during a pharmaceutical speech at a St. Thomas island resort. But Mortensen also convincingly gets across how this is all a calculated façade for a flood of insecurities inundating Julianna.

There's a crumbling marriage to her oncologist husband, Ian (Steve Silver), and careful negotiations for a reunion with her longestranged daughter and son-in-law, Laurel (Autumn Teague) and Richard (Matt Maxwell). On top of all of this, Julianna gets extremely

It's the perfect environment for a Rococo-a-go-go celebrity airhead but, unlike her persona, Steppenwolf company member Alana Arenas refuses to adopt the stereotype assigned her character. Since even scholars are unsure what to make of France's last royal consort—was she as callous as she was reputed to be, or was her vilification necessary to usher in the new republic?—Arenas stakes out her own territory to present us with a portrait of a willful teenage girl bred to play a larger-than-life role and ultimately destroyed for doing it too well. As Marie contemplates her fate from her prison cell, she considers the opportunities that might have brought her career to a different conclusion—perhaps siding with her adversaries—if not for the restrictions imposed upon her.

The Steppenwolf design team has crafted a stage picture overflowing with conspicuous consumer-porn to delight envious audiences. (A post-run auction of Dede M. Ayite's costumes could plausibly generate enough money to finance the next two productions.) Tim Hopper has contrived to visibly shrink his physique in approximation of the epicene, Tamberla Perry and Ericka Ratcliff make a loyal pair of BFFs, and Alan Wilder salvages a modicum of dignity portraying a fur coat-clad woolly-beast. Ultimately, however, the two hours (with intermission) emerges chiefly a stardom turn—a challenge that Arenas confronts with a swagger and dazzle that wins our admiration and, later, a vulnerability likewise ensuring our sympathy.



The Other Place. Photo by Michael Brosilow

defensive when dealing with Dr. Cindy Teller (Nina O'Keefe) when her own health takes an unsettling turn for the worse.

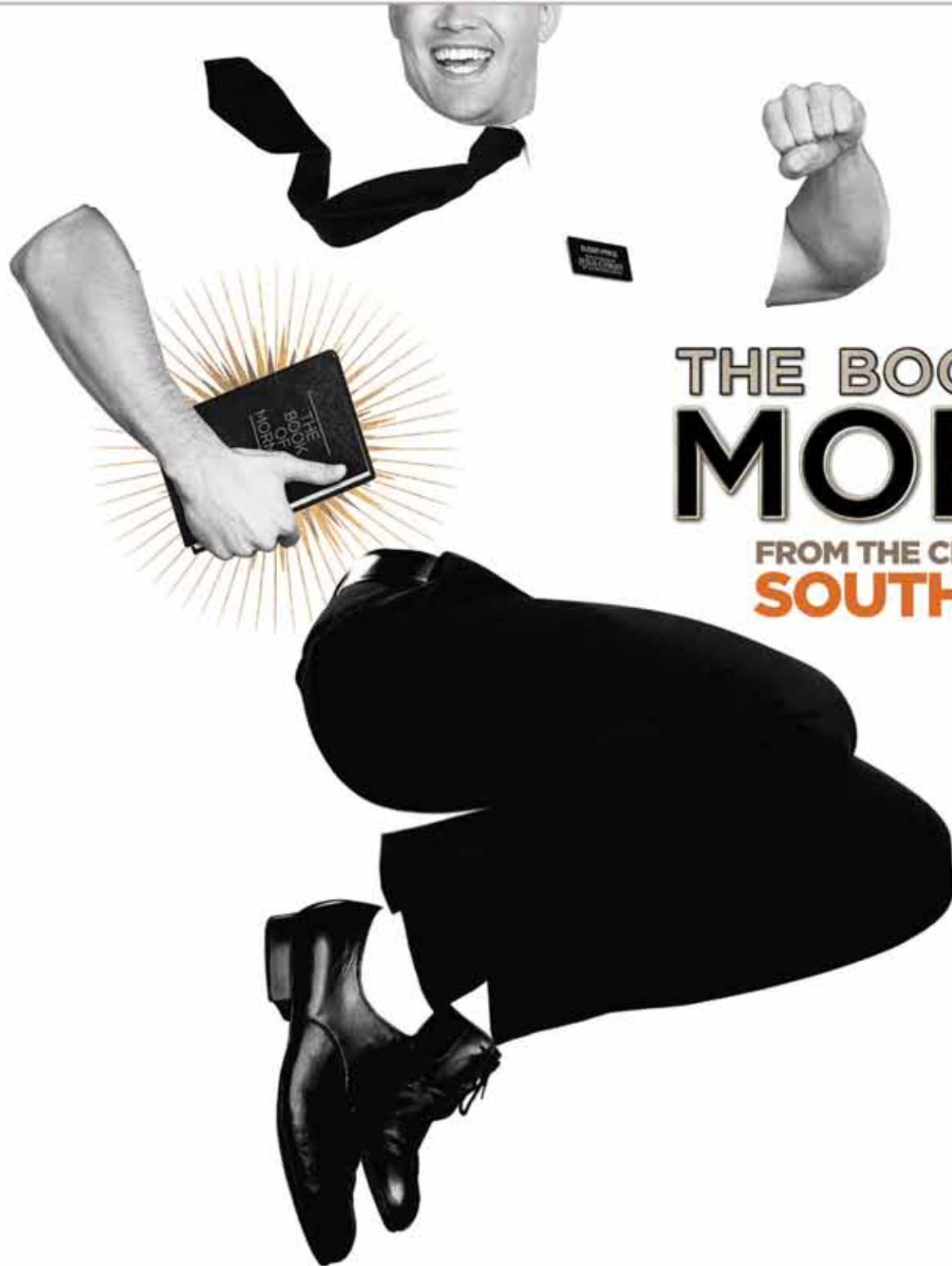
Much of what White does in his writing to keep the audience gripped is to have them discover along with Julianna the many uncomfortable truths about her life despite her fervent denials. And many of them have to do with the location of the play's titular place, a second family home out on Cape Cod that serves as the location for Julianna's painful separation with her daughter.

Director Joe Jahraus dramatically reveals "the other place" by having large sheets of gauzy fabrics by set designer Keenan Minogue (which mostly as a background for Smooch Medina's projection designs) collapse to the floor in the dramatically illuminating scenes about Julianna's troubled past and present. Jahraus certainly pushes his actors through an emotional wringer, especially Mortensen as Julianna and later Silver as Ian, who turns out to be more resilient than expected.

With *The Other Place*, Profiles has a gripping hit on their hands. True, it may not feature the star who originated the leading role, but it's a case where the engrossing writing gets to shine along with the dedicated cast.



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## NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

# Betty Buckley puts out haunting 'Ghostlight'

BY JERRY NUNN

Tony Award winner Betty Buckley has taken on TV, movies and musicals over the years in a very lengthy career that continues to shine. She is also an American Theater Hall of Fame inductee.

Her Broadway break came in 1969 for the musical 1776. Sunset Boulevard brought her an Olivier Award then Cats won her the Tony.

Movies have included Roman Polanski's Frantic, Woody Allen's Another Woman and M. Night Shyamalan's The Happening.

Her singing earned her two Grammy nominations for past albums and she has recorded over 15 solo records over the years. She returns to the spotlight with Ghostlight released this past September. Windy City gave her a jingle to discuss her projects and past on the West Coast.

**Windy City Times: Hi, Betty. I noticed you are originally from Texas.**

Betty Buckley: I am. I was born in Big Spring, Texas, and grew up in Fort Worth. My dad was in the Air Force so we traveled a lot. I started school in North Africa and lived in Maine for a year or two.

**WCT: You are in Texas now?**



Betty Buckley. Photo by Victory Tischler-Blue

BB: I am. I moved back here 11 years ago to ride cutting horses.

**WCT: Is that why you stick on the west side of the United States? I don't see you in Chicago often.**

BB: I haven't been to Chicago in quite a while. I did a play there once called The Fourth Wall. I would love to come back with this new show. That would be really nice.

**WCT: What was the process of making the new album?**

BB: Well, T Bone Burnett was the producer. He and I grew up together in Fort Worth Texas. He had his own recording studio since the time he was 17. When we were both 19 years old our mothers got together and decided that he should record an archive tape of me singing. I had been singing around town since the time I was pretty young. We went in one Saturday morning and made a little recording, which I sent a copy to my first agent and he kept it all of these years. He played it for the publisher at Playbill, Philip Birsh, who was starting his own record label so he released it several years ago. It was the first album I never had! It was released Betty Buckley 1967 on vinyl and CD.

T Bone and I stayed in touch all of these years just socially. He was very moved by what we accomplished at 19 so a couple of years ago he called me out of the blue to make a new record. I promptly flew out to LA and met with him. I went to work on selecting the material, he hired the musicians, we went in the studio in L.A., and made this pretty record. I am so in love with it and it's such a gift from T Bone. I'm grateful that we did this.

**WCT: The sound seems stripped-down, from what I have heard.**

BB: It's pretty complicated actually. It is from one of the great musicians in the world Bill Frisell, who is one of the greatest guitar players in the world and Chaz Smith plays pedal steel and synthesizers, who is incredible. T Bone played on several tracks as well.

I worked for 20 years with a jazz ensemble, which is piano, bass, synthesizers and drums. This is just more guitar-based.

**WCT: You performed in Arsenic and Old Lace not too long ago, correct?**

BB: That was two years ago. Last year I did the world premiere of Horton Foote's The Old Friends in New York and then we repeated that at the Alley Theatre in Houston this past summer. It was an incredible play that starred Hallie Foote, Veanne Cox, and Cotter Smith.

I did an episodic appearance on the HBO show Getting On. It aired this past fall. That show is hilarious and I had a wonderful part.

**WCT: Being an '70s kid, I wanted to be the ninth child in Eight Is Enough. Do you keep in touch with people from the show?**

BB: I do. I keep in touch with Dick Van Pat-

ten and many of them live in LA. Hopefully, some of them will come to my concert on the 24th. Adam Rich I have been in touch with. A few of years ago we did a reunion on the Today Show. That was the last time I have seen everyone as a group. That was fun to see everyone all grown up and different.

**WCT: After performing in so many musicals, is there one that stood out for you?**

BB: Cats was a great opportunity for me to step into my potential as a singing actress with the song "Memory." The character of Grizabella was a real gift. I was able to work with Andrew Lloyd Webber and Trevor Nunn. That team was amazing.

My first musical was 1776 that I got my first day in New York City when I was 21. After that I did Promises, Promises in London. I did Pippin on Broadway and worked with Bob Fosse.

I left for Hollywood to make my first movie with Carrie. Carrie helped me get the TV show Eight Is Enough then I did the film Tender Mercies. That was a great film with Robert Duvall. I played the country western star Dixie Scott. The song I sang "Over You" was nominated for an Oscar and Duvall won an Oscar that year for best actor. The song one the Golden Globe.

I did The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Gypsy and Triumph of Love, where I got my second Tony nomination for that.

I have had a pretty good time!

**WCT: You have gained a gay following through the process.**

BB: Good. One needs that...

**WCT: You have been teaching people for over 40 years now.**

BB: Yes, I [taught] a workshop in LA January through the 22nd, between my LA and Palm Springs concerts. I will then teach a spring workshop in Fort Worth. It culminates in a big concert for my students. I have been teaching at Fort Worth's Museum of Modern Art for the last 10 years. So far all of the students that I have taught have gotten into the school of their choice, most of them on full scholarship. That has been nice.

**WCT: Sounds a bit like Glee. Do you watch that show?**

BB: I did originally. I haven't watched it in a while. There has been a real resurgence of interest because of Glee in musical theater, which is great.

**WCT: What is left for you to accomplish?**

BB: There are a lot of things. I am working with a screenwriter to create a possible mini-series or film. I am working on an idea for a musical. There are still songs to sing and parts to play. I hope I get to do all of it for as long as I can.

**Visit [www.bettybuckley.com](http://www.bettybuckley.com) for more on this talented actress and singer.**

## Harris Theater in the midst of \$5M renovation project

The Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., is in the midst of a \$5-million renovation project.

The physical renovations of the Harris Theater patron space is one component of a \$38.8-million fundraising campaign launched during the theater's 10th anniversary last season.

The plan will involve adding two new elevators aimed at increasing patron capacity from 12 to 40 people. There were also be re-configured staircases.

The project is slated to be completed in December.

The theater will remain open during construction.

## Chicago Flower & Garden Show March 14-22

The Chicago Flower & Garden Show, presented by Mariano's, will take place March 14-22 at Navy Pier.

Among the newest features will be two rose gardens (as opposed to the usual single garden); an Irish heritage garden complete with Irish stone, backdrops and other elements to create an Irish countryside garden experience; and more for children to do in the Kids Activity Garden.

Highlights will include:

—Two dozen gardens demonstrating how garden beauty can be functional and sustainable, as well as how gardeners and homeowners can "Do Green. Do Good;"

—"Garden Gourmet" culinary demonstrations that put "farm to table" in practice; and

—the marketplace, with more than 100 exhibitors.

In addition, "Evening in Bloom," the show's signature charity fundraiser, will be held 6-9:30 p.m. on Friday, March 13.

The 2014 Chicago Flower & Garden Show drew approximately 40,000 people.

Visit [www.chicagoflower.com](http://www.chicagoflower.com).

## 'Brave Face Project' features women in society

As part of its 125th-anniversary season, the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University presents the "Brave Face Project," a bold new endeavor aimed to shine light on women's roles in society.

The project—led by Auditorium Theatre Director of Creative Engagement Christina Bourné; Chicago artist and arts education specialist Annie Rezac; and playwright Scott Wolman—will call for everyday women in the community to submit their own stories.

Select stories will be scripted into a piece that will be workshopped and presented June 22-28 in the theater's Katten/Landau Studio (425 S. Wabash Ave., fourth floor).

For more information or to submit personal stories, visit [AuditoriumTheatre.org](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org).

## Chicagoan Kroell in gay singer's video

Out Chicago native Ronnie Kroell—an actor and former Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree who was on the reality show Make Me a Supermodel—is featured in the music video for gay singer Kenyth Mogan's song "Unlock Your Heart."

In the video, Kroell starts as the tin man from the classic film The Wizard of Oz—and transforms, with Mogan's help.

The video of the uptempo song is at <http://youtu.be/qGakV9vqnZQ>. Mogan's website is <http://kenythmogan.com/>.



Ronnie Kroell.

## SPOTLIGHT



Those hopelessly idealistic missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are back to have their outlooks on life and faith severely tested in **The Book of Mormon**, the 2011 Broadway musical smash concocted by the irreverent South Park creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker with Avenue Q and Frozen co-creator Robert Lopez. If you missed this nine-time Tony Award-winning hit the last time it played Chicago during the 2012-13 season, now's your chance to catch up with all of the show's endearing and adults-only humor. The Book of Mormon continues through Sunday, May 17, at the Bank of America Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St. Tickets are \$42-\$127. For more information, call 800-775-2000 or visit [www.broadwayinchicago.com](http://www.broadwayinchicago.com). Photo by Joan Marcus





# Author aims for plan post-marriage equality

BY SARAH TOCE

Dr. Wallace Swan is the author and curator of the new tome *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Civil Rights: A Public Policy Agenda for Uniting a Divided America*.

The lengthy historical account features a list of 12 prominent specialists and writers.

**Windy City Times:** *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Civil Rights: A Public Policy Agenda for Uniting a Divided America* is quite the undertaking at 451 pages. How long did it take you to put the book together in its entirety?

Wallace Swan: I just looked back into my files and it has taken about 2.5 years from the time that I began, because I made the commitment to do it at the American Society for Public Administration national conference at Las Vegas in March 2012.

**WCT:** In your opinion, why is now the time to present this work to the masses?

WS: We are at turning point in the LGBT movement. We have put in a tremendous amount of effort directed at achieving marriage. This effort has been driven by the 646,000 couples in our community; a total of almost 1.3 million people. But there are 8.3 million LGBT people in this country, the best estimate developed by Gary Gates from the Williams Institute at U.C.L.A. That means that there are about 7 million LGBT single people, who are not even counted by the U.S. Census. The result of this is that \$400 billion of U.S. government revenues are not aimed at meeting the needs of this single population. I asked Gary Gates why single people are not counted, and he replied, "Because they never asked."

**WCT:** Were there constant changes and edits with new laws regarding marriage equality in the United States?

WS: Trust me, at least three times I read my manuscripts for the eight chapters I wrote, and the 17 chapters and appendices written by other authors. I asked for and got permission from the publisher to read the full page proofs for the book (over 400 pages) twice, which is unheard of at Taylor and Francis. Usually the editor gets to read the proofs once, and then they are released to the publisher's staff. But because of the court cases regarding marriage, I read them yet again to ensure consistency throughout the book, and signed off on them on July 30, 2014. Since then, we have seen more momentous marriage changes. But, we have a spreadsheet in the Appendix of the book which documents all of the ways that oppression has been visited on the LGBT community, and marriage is only one column in a spreadsheet that was two-feet across and six-feet long.

**WCT:** The book mentions that major institutions fund efforts to discriminate against LGBT people. Can you scratch the surface here for us?

WS: There is a chapter in the book entitled "Organizations that Keep the Great Divide in Place." I originally titled the book "The Great Divide" to emphasize the states (like Illinois and Minnesota) that have all of the protections for LGBT people; and the 30 or more states that have no protections.

This chapter documents the work of the Republican Party, the National Organization for Marriage, Focus on the Family, the American Family Association, and the Ex-Gay movement, among many others that have spent tens of millions of dollars to ensure that oppression is visited upon LGBT people. Then, we contrast their work with that of Freedom to Marry, Human Rights Campaign, National LGBTQ Task Force, Lambda Legal, and many other LGBT civil rights organizations. Nationally our LGBT organizations have spent an estimated \$94,939,745 to obtain marriage rights; while their organizations have spent an estimated \$66,640,309 to



Wallace Swan.

prevent marriage by LGBT people.

**WCT:** The issue of same-sex marriage has, some might say, commercialized the LGBT community. It's now the "popular" topic to get behind. What are some other topics that deserve the same, if not more, attention?

WS: There are major differences between the states with all rights and the states that have no rights: (1) hate crimes and homicides are less well documented but also more prevalent in the states without rights; (2) senior programs are not as well developed in states with no rights; (3) health care programs do not meet the needs of LGBT people in states with no rights; but even in states with all of the rights, the health disparities between LGBT people and the remainder of the population are stunning.

[Also,] the issues of LGBT immigrants are incredibly difficult in all states, and transgender people suffer immensely; (5) programs for K-12 and higher education students are very different in the states with all of the rights when compared with those states that have no rights; (6) we do not even have counts of the numbers of LGBT incarcerated people; (7) the poverty issues of bisexual and transgender people are significant ones in all states, with "bisexual erasure" accounting for considerably higher levels of poverty in the bisexual community than in the gay and lesbian community, and extraordinarily high levels of poverty present in the transgender community—four times the number of people with incomes under \$10,000 compared with the remainder of the population.

**WCT:** In your opinion, how has faith and religion played a role in progressing (or not) the U.S. marriage-equality movement?

WS: In the chapter entitled "Organizations that Keep the Great Divide in Place," we discuss the way in which mainstream churches have increasingly worked to reach out to the LGBT community. In Minnesota, we found that many of the over 600 organizations that supported the right to marriage were religious organizations. And I know that in Illinois over 300 clergy signed a letter supporting the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act. Courageous LGBT people and their allies within these churches have helped to ensure that marriage is now an option in most of the states in the country.

**WCT:** What is next for the LGBT movement after marriage now that we have a majority of U.S. states with laws recognizing and legalizing them?

WS: We cannot rest on simply achieving marriage rights for 1.3 million LGBT people to the exclusion of the other 7 million LGBT single people. What we have started is a Civil Rights movement for all LGBT people. Every LGBT person needs to be protected against homelessness: We all know that 20-40 percent of the homeless youth in our cities are LGBT youth.

Interested persons can obtain the book from the publisher by using the 50-percent promo code KWN22: [www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781466567337](http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781466567337).

## steppenwolf

# Marie Antoinette

BY DAVID ADJMI

DIRECTED BY ROBERT O'HARA

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# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## The Circle; Maggie Smith

Although a bit clunky in execution, the story related in director Stefan Haupt's **The Circle** (*Der Kreis*) is nevertheless such a powerful and tender one that it quickly overcomes its minor shortcomings.

It's lovely to know that Switzerland thought so highly of the movie it made the film its official submission for both Golden Globe and Oscar consideration. The docudrama is the story of Ernst Ostertag and Robi Rapp, who, in 2003, became the first same-sex couple granted legal recognition in Switzerland. The two young men—a schoolteacher and a female impersonator—met in the midst of Zurich's thriving gay scene in the mid-50s. Switzerland at that time was one of the few places where homosexuality wasn't illegal.

Ernst and Robi's love affair encompasses the history of the *The Circle*, the Swiss-based gay periodical that in its heyday boasted readers worldwide. But the idyllic gay scene and the publication eventually—no surprise here—became compromised by outside forces and soon, repression, raids and all manners of homophobic prejudice became the norm.

That the relationship between Ernst and Robi survived and thrived makes for a very rewarding, inspirational tale—all that much more as the movie is narrated by a still-vibrant Ernst and Robi. Bagdad Café's Marianne Sagebracht co-stars as Robi's compassionate mother in the flashback sequences. The film will be available digitally beginning March 3 and on DVD March 31 from Wolfe Releasing. <https://www.wolfevideo.com/products/circle-the/>

### February in queer movie history

Among the many notable LGBT movie history moments in February one date stands out above the rest: the Feb. 19, 1986 opening of writer-director Bill Sherwood's *Parting Glances*. Out actor Richard Ganoung and John Bolger star as a Manhattan gay couple whose relationship has reached a turning point just as one of the men is leaving for an overseas job for a long period.

Sherwood presented the couple and their gaggle of eccentric, high-spirited friends in a refreshing, unapologetic light that hadn't been seen in movies before. Steve Buscemi made his first mark in film as a gay punk-rock singer unsentimentally battling with AIDS, and Kathy Kinney co-starred as an artist friend of the couple. Best are Ganoung and Bolger as the young, sexy lovers whose relationship is presented in such a clear eyed, loving way.

Tragically, Sherwood discovered during filming the indie that he had been stricken with AIDS and the world lost a huge talent when he died soon after the film premiered. The movie rates very highly in the queer movie canon—and everything from *Looking* to *Weekend to Queer as Folk* to *Will & Grace* can be traced back to *Parting Glances*. The Outfest Legacy Project restored the film in 2007 but a definitive home release has yet to appear. (Hey Criterion: How 'bout it?)



From left: Dame Judi Dench, Dame Maggie Smith and Bill Nighy in *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. Photo from Fox Searchlight

### Mega Maggie

Currently the darling of *Downton Abbey* as the tart tongue Violet Crawley, the dowager countess of Grantham, Dame Maggie Smith is also featured in **The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**, opening in theaters March 6.

Smith has given so many stellar film performances (forget television and stage) that it's hard to know where to begin with recommendations for those wanting to experience more Maggie. Try these on: Robert Altman's **Gosford Park** (which *Downton Abbey*'s Julian Fellowes also wrote), with Smith playing an even bitchier variation of Lady Crawley; battling wits with Bette Davis (and dressed in a man's tuxedo at one point) in the Agatha Christie murder mystery **Death on the Nile**; turning up her nose at Cher in the WWII dramedy **Tea with Mussolini**; hilarious in **The First Wives Club** as the social arbiter supreme of New York, Gunilla Garson Goldberg, horrified at the tacky behavior of social climber Sarah Jessica Parker; and vividly clutching her rosary at Whoopi Goldberg in **Sister Act** and **Sister Act 2**. More Smith is on the horizon: She stars in *The Lady in the Van*, a fact-based dramedy coming to theaters this November.

### Moms in the house

What better way to wrap up Black History Month at the movies than with two movies featuring the iconic stand-up comic (and lesbian) Moms Mabley, once billed as the "Funniest Woman in the World?"

The foghorn-voiced comedian, renowned for her appearances on *The Ed Sullivan* and the *Smothers Brothers* TV shows, inspired a long list of performers that included Whoopi Goldberg who so adored her that in 2013 she made a documentary about Mabley for HBO. **Moms Mabley: I've Got Somethin' To Tell You** is Goldberg's loving tribute to the comedy legend who died in 1975. The film (which is available on DVD) covers Mabley's vaudeville years and includes tributes from Goldberg, Kathy Griffin, Quincy Jones, and others while giving us a glimpse into her undercover lesbian romances.

The year before Mabley's death she starred in the blaxploitation comedy **Amazing Grace**, in which she plays a poor but earnest woman often concerned with feeding her friends and neighbors fried chicken and who works to turn the tide in an ugly and corrupt mayoral campaign. The film isn't much (to say the least), but Mabley has her moments. Also, on the plus side, it's a virtual time capsule of the early '70s. Slappy White, Roscoe Lee Brown, Rosalind Cash and, yup, *Gone with the Wind*'s Butterfly McQueen co-star. Long unavailable, *Amazing Grace* has recently been released on both DVD and Blu-ray from Olive Films. <http://www.olivefilms.com/films/amazing-grace/>

### Upcoming movie calendar

Highlights from films opening in Chicago Feb. 27 and March 6 (or available digitally):

**Dear White People** (2/27)—Out writer/director Justin Simien's whip smart race comedy has a one-night screening at the DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 E. 56th Pl., at 6:30 p.m. <http://www.dusablemuseum.org/events/details/dear-white-people>

**Focus**—Will Smith tries to reclaim box office glory in a con-man caper that pairs him with luscious blonde Margot Robbie (*The Wolf of Wall Street*) as a very sexy fly in the ointment. Hunk du jour Rodrigo Santoro (*300*, *I Love You Phillip Morris*), Gerald McRaney and out actor BD Wong co-star.

**The Lazarus Effect** (2/27)—I see dead people—that is, once I bring them back to life. A group of smarty-pants medical students discovers a way to make the dead arise in this creepy thriller that has shades of *Flatliners*, the 1990 Julia Roberts-Kiefer Sutherland movie about smarty-pants medical students delving into the mysteries of life and death. This one stars Olivia Wilde and *American Horror Story*'s twisted

heartthrob Evan Peters. Mark Duplass and Donald Glover co-star.

**Incall** (3/5)—An indie gay horror film about a gay massage therapist whose new lover enlists his help in robbing and murdering wealthy male clients. Out writer-director Brock Riebe (who also stars) will be on hand along with other cast members for the film's Chicago premiere (and a post screening Q&A) on Thursday, March 5, at 9:30 p.m. at the Landmark Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark St. <http://www.incallmovie.com/>

**Chappie** (3/6)—Hugh Jackman, Sigourney Weaver, Sharlto Copley and Dev Patel star in this near-future reversal on *Robocop* in which the title robot—a droid working for the mechanized, brutal police force—is stolen by rebels, reprogrammed and becomes a champion for the underclasses. From *District Nine*/*Elysium* director-co-writer Neill Blomkamp.

**Maps to the Stars** (3/6)—Director David Cronenberg returns with this study of a dysfunctional movie star (isn't that an oxymoron?) played by Julianne Moore. Robert Pattinson and John Cusack co-star. It's playing exclusively in Chicago at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave. <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com/features/maps-to-the-stars>

**The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** (3/6)—Maggie Smith (see note earlier in article), Judi Dench, Bill Nighy and Dev Patel return in this sequel to the smash 2011 dramedy from director John Madden about a group of expatriate Brits relocating to exotic India to live out their sunset years. This time out, silver fox Richard Gere is on hand to raise the temperature of all and sundry. Expect more septuagenarian romance and hijinks from what promises to be another genial Bollywoodesque comedy of manners.

**She's Beautiful When She's Angry** (3/11)—Mark your calendars for director Mary Dore's documentary about the founding of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the ensuing, more radical side of feminism. The film opens exclusively in Chicago at the Music Box (more about the film in the March 4 issue of WCT).

Interested in reading some of my in-depth reviews? **The Best of Knight at the Movies: 2004-2014—a compilation book of my film reviews from a queer perspective for Windy City Times is available through [www.knight-atthemovies.com](http://www.knight-atthemovies.com).**



## Women & Children First celebrates renovation

Andersonville business Women & Children First Books celebrated their recent major renovation of the store, including new wood floors, a new layout of sections, freshly painted walls and overall a more open floor plan. New owners Sarah Hollenbeck (left) and Lynn Mooney are pictured in the re-designed space. They featured music and other programming Feb. 21, and plan for another celebration with the store's co-founders, Ann Christophersen and Linda Bubon, in March. Photo by Tracy Baim





The Imitation Game's Graham Moore won for Best Adapted Screenplay.

## Oscars: NPH, Lady Gaga and inclusive remarks

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences held the 87th Academy Awards Feb. 22—and most of the wins went as expected.

Julianne Moore won Best Actress for her role in the Alzheimer's drama *Still Alice* (directed by same-sex couple Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland), Patricia Arquette won for Best Supporting Actress for *Boyhood* and J.K. Simmons (previously known for work on TV shows such as *Law and Order* as well as *Oz*) won Best Supporting Actor for *Whiplash*. Eddie Redmayne, in a win that surprised some, edged *Birdman's* Michael Keaton to win Best Actor; Redmayne portrays Stephen Hawking in the film *The Theory of Everything*. Also, *Birdman* won the biggest film prize of the night, for Best Picture. In all, all eight of the Best Picture contenders won awards, with *Birdman* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* tying for the most (four each).

*Citizenfour* won for Best Documentary. Laura Poitras' film documents her initial meeting in Hong Kong with Edward Snowden (who leaked National Security Agency documents to Wikileaks) as well as gay journalist Glenn Greenwald.

Chicagoan Graham Moore won for Best Adapted Screenplay for the movie *The Imitation Game*, which depicts the life of the late gay British codebreaker Alan Turing. During his speech, he talked about depression and suicide. (Turing committed suicide in 1954 at age 41.) "I tried to commit suicide at 16 and now I'm standing here," Moore said. "I would like for this moment to be for that kid out there who feels like she doesn't fit in anywhere. You do. Stay weird. Stay different, and then when it's your turn and you are standing on this stage please pass the same message along."

Arquette took time during her speech to stress equality for women: "To every woman who gave birth to every taxpayer and every citizen of this nation, we have fought for everybody else's equal rights. It's our time to have wage equality once and for all and equal rights for women in the United States of America."

The Chicago rapper/actor Common also spoke of rights and inclusion. Common—who won an Oscar with singer John Legend for Best Original Song for "Glory," from the film *Selma*—said, "[The Edmund Pettus Bridge] was once a landmark of a divided nation but now is the symbol

for change. The spirit of this bridge transcends race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and social status.

"The spirit of this bridge connects the kid from the South Side of Chicago dreaming of a better life to those in France standing up for their freedom of expression, to the people in Hong Kong protesting for democracy."

Legend also got political, saying, "Selma is now because the struggle for justice is now. We know that the voting rights that they fought for 50 years ago is being compromised in this country today." Legend also said there are "more Black men under correctional control today than were in slavery."

Common and Legend were praised for their performance of "Glory"—one that caused audience members ranging from actor Chris Pine to *Selma* actor David Oyelowo to shed tears.

The musical performance was one of several that blew up social media. Lady Gaga, for many, was the musical high point of the night, as she performed several songs from the classic film *The Sound of Music*, which marks its 50th anniversary this year. Original film actress Julie Andrews then stepped out on stage, and gave Gaga a long hug.

In addition, Canadian lesbian twin duo Tegan and Sara sang *The Lego Movie's* "Everything Is Awesome" in a rollicking performance that included Questlove, Will Arnett, Lonely Island and Devo's Mark Mothersbaugh. In addition, audience members were given Lego Oscars.

While some of the remarks may have been controversial (including Sean Penn's "green card" comment to friend/*Birdman* director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu), there was also some blowback on social media regarding an omission: Joan Rivers. Rivers was not included in the "In Memoriam" segment; besides being a red-carpet fixture, Rivers was in films such as her documentary *A Piece of Work* and directed 1978's *Rabbit Test*.

Event host Neil Patrick Harris received mixed reviews for his performance, which included everything from a magic trick to the opening musical number to a segment that had him in his underwear. *Slate Magazine*, for example, wrote, "The Oscars undid even [Harris], whose magic touch fell as flat as the night's long-running, ostensible magic trick. To be fair to Harris, he wasn't working with very good material."

## Lakeside Pride benefit March 7

Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles presents its third annual benefit, "Champagne Showcase: A Night in the Jazz Age," at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., on Saturday, March 7, at 7 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to come out in their best dapper wear and flapper attire to celebrate a bygone era of Chicago jazz clubs and freewheeling decadence. The event will feature music by shhh...OUT! Lakeside Pride Jazz Ensemble, the "Strayhorns" jazz combo, guest vocalists, burlesque by Vaudezilla and other entertainment.

Tickets are \$35 in advance (available on-

line at [LakesidePride.org](http://LakesidePride.org)) or \$40 at the door starting 30 minutes before the event.

## Writers' kickoff Feb. 25 at Schubas

Last year, in celebration of its 25th anniversary, the Guild Literary Complex assembled a list of "25 Writers to Watch."

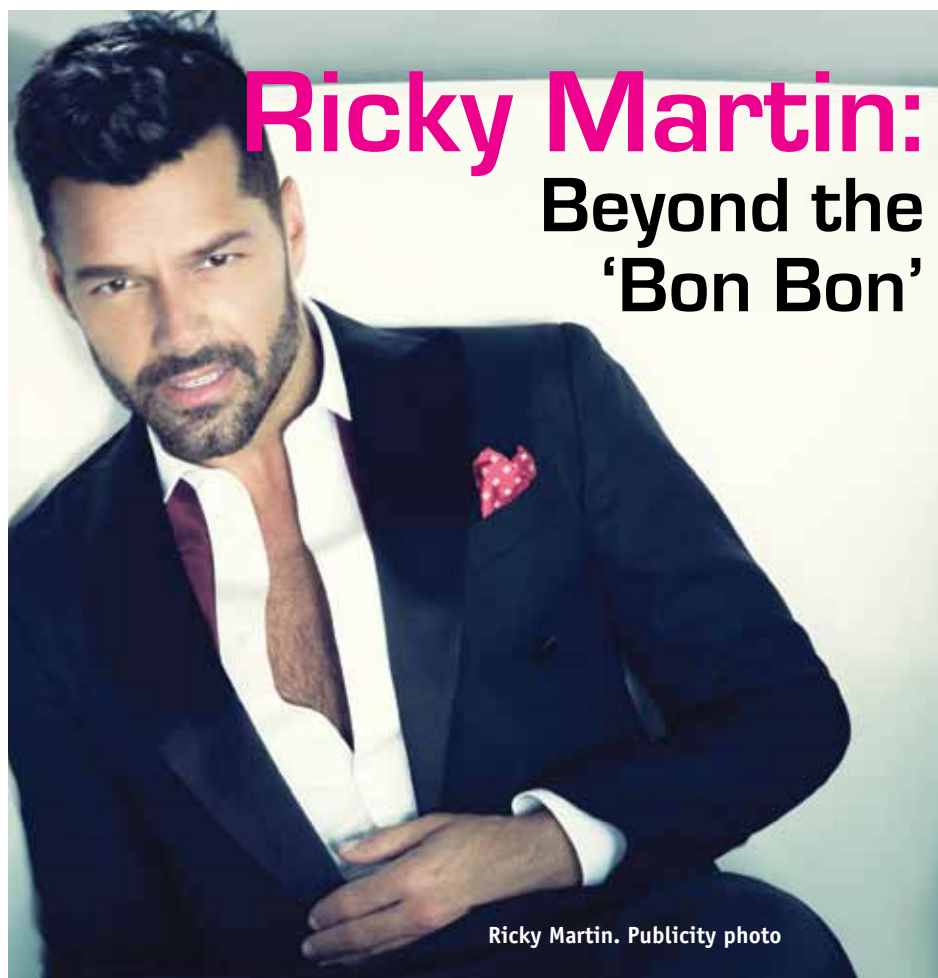
On Wed., Feb. 25, four writers from that list—Eric Charles May, Coya Paz, Roger Reeves and Kathleen Rooney—will be at Schubas Tavern, 3159 N. Southport St., 7:30-9 p.m. The theme of the reading is "uncharted."

The event is pay-what-you-can (\$5 suggested donation). Visit [www.guildcomplex.org](http://www.guildcomplex.org).

## CULTURE CLUB







Ricky Martin. Publicity photo

## Ricky Martin: Beyond the 'Bon Bon'

Ricky Martin talks love life, shirtless selfies and how he'd react to having gay sons

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

A single tweet changed Ricky Martin's life, and then it changed the world.

When the internationally famed Puerto Rican heartthrob came out in 2010, declaring himself on Twitter "a fortunate homosexual man" who's "very blessed to be who I am," Martin, 43, stepped out of the closet and into himself. Reflecting the free life he's currently basking in are the raw sounds and personal soliloquies on the singer's 10th studio album, *A Quien Quiera Escuchar* (To Whomever Wants to Listen).

In conversation, Martin is notably laid-back, sincere and personal as he opened up about how his six-year-long relationship with then-partner Carlos Gonzalez Abella inspired his latest music ("I love being in love"), what he's really trying to convey with all his shirtless selfies and the "powerful" coming out stories the LGBT community shares with him. And whether he's ruminating on his two sons or anticipating shaking his bon-bon with more male dancers onstage, his smile radiates even on the phone. This is a new, happier Ricky Martin and, yes, we're listening.

**Windy City Times:** On behalf of the gay community, thank you for all you do. The world is a better place because of your shirtless selfies.

Ricky Martin: [Laughs] Oh, man—thank you very much. I laugh so much at the reaction of the people; it's so funny. It really is amazing.

**WCT:** I get a kick out of it, too. Are you more comfortable without clothes? Or do you feel it's just your responsibility as a celebrated sex symbol?

RM: I just want to let people know how normal my life is, and I try to do it with a simple picture—that's what Instagram is about. So the other day I was laying in the sun and I was like, "Hey everyone, I'm here. I'm in a good place." You know, I'm a little bit obsessed with social media, to be honest. That's the first thing I do in the morning. I check out my Twitter, my HeyHey account, Facebook and Instagram, and I read what people have to say and what they need from me as an artist. It's fun, man.

**WCT:** You've always been a sex symbol, but how does it feel being a sex symbol for a community of gay men who know you're playing on their team? Is it different when there's that mutual attraction?

RM: Listen, for me, it's about liberty and it's about being you—me, in this case—and living life with transparency and just being. It's so amazing to know that you have nothing to hide, man. What you see is what you get. And this is me. And I don't wear a mask to go onstage, and the support that I've received from my community since I came out has been amazing. It's one of those things that [makes] you say, "Oh my god, why didn't I do this before?" But then again, Chris, you know how it goes—everybody accepts who they are at their own time.

When I sent that tweet a few years ago just letting people know that I am gay it was the most amazing day of my life after the birth of my kids. And it is what it is. Now my life is simple and honest and transparent, and this is me. And that's what my social media's about—being yourself.

**WCT:** The ladies have obviously been infatuated with you since the beginning of your career—since you were in Menudo. But when did you first realize that LGBT fans enjoyed you as well?

RM: It's always been there. Before I came out the love was there and I was very thankful. Now, when I got to work directly with the community once I came out, it went to another level and it's felt amazing, but once again, just being able to talk to the media about who we are and what we want and what we need, it's just so powerful. The equality slogan translates so easily in any language.

**WCT:** *A Quien Quiera Escuchar* sounds like you at your most authentic. I hear your essence, your spirit, your zest for life. How does it feel to be able to be yourself musically?

RM: When I started recording this album I had no idea what I wanted to talk about, which is completely different to what it was like in the past, when I said, "OK, I think I wanna get into the studio," and I had a blank canvas in front of me and all I did was throw colors and started working with amazing producers, and they helped me. It was the most amazing psychoanalysis, to be honest, to work with other writers and co-producers who helped me to put myself in order.

I started recording this album exactly a year ago in Australia and then we went to Los Angeles and we recorded in Miami. I also recorded in Puerto Rico. What I'm trying to say is that everything about this creative process was so organic and so relaxed, and I didn't have pressure from anybody. I just allowed myself to open my book and I started reminiscing, remembering different experiences that I had in my personal life and being able to point out specific emotions that I've been through—not necessarily this year, but through my life. And then, I think, *A Quien Quiera Escuchar* was born, you know? I listened to it today and I'm like, "Wow—there is poetry and there is honesty in these lyrics." And there are some powerful slogans that people are quoting through social media. People are gravitating to [these lyrics] and using them and turning them into their own slogans. Once again, it's about honesty. It's about vulnerability.

**WCT:** How much of the music on this album was inspired by your own personal love life, particularly your time with ex-partner Carlos Gonzalez Abella?

RM: After six years of being in a very steady relationship with him, yes, we have a lot of stories and we have a lot of moments of love and lots of light and yes, he is part of this album. It's not about what I've lived [through] this year that we broke up or even the last five years. It's decades of allowing myself to really go back and remember specific relationships that really [affected] me in many ways. And it became music. It's never too late.

**WCT:** You'll be touring all year across the world.

RM: I'm addicted!

**WCT:** Live, do you still even perform "She Bangs?"

RM: If people ask for it, I will perform it. I would become the character in the video and I would perform it.

**WCT:** You've always been flanked by female dancers. Now that you're out and proud, does that mean that more male dancers get in on the mix?

RM: Hey, let's be fair: Come on, it's about equality, you know? And when I walk onstage I present different scenarios of life and, yes, I do have more one-on-one dancing with male dancers, but when you're at a party, you just dance. It doesn't matter who's next to you, you grab a guy's or a girl's hand and you just go for it. And that's what my show is about. It's about freedom. And it's about being comfortable in your own skin.

**WCT:** That must be a great feeling for you to be comfortable enough to dance with a guy in front of millions of people.

RM: It's greaaaaat! And the reaction of the audience is even better! [Laughs]

**WCT:** Now that you're back on the market, what is dating like for someone as widely known as Ricky Martin?

RM: [Laughs] Mmmm. To be honest, I love being in a relationship, Chris. I love waking up in the morning and, if you're not with your boyfriend, [sending] that first message or text in the morning: "Hey baby, how ya doing? I hope you're fine. I just woke up. I'm doing this and this and this today." I loooove that. I really do. And I love picking up my phone and waiting for that reply from that text—it's great. But at the same time, right now, I'm enjoying being single. I'm enjoying this process. I'm not saying that I don't want to be in a relationship—I would be lying to you. I love being in love.

**WCT:** You strike me as the hopeless romantic type.

RM: I am, I am, I am! You're damn right about that.

**WCT:** How often have men used a pickup line on you that references your bon-bon?

RM: Ohh, man. If someone goes there I'd be like, "Dude, you gotta start again. I'll give you another chance because of your pretty face." [Laughs]

**WCT:** Considering your own coming out experience, what would you tell your 6-year-old twin sons, Matteo and Valentino, if one or both were to come out to you one day?

Turn to page 27

## Kim Gordon at Music Box Feb. 26

The Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) will present musician, artist and founding member of band Sonic Youth Kim Gordon on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave.

The post-punk rocker comes to Chicago to discuss her new memoir, *Girl in a Band*, with CHF Program Director and former WBEZ host Alison Cuddy. The program will include an opening performance by Girls Rock! Chicago alum Alex Lund, with a book-signing following the discussion.

Tickets are \$8-18, with book/ticket packages available for \$33-38. Passes are currently on sale at [www.chicagohumanities.org](http://www.chicagohumanities.org) or via the CHF Box Office at 312-494-9509.

## Kelly Clarkson's new CD out March 3

Grammy Award winner Kelly Clarkson has revealed the track list for her upcoming CD, *Piece By Piece*, which will be out March 3, according to a press release.

Clarkson released her first single, "Heart-beat Song," on Jan. 12, and some of the

other songs on the 13-track album include "Good Goes the Bye," "Run Run Run" (with John Legend), "Invincible" and the title tune. Her last studio album, *Stronger*, had hits in the title song and "Mr. Know-It-All." Visit [www.kellyclarkson.com](http://www.kellyclarkson.com).

## International Women's Day Dance on March 7

Chicago groups are bringing back the popular International Women's Day Dance to Chicago, Saturday, March 7, 7 p.m.-midnight, at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, 3015 W. Division St.

The Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW) LGBT Giving Council is sponsoring the event, which is open to people of all identities 21 and older.

See [www.cfw.org/internationalwomensday-dance](http://www.cfw.org/internationalwomensday-dance) for info, or call 312-577-2801. The early-bird rate ends Feb. 21.

The host committee is Rita Adair, Evette Cardona, Pat Ewert, Jess Kane, Suzanne Kraus, Melba Poole, Laura Stempel, Linda Wagner and Toi Williams. Proceeds will go to the Lavender Fund of the LGBTQ Giving Council of CFW.

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2014-15 SEASON



# the DISH

WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN  
WINDY CITY  
TIMES

## Dive Bar

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Most people associate the term “dive bar” with a casual sort of neighborhood watering hole where residents gather to throw back a few and socialize.

However, Boystown’s **Dive Bar** (3445 N. Halsted St.; <http://chicagodivebar.com/>) is a nautical-themed restaurant (get it?) that specializes primarily in seafood. And, yes, it’s complete with decor items ranging from punny signs to portholes.

For example, the most recent part of John Dalton and Stu Zirin’s burgeoning empire (along with D.S. Tequila, minibar and two mEAT restaurants) has boomboom shrimp (crispy, breaded and tossed in a creamy, spicy sauce), coconut shrimp, salt-and-pepper shrimp, lump crab cakes, black bean clams, crab fingers, tuna nachos and fish bites alone in its “Share” section.

The motto is “Eat like a captain; drink like a fish” for a reason. There’s also an impressive list of drinks with mostly punny tie-ins to the restaurant. For instance, you can try the Walking the Plank (Cruzan mango rum, Vizcaya dark rum, Bitter Truth apricot liquor, orange juice and lime juice), the Blue Marlin (Hendrick’s gin, limoncello, pineapple juice, lemon juice, simple syrup and club soda) or one of the other \$13 (!) drinks. (Note: Dalton defended the cost, saying it’s actually a value because the drinks have double the amount of alcohol a similarly sized drink would have elsewhere. I don’t doubt that after sampling the tasty Painkiller.) There are also wines, mojitos, beer and “Smokin’ Shots” (complete with dry ice) available.

My friend and I tried a variety of dishes. The lump crab cakes were solid performers, helped by the emphasis being on crabmeat and an

batter. The tuna nachos are topped with an aioli that definitely had a kick—one that almost, but not quite, overtook the rest of the dish. The highest platitudes for the evening went to a rich, tasty lobster bisque.

We also tried the fried chicken (“for landlubbers,” Dalton said). The chicken (available as two-, four- and eight-piece options) takes 48 hours to prepare, involving a process that incorporates brining, soaking in buttermilk, baking and flash-frying. The result is like the rest of the menu: solid. The chicken is definitely not bad, but it lacks the “wow” factor. (As a point of comparison, I put this up against Chef Art Smith’s fried chicken at Table fifty-two. My friend and I both agreed that Dive Bar’s chicken, although good, was not quite on the same level.) The desserts (a key lime pie and an

iceberg-sized slice of chocolate peanut-butter ice-cream pie) were also—you guessed it—good.

Dive Bar only opened Jan. 22, but Dalton and Zirin have big plans for the place, which Dalton described as “more tropical than tiki.” Among the events that are slated to happen are having themes such as “Mussel Mondays” and CANS (Customer Appreciation Nights); serving breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week; and even turning the site on Fridays and Saturdays into an “island-techno fun space.”

The restaurant is definitely unique; my dining companion pointed out that there are really no other seafood restaurants in the immediate Boystown area. This nautical-themed eatery is definitely steps ahead of a restaurant like Long John Silver’s (which some people on Yelp have compared it to). Patrons will certainly have a satisfying experience at Dive Bar; it’s just that the fare doesn’t represent a “sea change” in cuisine.



Exterior (left) and food and drink selections at Dive Bar. Photos by Ed Negron



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## MARTIN from PAGE 26

RM: You know what? For us, at least in my family, that’s not an issue because that is the normal in my house. So if my kids ever tell me that they’re gay, I’ll be like, “Yeah? OK, cool! Brilliant! Bring it on.” But it all starts from the day that we’re born, and every time they ask me questions about anything—Who’s your boyfriend? How come I had two daddies?—the important thing is to answer with honesty and transparency. And it doesn’t matter how old your kids are. If they are capable of formulating a question, it’s because they are capable of receiving the answer.

**WCT: Have you taught them the famous Ricky hip swivel yet?**

RM: Oh, it’s in their blood, buddy. There’s nothing I can do about it. It’s there. *[Laughs]*

**WCT: As an out gay man with an enormous platform, what do you hope you’ve contributed to the LGBT community?**

RM: I had the opportunity to write a book that is called Me and I’m very proud to say that it is a New York Times best-selling book. There have been people who’ve come to me and said, “Because of you and because of that book I know my father better, I know my grandmother, I know my uncle, my aunt, my sister, my brother.” And that’s it. I mean, I will always keep on talking about the importance of equality and basic human rights that we as members of the LGBT community are longing for, but to this day, and every day—the book was released about four years ago—I get a tweet or a Facebook post from someone saying, “Ricky, thank you so much for that book; it changed my life.”

**WCT: What do those stories mean to you?**

RM: It tells me that my fears were just in my head and that I feel nothing but gratitude. And I get goose bumps, man, when I get these stories and these testimonies from people from all walks of life coming to me to say, “Listen, I was homophobic until I read your book.” It’s very powerful, and I’m very, very pleased.

**Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at [www.chris-azzopardi.com](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com).**

### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

**INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.** Dignity/Chicago envisions a Catholic Church welcoming to all - LGBTIQ. Join us on Sunday’s for Catholic Mass 5:00 p.m. at BUMC, 3344 N Broadway. **Learn more at [www.dignity-chicago.org](http://www.dignity-chicago.org) (11/11/15-52)**

### WINDOW TREATMENTS

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## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT - TWO BEDROOMS

**EDGEWATER COMMUTER ADVANTAGE.** Walk to beach, bus, redline and shops. Big bedrooms with walk in closets. Large dining room and kit.Plus laundry, patio and storage. **\$1300 with heat. 773-275-3216 (3/18/15-4)**

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# CALENDAR

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

## Wed., Feb. 25

**Homeless LGBTQ Youth: Providing for Services** Part of Real Times Chicago Lecture Series. Devin Redmond, coordinator The Crib-Night Ministry; Cassandra Avenatti, founder Project Fierce; Respondent, Tracy Baim, publisher and executive editor, Windy City Media Group. Lunch provided. 12:00pm - 1:30pm 4th Floor CUPPA Hall, 412 S. Peoria St.; <http://greatcities.uic.edu>

**Frost Fest Warm Up Wednesday** Enjoy warm and spirited beverages. Part of Frost Fest which runs through Feb. 28. 6:00pm Various Northalsted bars <http://northalsted.com>

**Our Kitchens, Ourselves: A Panel Discussion about Food and Feminism** Moderated by Women & Children First's own Lynn Mooney and Eden Sherman. Panelist chefs: Gale Gand (Tru), Mindy Segal (Hot Chocolate), Beverly Kim (Parachute), and Iliana Regan (Elizabeth). #femfoodfeb, Graze and Render quarterly, and Women & Children First co-host. \$20 and include food and beer. 7:00pm - 10:00pm Revolution Brewing 2323 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago Tickets: <https://squareup.com/market/graze-magazine/our-kitchens-ourselves>

## Thursday, Feb. 26

**Senior Hot Lunch** Center on Halsted is a City of Chicago Golden Diners site, where seniors age 60+ receive a hot lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. The suggested donation for lunch is \$1.50. No pre - registration required, but we ask that you sign in for lunch before 11:30 to ensure that you receive a lunch ticket. 12:00pm - 1:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=9271>

**Meditation Class** Open to participants 40+. No previous meditation experience necessary. Free. Contact Troy Johnson at [tjohnson@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:tjohnson@centeronhalsted.org) or by phone 1:00pm - 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago 773-472-6469 x491 <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/>

[newevents-details.cfm?ID=9277](http://newevents-details.cfm?ID=9277)

**Queering Black History With Our Stories** Intergenerational evening of listening and sharing stories for Chicago's Black LGBTQ community. Affinity and StoryCorps OUTloud host. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Chicago Urban League, 4510 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago [https://www.facebook.com/events/1632477516980562/?ref=6&ref\\_notif\\_type=plan\\_user\\_invited](https://www.facebook.com/events/1632477516980562/?ref=6&ref_notif_type=plan_user_invited)

**Chicago As Muse** A talk with Ground Floor artists Assaf Evron, Esau McGhee, Ben Murray, and Julie Weber on how Chicago's cultural landscape has influenced their artwork. Free. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Hyde Park Art Center 5020 S. Cornell Chicago 773-324-5520 <http://www.hydeparkart.org>

**Same Planet Different World Dance Theatre and The Cambrians (formerly the Nexus Project) announce two world premieres** Same Planet Different World Dance Theatre and The Cambrians (formerly the Nexus Project) offer two world premieres: Stripped, a work exploring how personal technology can affect the lived (social) experience, and Clover, based on forms and structures found in nature. \$20 7:00pm Links Hall 3111 N. Western Ave Chicago 773-281-0824 Tickets: <http://linkshall.ticketfly.com/calendar/>

**Noah Berlatsky author, Wonder Woman: Bondage and Feminism in the Marston/Peter Comics, 1941-1948** William Marston was a psychologist, a pulp novelist, the self-declared inventor of the lie detector and the creator of the comic Wonder Woman, where he expressed his passions for feminism and women in bondage. Comics expert Berlatsky takes us on a wild ride through the Wonder Woman comics of the 1940s, 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

## Friday, Feb. 27

**A Day in the Life of Transgender Students: Creative Approaches to Teaching and Parenting Elementary, Middle and High School Youth** The Naperville Community Network: Professionals Supporting LGBTQ

Youth and The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance present. A training by the Naperville Community Network. Agenda, registration online. 8:00am - 3:00pm BMO Harris Bank, Naperville Tickets: <http://tinyurl.com/pqy4x95>

**Trans sex worker support group** For those who have traded sexual labor for housing, money, or material goods, want an inviting space to talk about their experiences and identify as trans or gender non-conforming/non-binary. [info@swop-chicago.org](mailto:info@swop-chicago.org) 3:30pm - 5:00pm Contact an organizer for location 773-248-5200

**Lynn Sloan Principles of Navigation Book Launch** A reporter and a sculptor journey through loss, infidelity, and heartbreak which test their moorings. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

**The Rose Tattoo** Unique in Tennessee Williams work, a special blend of comedy, emotional depth and lyricism. On Louisiana's Gulf Coast, a passionate overprotective Sicilian widow controls the life of her daughter. Earthy eroticism is unleashed as an unknown truck driver arrives. Through 8:00pm Theater Wit 1229 W Belmont Ave. Chicago <http://www.theaterwit.org>

## Saturday, Feb. 28

**Affinity Trailblazers** The Affinity Trailblazers, formerly known as the Senior Group, meets last Saturday of each month. Bring a dish, beverage to share. Questions to [Seniorgroup@affinity95.org](mailto:Seniorgroup@affinity95.org) 11:00am - 1:00pm Affinity Community Services 1424 E. 53rd St. Suite 306 Chicago <http://www.affinity95.org>

**The Tease** Chicago House burlesque event from producers Keith Elliott and Todd Kiech (Dance For Life and Chicago Takes Off) with kings and queens of burlesque, cirque and dance. Prime seats, \$150. Great seats \$75. Standing room, \$40. Two shows: 7:30 PM and 10:30pm. 10:30pm Moonlight Studios, 1446 W Kinzie St., Chicago Tickets: <http://www.chicagohouse.org>

**Asians & Friends Chicago, Chinese New Year's dinner** Year of the Sheep. Cocktails and 7:15pm sit-down, multi-course dinner RSVP by phone. Designer Kevin Vong--who this year helped mentor "Project Runway" contestant Alexander Knox--will host a fashion show to honor the wool clothing that sheep give to mankind. 6:30pm Phoenix Restaurant 2131 S. Archer Chicago 312-409-1573. <http://www.afchicago.org>



WE AIM TO 'TEASE'

Saturday, Feb. 28

Chicago House will hold its burlesque event "The Tease" at Moonlight Studios.

Photo from 2014 by Ed Negron

## Sunday, March 1

**OutChicago, LGBT radio** Progressive talk with Scott Duff. Streaming live online 11:00am - 1:00pm WCPT 820 am <http://www.chicagosprogressivetalk.com/pages/pages.php?page=451>

**Accidentally like a Martyr** In a dive-y gay bar on Manhattan's lower east side, the regulars and the restless others do battle, joke, and drink their way through a lonely winter evening. Different generations and backgrounds collide, secrets are revealed, and old wounds are torn anew. 3:00pm A Red Orchard Theatre, 1531 N. Wells St. 312-943-8722 <http://aredorchidtheatre.org>

**The Importance of Being Earnest** Two wily young bachelors each masquerade as guys named Ernest as they set out to win their well-dowried ladies' hearts. \$30. 3:00pm Ruth Page Center for the Arts Gold Coast, 1016 N. Dearborn St. 312-337-6543 <http://www.ruthpage.org/performance-Importance-of-Being-Earnest>

## Monday, March 2

**QueerCast** Windy City Queercast with host Amy Matheny joined weekly by guest hosts Mitchell Fain, Deb Pearce, Stephen Rader and Colman Domingo 12:00pm Online <http://www.windycityqueercast.com/shows.html>

## Tuesday, March 3

**The Latino Housing & Homelessness Question: A Panel Discussion** El Rescate (The Rescue) celebrates its third year anniversary with a panel discussion at 4:30pm and a fundraising dinner. Requested donation \$25. 4:00pm National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, 3015 W. Division St., Chicago 773-278-6737

**OutSpoken - LGBTQ Storytelling event** Sidetrack hosts an LGBTQ spoken word/storytelling event every first Tuesday of the month. No cover. Doors 6p. Inspiring, heart warming experience. 7:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://outspokenchicago.com/>

## Wed., March 4

**SHE100 Membership/Presentation Meetings** Presentations will be made on behalf of organizations to be considered for grants. Contact [sheonehundred@gmail.com](mailto:sheonehundred@gmail.com) 6:30pm - 8:30pm The Chopping Block, Merchandise Mart, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Ste 107, Chicago

**Martha Feldman, author The Castrato: Reflections on Natures and Kinds** Reading and signing 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

## Thursday, March 5

**Shaka McGlotten, "Black Data"** Shaka McGlotten (Media, Society, and the Arts, Purchase College, State University of New York) seeks to bring Black queer studies into dialogue with critical studies of new technologies and network cultures. 4:30pm - 6:30pm Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, University of Chicago, 5733 S University Ave., 773-795-6503 <http://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu/>

**Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois open house** Learn about TJLP's history, political frameworks, current projects, and volunteer opportunities. Food. Wheelchair accessible. All ages 6:00pm Transformative Justice Law Project, Suite 307, 4707 N. Broadway, 773-272-1822 <http://www.tjlp.org>

## BOOK REVIEW

### The Escape Artist

by Judith Katz  
\$13.46; Bywater Books; 314 pages  
BY SALLY PARSONS

Originally published in 1997, The Escape Artist reappears under a new publishing company with all its magic intact. A shul for whores, 1900s Buenos Aires, cross-dressing, magical tricks and a charming love story between two young Jewish women—that is the recipe concocted here and laid out in a story that provides suspense and a fascinating glimpse into a culture little known to most contemporary readers.

While the escape artist of the title is Hankus, this is Sofia's story, told in the first person. It begins in a Jewish ghetto of Warsaw in 1913, when Sofia is 16. A happy child, Sofia soon sees her world turned upside down when her father brings Tutsik Goldenberg into their home. A "slick weasel," Sofia characterizes him, and indeed he is. He is looking for a "good Jewish wife" and not only talks Sofia's father into agreement of a marriage between Tutsik and Sofia, but gets a dowry out of the father as well. With promises of a better life in Buenos Aires, Tutsik whisks Sofia off on a ship, where she quickly realizes marriage isn't in the offing at all. Her life spirals downward from there. Tutsik delivers her into the hands of his sister Perle, who runs a brothel in Buenos Aires. And thus begins a life of enslavement of the worst



kind for Sofia, which is brightened only when an unlikely visitor with special skills appears.

This edition is complete with an essay by Dr. Emma Parker, a literature professor at the University of Leicester in England. She makes the case that magic "... functions as a metaphor for both the positive and negative effects of diaspora [in this case, Jews moving to Argentina from eastern Europe to escape the plundering Cossacks]." Parker also explores the implications of conjuring and escapism in rela-

tion to queer diaspora female subjects, such as Sofia and Hankus.

The Escape Artist was one of the first books I read in a lesbian book group I had just joined back in the day. It has been a pleasure to revisit this world these many years later.

## 'BLgTUSA' campaign rolling across U.S.

GET//OUT, a new social enterprise creating fun ways to support LGBT equality, has announced BLgTUSA—a campaign across all 50 states connecting the BLT sandwich to LGBT rights.

The tour is slated to stop in Chicago the weekend of June 20.

The organization aims to get 1 million people out for equality this summer, online and in person by traveling via a branded food truck. Co-founded by longtime friends Taryn Miller-Stevens and Peter Stolarski, BLgTUSA is partnering chefs and restaurants with local LGBT centers. The group is collaborating with CenterLink, the network of LGBT community centers across the country.

BLgTUSA's Kickstarter campaign—originally at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/tems/blgtusa-the-first-50-state-food-tour-for-equality>—was successfully funded, just surpassing its \$150,000 goal. The campaign ended Feb. 16.

Painting, as it does, a detailed picture of the customs and traditions of early 20th-century Judaism in eastern Europe and of life in the Jewish quarter of Buenos Aires, the novel provides a gripping tale and a satisfying read.

## 'Frost Fest' in Boystown this week

Northalsted Business Alliance is presenting "Frost Fest" through Feb. 28.

Boystown activities will include Taste of Northalsted through Feb. 26, "Warm-Up Wednesday" Feb. 25 and the craft-beer festival "Brisk Brews" Feb. 28.

"Warm-Up Wednesday" allows guests to enjoy warm drinks along the Northalsted strip; "Brisk Brews" lets people pick between two three-hour tasting sessions beginning at 1 p.m. or 6 p.m.

Buy tickets at [www.Northalsted.com](http://www.Northalsted.com).

## New Pastoral to open in A'ville

The co-owners of Pastoral Artisan Cheese, Bread & Wine have signed a lease to open a new location at 5212 N. Clark St. (the former Urban Orchard space) in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood.

The new location is scheduled to open in late summer 2015. Visit [pastoralartisan.com](http://pastoralartisan.com).



# BILLY MASTERS

"Benedict Cumberbatch—it's not only the most awesome name in show business, it's also the sound you get when you ask John Travolta to announce Ben Affleck."—Neil Patrick Harris' callback to last year's Oscars, and part of his introduction of Idina Menzel and John Travolta.

How can I start this column without talking about Lady Gaga. Even I, who knew she was classically trained, was taken aback by her singing of the medley from The Sound of Music. If you thought you were knocked out of your seat at home, you can only imagine what it was like in the Dolby Theatre. And once Julie Andrews came out, the theater actually shook with excitement.

Until that point, it was a rather pedestrian production. Sure, Harris was a charming and affable host, but also somewhat unmemorable—save for re-enacting the underwear



Lady Gaga was amazing at the Oscars, Billy says.

walk from Birdman (albeit in stuffed undies). His opening song was fun, but Jack Black ultimately upstaged him. The show kicked off with Lupita Nyong'o thinking she was still at the SAG Awards. Clint Eastwood and Robert Duvall looked like they were posing for their "In Memoriam" photo. Speaking of which, I thought Jennifer Hudson did a great job on "I Can't Let Go." I was puzzled by the inclusion of Maya Angelou as an "actress," but I guess Madea's Family Reunion and Elmo Saves Christmas count. And by those standards, where was Joan Rivers?

Best speech of the night—Graham Moore, who wrote The Imitation Game. He started with a laugh by thanking Oprah, who presented the award. He then brought it home by comparing his struggles and suicide attempt at 16 with the struggles and suicide of Alan Turing, the subject of the film. He spoke directly to everyone out there who is weird, different, and doesn't fit in. "Stay weird, stay different, and then when it's your turn and you are standing on this stage, please pass the same message to the next person who comes along." Bravo. By the way, contrary to what you may think, Graham Moore is not gay. Double bravo!

As to fashion, I liked NPH's first tux (except for the lapels), loved the second one, thought the third one was ill-fitting and liked the fourth, but thought it was a bit too casual (and I hated the flower). As to the ladies, how can I not mention Jennifer Lopez's dress—or was it a float in the Tournament of Roses Parade? Let's put it this way—she and Oprah looked like twins.

How fortuitous that on the eve of new Oscar winners being announced, a former recipient went public with her complaints. Mo'Nique gave an interview to The Hollywood Reporter claiming that winning the 2010 Best Supporting Actress Oscar wasn't all it was cracked up to be: "It should come with more respect, more choices, and more money. It should and it normally does. I thought, once you won the award, that's the top prize—and so you're supposed to be treated as if you got the top prize." Let us not forget—one role (even an Oscar-winning one) does not a career make. And, if we know anything about Hollywood, it gives you what it wants—not what you think you deserve. According to sources, Mo'Nique was less than

pleasant to work with and uninterested in campaigning for the Oscar. (A win would mean more money for the studio.) A few months ago, Lee Daniels called her to say, "Mo'Nique, you've been blackballed."

It's not every Valentine's Day one gets to spend with Cheyenne Jackson, but I was lucky to escape Boston and be in Fort Lauderdale when he appeared in concert with Seth Rudetsky at the Parker Playhouse. Over the years, I've seen Cheyenne many times—in Aida, All Shook Up, and Xanadu on Broadway; Altar Boyz off-Broadway; and It's a Bird...It's a Plane.... It's Superman in Los Angeles. Each time, I left frustrated. Obviously he's gorgeous. He has a marvelous singing voice. One can't quibble about his acting ability. But, inexplicably, the sum didn't equal the parts; he never seemed to have "it."

But lately, my opinion of him has changed. He gave a wonderfully nuanced performance in the film The Green. He showed his comedic chops on 30 Rock. And, most importantly, he really connected with audiences in concert. I noticed this last summer during his run at the Provincetown Art House. Perhaps it was that he was being himself rather than playing a character. Or perhaps he's simply grown as an artist over the past decade. But the difference is extraordinary. In the past, we've run into each other socially but, given my criticism (to say nothing of my endlessly directing people to BillyMasters.com to see his infamous jerk-off video), I suspect I'm not his favorite person. But never let it be said that Billy Masters doesn't have balls of steel—perhaps all the firmer due to the wearisome winter in Boston. After last week's concert, I found myself being ushered over to Cheyenne and Seth for a photo-op. Seth greeted me with a kiss, I complimented Cheyenne, shook his hand and we posed for the photo—with Jackson looking at me quizzically. Another bullet dodged.

By the way, Cheyenne has a new single out. "Find The Best of Me" is available on iTunes and the proceeds will be donated to the American Foundation for AIDS Research. He better be careful or I'm gonna turn into a fan!

Lastly, did you see Miss Cicely Tyson on How To Get Away With Murder? Why don't they just give her the Emmy now, because you ain't gonna see anything top that all year. And the writing? Wow! In case you missed it, I'll share every second of her performance on BillyMasters.com. It was truly something to behold.

When I'm predicting the Emmys while reporting from the Oscars, it's time to end yet another column. I do have one last observation about the Oscars ... or, rather, ABC's pre-show: Whose bright idea was it to get Michael Strahan to say the name Reese Witherspoon? The only worse thing would have been Sissy Spacek. You can find more insights on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that never pulls a punch. While I didn't have space to squeeze in a question, I am always available whenever you need me. Just dash off a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I am able to work Sissy Spacek's name into another column. So, until next time, remember one man's filth is another man's bible.

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## Frankie Knuckles movie to be filmed in Chicago

A new feature film, The Warehouse, will celebrate late house-music legend Frankie Knuckles and Chicago's Warehouse nightclub, where the internationally recognized musical genre was born.

Bob Teitel (Men of Honor, Barber Shop), Billy Dec (Rockit Ranch/Elston Films), Randy Crumpton (The Truth) and Joe Shanahan (Metro/Smartbar/Double Door) will produce the movie, which will be filmed in Chicago.

The producers will host a launch party and Frankie Knuckles Foundation (FKF) benefit at The Underground, 56 W. Illinois St., at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31 (one year after Knuckles untimely passing).

Tickets start at \$20 and include a two-hour cocktail-and-hors d'oeuvres reception at 6-8 p.m. Limited VIP tables are available. To purchase tickets, visit [www.TheUndergroundChicago.com](http://www.TheUndergroundChicago.com). All of ticket proceeds will benefit FKF.

## 'Louder than a Bomb' festival in March

The organization Young Chicago Authors (YCA) will present Louder than a Bomb (LTAB), a youth-poetry festival that culminates March 21 and 28 (both 6-9 p.m.) with Indy and team finals at the Rubloff Theater at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Arie Crown Theater, respectively.

This marks the 15th anniversary of LTAB, which has been supported this year by people such as Alec Baldwin, Alfre Woodard and hip-hop composer Ali Shaheed Muhammad (a.k.a. Ali from A Tribe Called Quest). The

2015 Louder Than A Bomb festival encompasses more than 90 performances at 10 venues, featuring the talents of 1,300 students from more than 130 schools across 100 different Chicagoland zip codes.

For a complete schedule of events, visit [www.youngchicagoauthors.org](http://www.youngchicagoauthors.org).

## Joan Armatrading at City Winery in April, Oct.

Musician Joan Armatrading will perform at City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph St., on April 23-24 as well as Oct. 7-8.

Over her 42 years of touring, the West Indies-born British singer-songwriter has never done a solo world tour. For her last major tour, which kicked off in Britain in September, the three-time Grammy nominee will perform her first ever full-scale solo concerts.

Her U.S. performances will include songs that span her entire career so far, with songs like "Love And Affection," "Willow" and "Drop the Pilot."

Armatrading's resume includes three Grammy nominations, two Brit nominations and a coveted Ivor Novello Award. She performed for Nelson Mandela on two occasions, and is one of the first female artists to have been awarded with an MBE by Queen Elizabeth II.

Armatrading is private about her personal life but, as Wikipedia notes, "In April 2011, it was reported that Armatrading and her girlfriend Maggie Butler were to enter a civil partnership on 2 May 2011, in the Shetland Isles."

Tickets are \$85-\$105; visit [www.CityWinery.com](http://www.CityWinery.com).



# Chicagoan endurance athlete Hupe excels in marathon, Ironman

BY ROSS FORMAN

Twice during a 10-week stretch last fall, Curt Hupe heard those magical six words—"Curt Hupe, you ARE an Ironman"—that he had spent countless hours, over several years, building up to hear.

On Sept. 7, in Madison, Wisconsin, Hupe completed his first Ironman, which culminates with the finish-line announcer barking out Hupe's name and accomplishment. It took him more than 15 hours to complete.

Mind you, to earn the Ironman title, Hupe swam 2.4 miles, then rode his bicycle 112 miles, and then ran 26.2 miles.

The Ironman, he said, "is such an amazing feeling; [it] can make you a bit emotional."

Hupe completed his second Ironman on Nov. 16 in Tempe, Ariz. "Like anything that's worth doing, [an Ironman] takes effort," said Hupe, 38, who grew up in Peotone and now lives in Mokena, Illinois. "An Ironman is very challenging in that it takes a ton of dedication and determination. Training isn't easy. It takes months of early mornings, late evenings and long weekend days of training. When race day comes, there's a saying that it's just a very long training day with 2,500 of your friends, and it's catered. I take it to heart. Most anyone who's willing to put in the required training could become an Ironman. It's just like a diet; most people don't succeed, as it takes a lot of dedication and determination. Fortunately, I have a great group of triathlon buddies to keep me on track."

Hupe, who is openly gay, is the COO for a small software development company (ChartNet Technologies) and the owner of CCH Printing, a small printing company. He has been hooked on endurance-sports since 2007—when he ran his first-ever marathon.

Hupe finished the 2007 Chicago Marathon, which was ended early that year due to the unexpected heat. He ran again six weeks later, crossing the finish line of the Florence (Italy) Marathon.

He continued running in 2008 and 2009, and added triathlons to his resume in 2010. In 2014, he completed the New Orleans Half Ironman, Racine Half Ironman, Ironman Wisconsin, North Shore Century bicycle ride of 100-miles, Chicago Marathon and Ironman Arizona.

Over the past seven years, Hupe has run 13 marathons, eight half marathons, four half Irons, two full Irons and several other running and obstacle events.

His 2015 slate includes the Ironman Wisconsin (in Madison), the Mi Titanium (in Michigan) and Ironman Louisville, among others.

"I love the people," involved with endurance-sports, Hupe said. "To this day, there are some very special friendships that go back to when I first started in 2007. Even though it's a race and your goal is to do better than your last race, everyone helps and encourages each other. I have to admit, there are some bragging rights that come with endurance-sports, too."

"There are a lot of great things about endurance sports, though the best part is the people. I absolutely love my running and tri buddies. Over the years I've made some great friendships that will last forever. They are like family. Endurance sports take a lot of time, so it's nice that you're spending that time with people you like. The worst part [is], the time commitment. Sometimes you have to sacrifice other things to get in time for training."

But his memories are endless, such as his first half Ironman, when one of his coaches, Jamie Thome, surprised him during the run, "and it just made my day," he said. "I was so happy to see her. Someone was able to catch that moment and it's still one of my favorite pictures." Then there was the marathon he ran in Fargo, North Dakota, when his timing chip came off his shoes sometime during the 26.2-mile course, so he didn't get an official time.

So why keep doing the endurance sports?

"Honestly, you learn to love them ... and it's hard to stop," he said. "You build a bond with the people and training with them becomes a natural part of your weekend. When I first started, there were a few awesome coaches [who] really inspired me from the very start and were a big reason I kept doing these races."

Hupe has long competed in his events while supporting the Team To End AIDS (T2), an endurance training program that benefits the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC). Hupe has fund-raised close to \$50,000 for AFC through T2.

"If it wasn't for the support and encouragement from friends and family, I wouldn't continue," he said. "These events take a lot of dedication and without the support from those close to you, it wouldn't be as rewarding."

His biggest supporter is, without question, his mom.

"She's a staple at my races and supports not only me, but all my running and tri buddies," Hupe said. "Having her and my stepdad, Bob, at my races means the world to me and it's a great feeling knowing they're there cheering me on."

Hupe's Ironman training is at least an hour a day running, biking, or swimming, and he does so four days during a week, plus



Curt Hupe. Photo courtesy of Hupe

one day of strength training, and a long training day of two to eight hours on a weekend day. "The most challenging part for me is trying to balance all the different disciplines of the sport," he said.

The Madison Ironman is considered one of the most difficult in the U.S. due to its hilly terrain. "It takes a lot of training and determination to complete that course," he said. "I was very nervous going into the race as I wasn't 100 percent sure I was going to be able to finish the bike course in time. Turns out, I had plenty of time."

Hupe completed that race in 15 hours and 25 minutes. "It was incredibly special to have so many [friends] cheer me on. Two of my closest friends and my Mom also made the trip to cheer me on," he said.

"The Ironman in Arizona was supposed to be the 'easy' Ironman as the bike course is mostly flat. However, this year brought 20-plus MPH headwinds. Ironman AZ has never had winds like that. It was brutal, and increased my bike time by at least 45 minutes. The swim was a bit more aggressive than I expected and the water was a tad choppy towards the end."

"Overall, I had more fun at Arizona. Going into the race, I was much more confident and the finish was incredible."

## Report: Gay Games generated \$6.8M

The Gay Games that took place in Cleveland, Ohio, last summer generated \$120,000 for the Gay Games LGBT Legacy Fund at the Cleveland Foundation and \$27,000 for the Gay Community Endowment Fund of the Akron Community Foundation, Crain's Cleveland Business reported.

The report was issued in conjunction with a panel discussion, "2014 Gay Games Lessons and Legacies" held at the City Club of Cleveland. "Lessons and Legacies" revealed that the games generated \$6.8 million in revenue. Gay Games 9 had an estimated economic impact of \$52.1 million on Northeast Ohio.

The original article is at <http://www.craigslist.com/article/20150219/FREE/150219829/gay-games-9-generated-6-8-million-in-revenue-147000-in-net-profit>.

## Sports Hall of Fame noms due March 1

The National Gay and Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame is accepting nominations for the Class of 2015.

Nominees can be gay or lesbian individuals; organizations that have made tremendous strides in recognizing gay and lesbian athletes; or individual allies.

Nominations are due March 1; see [www.gayandlesbiansports.com](http://www.gayandlesbiansports.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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