

WINDY CITY TIMES

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FOOD FIGHT
 Gay fast-food worker joins battle for wage increase.
 Photo of Samuel Santana by Matt Simonette

17

Northalsted Business Alliance's annual festival hits Boystown this weekend with two days and nights worth of summer sights and sounds.

Check out page 31 for the full schedule of entertainment!

Top right photo from Market Days 2015 by Ed Negron
 Photos of performers (L-R) Alex Newell, Jake Miller, Deborah Cox and Erika Jayne courtesy of the artists



PROTEST MEMORIAL
 New Marquette Park memorial pays tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. and social-justice movements.
 Photo by Tracy Baim

11



ELENA DELLE DONNE
 Chicago Sky player comes out.
 Photo from Chicago Sky

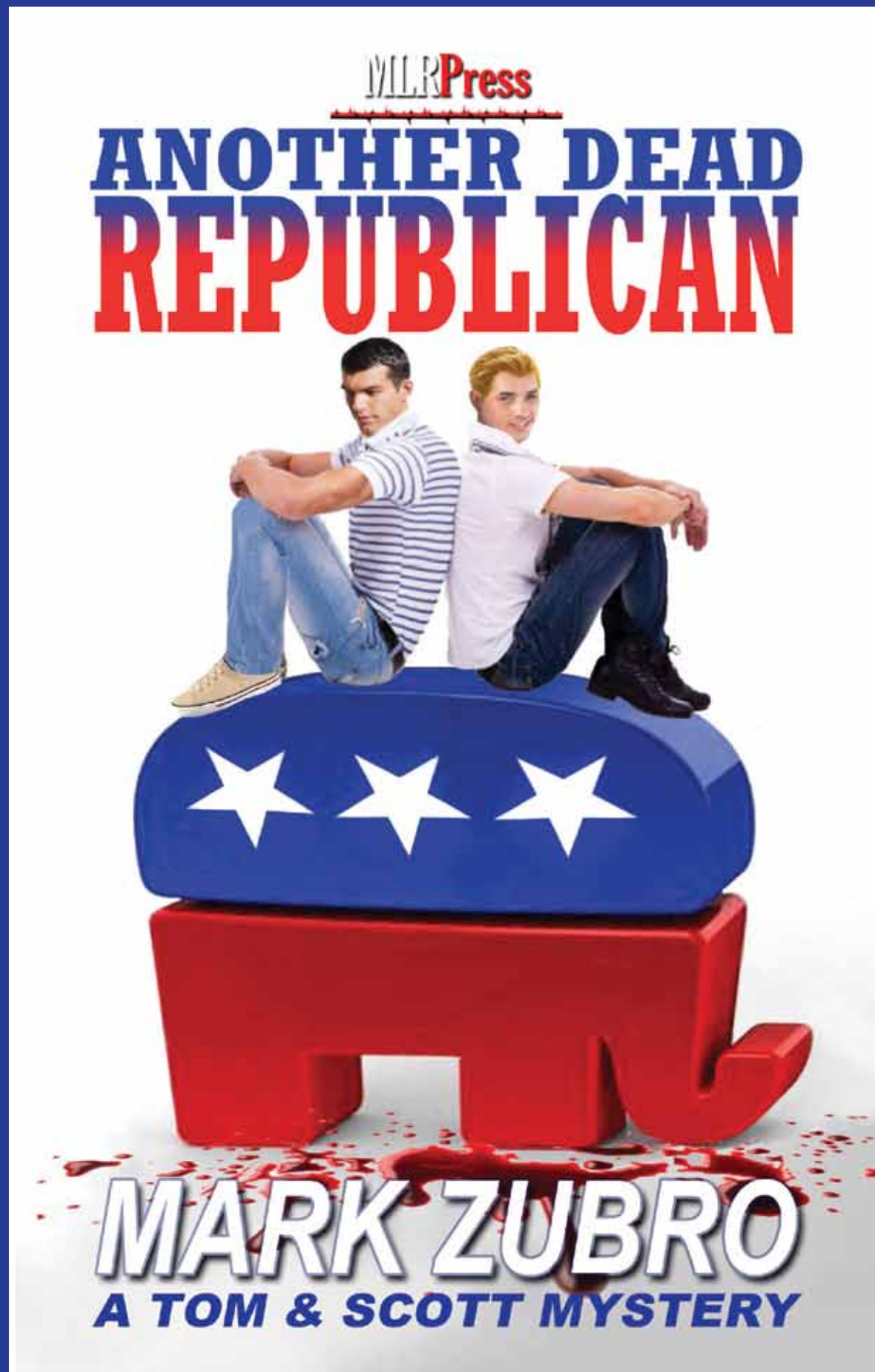
33



INT. ASIAN LGBT EVENT HERE
 LGBTQ friendship conference in Chicago in Sept.
 2014 IFCON Washington D.C. conference; photo courtesy of IFCON

18

AN LGBT MYSTERY FOR OUR TIME



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WINDY CITY TIMES

INDEX

NEWS

Trans meeting canceled in Evanston; column 4
 Cicero discrimination suit 6
 OUTspoken! marks two years 10
 1,000 Mile March 11
 LGBT architect Dan Earles marks 25 years 16
 Gay fast-food worker joins salary fight 17
 LGBTQ Asian conference in September 18
 Judge Pethers makes thoughts known 22
 VIEWS and Comcast letter 24

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Dancin' Feats: Dance for Life 25
 Author Mark Zubro has another mystery 30
 'Transparent' director on new project 32
 Sky player Delle Donne comes out 33
NIGHTSPOTS 33

OUTLINES

Calendar Q 36
 Classifieds 38

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DEMI, GODDESS
 Demi Lovato (left) and Nick Jonas put on a show in Rosemont recently.
 Photo by Jerry Nunn

I'M LIKE A BIRD



WCT recently talked with trans speaker Jackson Bird.
 PR photo

SEASON'S READINGS

There are plenty of good summer reads—and WCT is providing a list.

THE NAKED TRUTH

The Fairy Gardener covers growing flowers, making meals—and painting in the nude.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Melissa Etheridge, Jimmy Fallon and trans bodybuilder Aydian Dowling.

THE HAILEY NEWS



Singer/actress Hailee Steinfeld talks about Joe Jonas and the possibility of a Pitch Perfect 3 movie.
 PR photo by Meredith Truax

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

Chicago Dancers United presents

dance for life 25

CHICAGO



PHOTOGRAPHY: Sandro | DANCER: Dara Holmes & Tom Mattingly

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5pm
 Hilton Chicago's Grand Ballroom

7:30pm
 Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University

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 Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
 Joffrey Ballet
 Chicago Dance Crash
 Visceral Dance Chicago

WORLD PREMIERES BY
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 Carisa Barreca and Tim Mason of The Second City

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Evanston school cancels transgender policy meeting

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Within a day of the United States Supreme Court's (SCOTUS) Aug. 3 "preserve the status quo" ruling that, for now, has demolished the ability for a transgender boy, Gavin Grimm, to use a Gloucester County, Virginia, high school bathroom in accordance with his authentic gender, officials from the North Chicago suburb of Evanston's Township High School District 202 abruptly canceled an Aug. 4 committee meeting that, according to a report from the Evanston Review, was originally slated "to discuss the district's policy on transgender students."

The report went on to say that District 202 representatives cited "the recent developments in federal court" and that "more time is needed to develop a policy."

Yet The Evanston Review also quoted a May, 2016 statement from District 202 asserting that they had "Worked with the law firm Franczek Radelet, the gender and sex development program at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and the Illinois Safe School Alliance 'to provide staff with the professional development they need to support and accommodate students who identify as transgender.'"

SCOTUS' five-to-three ruling in the Grimm case is basically a place-holder while the Gloucester County school board appeals an April 19 federal decision upholding Grimm's protection under the U.S. Department of Education's Title IX, which bans sex discrimination.

District 202's sudden decision to call a halt to its own transgender policy raises the questions as to whether they are waiting to see what the SCOTUS decides, if and when it should take the case. The issue will be then, depending on that ruling, if the district will ensure its policy protects transgender students.

Activist, writer and community advocate Meggan R. Sommerville was one of the individuals who spoke out during a public meeting held at Palatine's District 211 to discuss their own transgender policy earlier in the year after it was challenged by a student and attorneys from the ACLU of Illinois.

"From what I know, District 202 have done their due diligence in talking to experts about trans youth inclusion," she told Windy City Times. "I'm not sure why they would get cold feet this late in the game. People being people, I am sure there are some who are for [a District 202] policy and there are some who are against it. I am sure the ones who are against it have used the SCOTUS ruling to get their way in postponing the meeting and getting out of the whole thing. It's a huge mistake and they are really not thinking about the trans students in their district."

Chicago transgender activist Alexis Martinez went even further.

"Evanston holds itself up as a liberal and progressive community but this is an easy cop-out for them," she said. "This is a way for them to avoid making a decision now or act on it at all. It shouldn't matter what [SCOTUS] says, they should be a leader in liberating their trans students. But, this way, they can avoid any controversy."

While he could not comment on the Evanston decision, Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Executive Director Owen Daniel-McCarter said he believes a great deal is riding on the Nov. 8 general election.

"It will determine who the next Supreme



Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Executive Director Owen Daniel-McCarter.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

Court justice will be," he said. "I also think one of the critical pieces will be what the next administration will do. We have seen that the Obama administration has been extremely proactive in protecting trans people's rights in education and other civil rights arenas such as the workplace and housing. I think we all feel that the Supreme Court's action in the Grimm case is going to perpetuate the idea that school districts only need to do the bare minimum of what the law allows instead of really creating gender-inclusive education environments."

"With any SCOTUS ruling, there can be a cascading effect on any subject," Sommerville noted. "This one is so polarizing, I can definitely see districts all across the country cooling their heels on protecting trans students. There are so many states trying to file a lawsuit against the Obama administration's directive on being trans-inclusive that now school districts in trans-friendly states like Illinois have ammunition to say, 'We don't have to do this because of the SCOTUS ruling.' It really is scary and it is going to cost the lives of trans students."

"These school districts can take the heat coming from the trans community because we are such a small group but a lot of districts are waiting to see what the Supreme Court rules," Martinez agreed. "In the meantime, you've got transgender students who may have to wait a year, maybe two."

"The thing that feels frustrating to me is that the law is a guide for us about the values of our society and I feel like we have lost track of that in this conversation," Daniel-McCarter said. "When I am in a school district and I am presented with the question of 'What do we have to do according to Title IX or the Human Rights Act of Illinois?' I turn that question around and say that the law is the lowest bar. When we are thinking about inclusive schools, the question is not 'What do we have to do?' But 'How do we make our schools the most inclusive?'"

For more information about the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, visit <http://illinois-safeschools.org>.

GUEST COLUMN

BY CANDICE JACOBSON



I'm with Her

I've had a lot on my mind this election.

We all experience things that shape our views and sway our vote. Growing up in the South and living in the North has been an experience that has shaped my views.

Growing up in a bi-racial household with a stepfather struggling with alcohol and a mother trying her best to parent while bravely fighting mental illness has shaped my views.

Being sexually molested and then having a grown man call me a whore when I was only four years old has shaped my views.

Having people to run to, to turn to, to talk to, to hug has shaped my views.

Coming out as a lesbian when I was 13 years old in a small town in central Texas has shaped my views.

Traveling to different countries, learning a second language, and studying cultural anthropology has shaped my views.

Living in a big city such as Chicago with a family of immigrants from Guatemala has shaped my views.

Watching them work harder than most people, hearing them complain less, cleaning houses along side them for a few years has shaped my views.

Traveling without U.S. documentation and only my student ID card on Greyhound instead of flying with them has shaped my views.

Sitting in the financial aid office crying as an honor student while my parent was declaring bankruptcy has shaped my views.

Becoming a school psychologist and working in an urban school district in a highly segregated and poverty-stricken city has shaped my views.

Sitting down with students of all ages, races, religions and backgrounds being reminded that we are all one and that we all desire belonging, understanding, and love ... has helped shape my views.

We all have different views, but this election I stand with Hillary.

I stand with her in that I believe it should take longer to buy a weapon than it does to adopt a puppy or kitten from the humane society.

I am a vegetarian bordering on vegan who will not force my views upon anyone but also deserve to be heard. My brother-in-law is a hunter; my brother and stepfather own a ton of guns. I stand with not taking away your right to bare arms, but in limiting the types of weapons—assault rifles are not a friend of the true sport of hunting.

I stand with healthcare for everyone,

because every child deserves access to affordable medical care and adults cannot give their best to one another without this access.

I stand with open borders, open minds and open hearts for different cultures, religions and ethnicities.

I stand for unity against terrorism, because we all truly know that one apple does not spoil the whole bunch. If that were true ... there would be no more apples. If one thinks about it ... apples only become rotten when they are bruised over and over again and then left without attention, undesired.

I stand for pathways to citizenships, for every soul who comes to the U.S. to promote and live in a better country.

I stand with the dreamers who came to the U.S. as children, learned a new language, adopted new customs and claim American as their identity.

I stand with corporations being taxed. Illegal immigrants have paid more taxes than some of our biggest, most well-known corporations. Which is something I frankly can't stand for.

I stand for same-sex marriage, because without it I would not be allowed the same rights that I now have access to. Such as having my wife beside me at the hospital while we face two episodes of miscarriage. Such as spending the night in the hospital room with my wife as she bravely battles melanoma because I am legally family.

I stand with love because love knows no boundaries or limits, it just is.

I stand with LGBTIQI rights and all human rights. I stand with my transgender friends while we hold our bladders to search for a public bathroom that they feel safe using.

I stand with being aware that we are not taking great care of our planet. I acknowledge that our oceans are filled with plastic and that our ice caps are melting at a historically fast rate. I stand with a president that acknowledges this and will work toward policies to help turn our planet around and reduce non-biodegradable wastes.

I stand with women making equal pay, because every family and child could benefit from equal salaries and opportunities.

I stand with voting, because every vote DOES make a difference, and our ancestors fought for the right to vote.

I stand with HILLARY. I stand with my family and friends no matter who they stand for. I stand with you, thoughtful reader. I stand for unity, kindness and love.

Candice Jacobson, 29, alumni of the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the City Colleges of Chicago, shares her supportive stance in the upcoming election. She currently lives with her wife, Carly Jacobson, in Milwaukee and works as a bilingual school psychologist in the public schools.



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Judge dismisses Cicero bias suit

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A federal judge, on Aug. 1, ruled that a painter in a Cicero high school could not bring Title VII discrimination charges against school officials, although the judge's decision described the painter's workplace treatment—because he was perceived by co-workers as gay—as “appalling.”

The case, which was originally reported Aug. 2 by the Cook County Record, highlighted the lack of available recourse in the federal courts for discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, as did a similar lawsuit in an appellate court the previous week.

Lubomir Matavka, who worked at Morton East High School from 2010-2012, alleged that he was subjected to repeated incidents of harassment there, so he filed a lawsuit in the Northern District of Illinois claiming Title VII em-

ployment discrimination against Morton High School District 201 late last year.

Title VII is the category of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 extending protections against employment discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, sex and religion. Matavka's lawyers were arguing for a more robust interpretation of sex-discrimination that would extend to LGBT individuals; that definition has been utilized recently by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, for example.

However, Judge Milton I. Shadur ruled that such an application was not binding by federal law in this case. Employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is still not a recognized protected category in the eyes of the federal government.

A status hearing on Matavka's case coincidentally fell July 29, the day after the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower

court's dismissal of a suit by Kimberly Hively, an Indiana college professor, who claimed that her college, Ivy Tech Community College, would not promote her because she is a lesbian. Shadur was bound to the appellate court's decision and lamented the current deficiencies in the law in his own decision.

Shadur wrote, “[The] EEOC has announced its reconsideration of the proper reading of the word ‘sex’ in Title VII (a change of position that is not of course binding on the federal judiciary). But it is not alone in its desire to conform the law to the changes in public perception that have created judicial turmoil because Congress has been unresponsive to the widespread sense that public opinion no longer subscribes to the constricted mindset reflected in the [dictum from *Ulane v. Eastern Airlines, Inc.*, which earlier established that LGBTs were not subject to the protections].”

The Equality Act, introduced in July 2015, would theoretically rectify the issue if passed by Congress and signed into law by the president. It would extend all protections from the 1964 Civil Rights Act to members of the LGBT community.

Cook County Record's article is at <http://bit.ly/2ar2dyj>.

LGBT activists to get hearing on open meetings complaint

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A judge has scheduled a hearing on a complaint filed by LGBT activists who say the Chicago City Council is in violation of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA).

According to a statement from activist Andy Thayer, Circuit Court Judge Diane J. Larsen, on Aug. 3, ordered that a hearing be held on the motion for a preliminary injunction that would force the Council's abidance with the OMA. The hearing will be held Monday, Sept. 12, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 2405 of the Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St.

Activist Rick Garcia is also a plaintiff.

Thayer and Garcia maintain that they've lined up nearly an hour and a half before the start of scheduled City Council meetings, only to be told that the audience is at capacity even before any of the general public has been admitted. The audience seems to consist largely of invited guests of council members, Thayer said. The activists also want to the City Council to allot time for public comment.

“The Illinois Open Meetings Act requires that public bodies, of which the Chicago City Council is the most powerful in the State governed by the Act, to maintain access to the public, including the right to attend and comment on their proceedings,” Thayer added.

Thayer and colleagues were barred from entering the May 2016 meeting, when the City Council debated a tax increment financing (TIF) proposal that circumvented affordable-housing requirements that would take effect a few months later. They hope the judge will rule that, if the OMA was violated, the decisions reached at that meeting would be voided.

“The fact that the Council used their closed meetings to bogart thru a deeply unpopular TIF ... illustrates the very essence of why the Open Meetings Act exists,” Thayer said. “While most Illinoisans struggle with stagnant wages and the rising cost of living expressed in higher taxes, housing and health care costs, legislators of both parties try to shield themselves from public outrage as they ram through measures to help the already wealthy and well-connected.”

Rauner signs pension bill for LGBT retirees

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Gov. Bruce Rauner, on July 29, signed legislation that ensures fairness for state employees who retired prior to the state's passage of its civil union and marriage equality bills.

House Bill 6021 passed in the state Senate May 31 and in the state House April 13, allows state employees who retired prior to June 2011, and are in the Illinois Teachers Retirement System, State Universities Retirement System or Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, to establish survivors' benefits for a same-sex spouse.

The legislation was sponsored by state Rep. Sam Yingling in the House and state Sen. Daniel Biss in the Senate.

Prior to 2011, when the state's civil unions law took effect, retirees designating a same-sex spouse for their benefits would have to take a refund of their survivor credits. Under the new law, these retirees would be able to pay back the refund with interest and re-establish survivor benefits for their spouse.

INTO THE WOODS

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Pope denounces transgender people

Meeting with Polish bishops on July 30, Pope Francis made disparaging comments about transgender people, saying that the idea "that everyone can choose their own sex" is "the exact opposite" of God's creation.

"God created man and woman; God created the world like this and we are doing the exact opposite," Francis added.

In February 2015, Francis compared trans people to nuclear weapons, saying, "Let's think of the nuclear arms, of the possibility to annihilate in a few instants a very high number of human beings. Let's also think of genetic manipulation, of the manipulation of life, or of the gender theory, that does not recognize the order of creation."

Eliel Cruz, the executive director for Faith in America, said, "In believing that God is only represented in male or female, Pope Francis is effectively eliminating the diversity and complexity of the image of God." (According to their website, Faith in America, among other things, aims "to educate the public about the harm caused to gay Americans, especially LGBT youth, when religion-based bigotry and prejudice is used to justify condemnation, discrimination and violence.")

Gay Men's Health Crisis CEO Kelsey Louie said in a separate statement, "Our children deserve to know that of course they have the right to choose, and GMHC applauds all schools that teach students not to oppress who they are, but instead live the life as the gender they most identify with."

"We stand with all transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and will continue our work combatting the stigma, discrimination, harassment and obstacles this community



Faith in America Executive Director Eliel Cruz.

Photo courtesy of Cruz

faces every single day."

"Once again, the Pope is demonstrating a lamentable and dangerous ignorance of a subject that is literally a matter of life and death to some people," said DignityUSA Executive Director Marianne Duddy-Burke in a release. "He is also failing to see that God speaks through many languages, cultures, and human experiences, and not always in ways that we have the skills to interpret correctly."

Report: LGBT people of color face rampant discrimination

A report, "Unjust: How the Broken Criminal Justice System Fails LGBT People of Color," explores how those individuals are treated in police interactions, court proceedings and confinement.

Among the problems the report documents are that:

- Evidence shows that people of color and LGBT people, including LGBT youth, face unique challenges accessing counsel, obtaining pre-trial release and getting a fair sentence;

- Obtaining skills, staying connected with family and coordinating re-entry planning services are all crucial elements of a successful life after conviction and confinement—yet LGBT people of color are disadvantaged in all of these areas; and

- When LGBT people of color are placed in confinement facilities to await trial or as part of a sentence, they are extremely vulnerable to harassment, discrimination and inhumane treatment.

"Unjust" is at LGBTMap.org/criminal-justice-poc. Additionally, an infographic summarizing data pertaining to Latino LGBT people is available in both English and Spanish.

Chelsea Manning faces new charges

Imprisoned transgender whistleblower Chelsea Manning received a document from Army officials informing her that she is being investigated for serious new charges related to her July 5 attempt to take her own life, according to a press release.

If convicted of these "administrative offenses," she could be placed in indefinite solitary confinement for the remainder of her sentence.

These new charges, which Army employees verbally informed Manning were related to the July 5 incident, include "resisting the force cell move team," "prohibited property" and "conduct which threatens." If convicted, Manning could face punishment including indefinite solitary confinement, reclassification into maximum security and an additional nine years in medium custody. They may also negate any chances of parole.

Supreme Court rules for status quo pending transgender decision

The U.S. Supreme Court intervened for the first time in the controversy over transgender rights and blocked a lower-court ruling that would have allowed a Virginia transgender boy to use the high school restroom that fits his "gender identity."

The five-to-three ruling means Gavin Grimm, a transgender Gloucester County transgender student, cannot use the restroom consistent with his gender identity while the Supreme Court decides if they will pick up the case.

Several LGBT groups expressed their disappointment with the ruling; National Center for Lesbian Rights Legal Director Shannon Minter said in a statement, "While disappointing, today's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court is just a temporary delay. Especially in light of Justice Breyer's statement that his vote for a stay was a mere 'courtesy' to preserve the status quo while the Court considers whether to review the decision, this should not be taken as any sign of where a majority of the Court is leaning on the substantive question of whether Title IX protects transgender students."

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—Jay Koziarz, *Curbed Chicago*, Jun 2, 2016



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—DNA Info, July 12, 2016



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Nissan Congratulates NAGAAA on 40th Gay Softball World Series



Long Beach/OC Surf & Sun
Softball League players at LA Pride

Nissan congratulates the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) on the 40th anniversary of its Gay Softball World Series (GSWS)! The world-renowned LGBTQ sporting event is taking place Aug. 15 to 20 in Austin, Texas.

"Sports is an incredible way to build community. And Nissan wanted to extend our well wishes to the NAGAAA family on bringing the LGBTQ community and allies together for 40 years and counting," said Erich Marx, director, Marketing, and executive sponsor of Gay Straight Alliance at Nissan.

More than 185 teams from 43 cities across the United States and Canada are participating in this multi-day event, which includes opening ceremonies, a multi-division softball tournament, community activities and the closing ceremonies.

Established in 1977, the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance Open Division is a 501(c)(3) international sports organization comprised of men and women dedicated to promoting amateur athletics for the LGBTQ community. The organization was formed after the first GSWS in 1976.

For a second year, Nissan is a proud partner of the NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series, a six-day softball event that expects to draw more than 10,000 athletes, coaches and fans. NAGAAA's local LGBTQ softball leagues are also partnering with Nissan at LGBTQ community events including, Long Beach Pride, LA Pride, Capital Pride, Nashville Pride, San Francisco Pride, NYC Pride, Atlanta Pride, Orlando Pride as well as Northalsted Market Days in Chicago. "With Nissan having the most diverse consumer base in the automotive industry and an engaged group of LGBTQ employees and allies, we're well positioned to connect with the LGBTQ community," said Marx.



NAGAAA, the early years

Since 2013, Nissan has scored a perfect 100 in the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Corporate Equality Index for its LGBTQ-inclusive policies and commitment to the community. The company was among the fastest risers in the history of the index.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have Nissan on our team," said Chris Balton, NAGAAA Commissioner. "Nissan has been an outstanding partner at the national level and this year at the local level - leveraging our member cities for Pride activations across the nation."

Nissan's Gay Straight Alliance at Nissan (GSAN) is the driving force behind the company's LGBTQ outreach efforts. Nissan also offers inclusive benefits and Championing Diversity workshops for employees, and a "Diversity and Inclusion"

team works closely with advocacy groups such as the HRC to drive a culture of equality in the workplace.

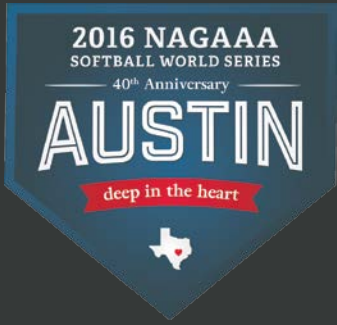




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Nissan proudly sponsors the 2016 Gay Softball World Series.



OUTspoken! marks two years of community stories

BY MATT SIMONETTE

About 150 participants have, since 2014, taken to the stage at Sidetrack for OUTspoken!, the monthly storytelling program for members of the LGBT community, according to its co-emcee Kim Hunt.

August marked the two-year anniversary of OUTspoken! Hunt, who is executive director of Pride Action Tank, reflected on its significance in her opening remarks at the Aug. 2 installment.

"They have shared with us not only their personal stories, but we have also heard LGBTQ history that you will not find in any history book anywhere in the United States," she said. "We have heard some amazing tales from individuals, and we've heard just how normal LGBTQ people are."

Sidetrack co-owner and co-emcee Art John-

ston added that Hunt's "normal" remark shouldn't be construed as an insult: "Sometimes it's okay to be normal," he joked.

Writer/scholar M. Shelly Conner told about her visit to a friend in South Carolina that resulted in an outrageous evening at a gentlemen's club—complete with buffet. Librarian Erin Marshall described how her pregnancy coincided with unwelcome attention that a much-younger friend began showering on her partner.

Four other storytellers used their recollections to address how society's perceptions of the LGBT community have evolved over the decades. Ella Nelson, a trans student at Von Steuben Metropolitan Science High School, spoke about the fateful day she decided to come out as trans to her classmates. Most were supportive, and many were eager to create and give an award to Nelson for her courage; however, she



Clockwise, from top left: David Fink, Erin Marshall, Kim Hunt, Ella Nelson, M Shelly Conner, Hadeis Safi, Brad Lippitz, Art Johnston and Brad Balof.

Photos by Jed Dulanas. See page 34 for more photos of the event.



said that each of the proposed names for the award was more awful than the next.

Realtor Brad Lippitz also told a school-related story, first describing how becoming was "the Bar Mitzvah Dance King of Glencoe" during his middle school years helped build his confidence, then relating how, attending a bar mitzvah recently, he saw an openly gay student ask a popular—and straight—boy to dance.

Hadeis Safi, who works in HIV prevention, presented two contrasting coming-out stories about his family, relating first how his father threatened him when his parents realized he was gay and then, years later, was quietly accepting when they found out Safi was HIV-positive.

Lastly, Johnston recalled when he accidentally stepped into the planning of, and fundraising for, transportation to a gay-rights demonstra-

tion in the 1980s, work that would ultimately lay the foundation for his co-founding of Illinois Federation for Equal Rights, now Equality Illinois.

OUTspoken! takes place the first Tuesday of every month. It is the brainchild of David Fink of Three Oaks, Michigan-based Acorn Theatre, who curates the program each month, as well as Johnston. Sidetrack's Brad Balof is the stage manager.

Shortly before the intermission, Hunt marveled that Nelson, a high school student, felt empowered enough to take to the stage that night.

"Reflect on the fact that we had a high school sophomore who shared her story with us here tonight, and that's what OUTspoken! is all about," said Hunt. She then turned to Nelson and said, "We're doing this for you."

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March marks 50 years since Marquette Park protests

Several thousand people from across the city and suburbs gathered Aug. 6 at 63rd Street and Kedzie Avenue on Chicago's Southwest Side to retrace the steps of a march by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and his allies 50 years ago.

King referred to the August 1966 march into Marquette Park and the other efforts of the Chicago Freedom Movement that summer as the "first step in a one thousand mile journey." In many ways, that march, as well as the series of organizing efforts associated with the Movement, "was about challenging a divided city and reclaiming the notion of home for families denied the basic human right to live freely in thriving communities," according to organizers of the 50th anniversary events.

The morning began with a rally and several speakers, and then marchers drummed, chanted and walked the half mile to Marquette Park, where a large stage was set up for speakers and performers. Across the street was the newly dedicated statue paying tribute to the original march and subsequent social justice movements.

In 1966, King and his supporters were greeted by thousands of racists, and King was among those who were struck by rocks. The ugly incident showed America that violent racism was not limited to the South.

The 1966 efforts were aimed at the economic racism facing many Blacks, as banks and landlords refused to sell to, or rent to, Blacks in many areas of the city, a process known as "redlining."

LGBTs were among those marching Aug. 6.



Woman who marched 50 years ago (carrying a copy of a newspaper which reported the event), and her daughter. Photo by Mona Noriega



Another view of the memorial in Marquette Park. Photo by Tracy Baim



Top: A new statue in Chicago's Marquette Park partially depicts a protest by Martin Luther King, Jr. and his allies in 1966, fighting racial segregation in Chicago. In this section, it shows King after being struck by a rock. A march was held Aug. 6 to honor the anniversary. Above: U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly (far left), Rev. Jesse Jackson (middle) and Father Michael Pfleger (right) were among those carrying the banner at the front of the Aug. 6 march. Photos by Tracy Baim



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Equality Illinois hosts 'Raising the Bar' with Yandle keynote

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

The first openly gay judge to be appointed to the Seventh Circuit Court Hon. Staci M. Yandle traded the bench for a podium July 26 when she delivered the keynote address at the Equality Illinois Raising the Bar breakfast held at downtown Chicago's Intercontinental Hotel.

According to Equality Illinois CEO Brian C. Johnson, Raising the Bar recognizes and honors "law firms that are leading the way with regard to creating a welcoming and affirming workplace for LGBT employees."

The event was the culmination of a process that began in the spring when Equality Illinois distributed surveys to more than "200 firms, of all sizes, doing business in the state of Illinois" and "scored the firms based on how welcoming and equitable their policies are to LGBT employees."

Some of the office activities and policies noted by Equality Illinois as in use among firms which were rated as "highly scoring" included implementing "a non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and gender identity and expression," publicizing the policy "to law students, prospective and current employees, clients and the public" and respecting "transgender and gender-transitioning employees by using appropriate names and personal pronouns and having a gender-neutral dress code."

Equality Illinois noted that the numbers of firms requiring contractors to have a nondiscrimination policy in place that includes sexual orientation and gender identity was at 47 percent this year—up from 31 percent in 2015 and 21 percent in 2014.

The top 40 law firms are as follows: Arnstein & Lehr, Baker & McKenzie, Chapman and Cutler, Clark Hill, Dentons, DLA Piper, Drinker Biddle & Reath, Foley & Lardner, Franczek Radelet, Goldberg Kohn, Greenberg Traurig, Hinshaw & Culbertson, Holland & Knight, Jenner & Block, K&L Gates, Katten Muchin Rosenman, Kaye Scholer, Kirkland & Ellis, Latham & Watkins, and Marshall, Gerstein & Borun.

They also include Mayer Brown, McDermott Will & Emery, McGuireWoods, Michael Best & Friedrich, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg, Nixon Peabody, Perkins Coie, Polsinelli, Quarles & Brady, Reed Smith, Schiff Hardin, Sedgwick, Seyfarth Shaw, Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Sidley Austin, Skadden, SmithAmundsen, Thompson Coburn, and Winston & Strawn.

Yandle began her remarks by commending the 40 firms recognized. "Without question, your commitment to providing a welcoming, fair and inclusive workplace to LGBT employees contributes greatly to the cause of equality," she said.

As a result, Yandle noted that a speech emphasizing the importance of diversity in the workplace would be "preaching to the choir."

Instead, she opened up the story of her own life to the assembled "champions of equality and LGBT inclusion."

"When I began my practice of law in 1987, diversity in law firms, the courts and in the legal profession in general simply did not exist," Yandle recalled. "There were no such things as firms or courts or agencies that had equal opportunity or nondiscrimination policies. So, for many years, as I evolved personally to accept, embrace and celebrate my authentic self, I didn't have the ability to do that professionally. I lived a 'don't ask, don't tell existence.' I needed that to survive professionally."

Because of that, Yandle acknowledged that she passed up many an opportunity and declined to engage in professional activities. "After so many years of going to the holiday parties and cookouts alone, I wouldn't show up and I didn't hire a date," she said. "As time went on, things began to change in terms of public opinion and acceptance. There just came a point where I evolved and I came out to my firm partners."

In 2012, a vacancy for federal judgeship in the Seventh District became open. Yandle noted that, if it had been five years earlier, "I'm not so sure whether or not whether or not I would have pursued it. I think I would have been concerned."



The Hon. Staci M. Yandle.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

Nevertheless, she made the unplanned decision to apply.

"I understood what I had to go through," Yandle said before listing off the prolonged series of interviews, background checks and meetings with White House staff that were involved. "Low and behold I made it through somehow. The night before the President was going to announce the nomination, I received a call. They said 'We want to make sure that you're comfortable because, when we make the announcement, we are going to mention your orientation.' I said I was okay with that."

The day President Obama announced her nomination, Yandle's phone began to light up.

"One of the texts I got was for a story that appeared in the Huffington Post," she recalled. "There was no picture, no name. All it said was 'President Obama nominates Black lesbian.' There were all these other publications nationally and locally and, not once, did I see my name. The local media never mentioned my orientation. Nationally, I was a Black lesbian."

Yandle added that her friends were concerned and unhappy about the media's narrative.

"They said, 'Wait a minute. What about your qualifications? What does this have to do with

you being Black and a lesbian?'" Yandle remembered. "I quickly figured out that there is a big difference between being openly gay and publicly gay."

Yandle called the national story surrounding her nomination "unfortunate."

"Because, in 2013, I was the first openly gay judge in the Seventh Circuit and I was only the second openly gay African-American federal judge in history," she said. "I could deal with the narrative. I could deal with not being referred to by my name if, three years from now, the next time someone from our community is nominated, affirmed and appointed it is not historic."

She concluded with a fervent belief that it would not be.

"In a very short period of time, I would not at all be shocked if we got our first transgender federal judge," she said.

The level of applause from the assembled law firm representatives seemed to echo that belief.

For more information about Equality Illinois, visit: EqualityIllinois.us.



Dan Earles.
Photo courtesy of Earles

Earles Architects and Associates marks 25 years in the business

BY TARINA HARGRAYS

Earles Architects and Associates (EAA) have been going strong for a little more than 25 years.

Dan Earles, the principal and owner of EAA, is a Detroit native who has worked for several architect firms until 1991, when he decided to start his own firm, EAA. The mid-sized firm consists of 19 people and, since its founding, has branched the furnishing company SEAATS.

Earles has always had a passion for architecture. "When I was a kid I used to sit and draw floorplans for fun," he said, laughing. Earles confessed that he still has the first floor plan he drew in the fifth grade.

Earles' love of architecture and design allowed him to build a company that has thrived for more than 25 years.

When it comes to staying successful in an ever-evolving market, Earles explained that diversity is the key. EAA's core focus is commercial office interiors; however, EAA works with retail, restaurant, healthcare and industrial office spaces. It also helps that Chicago is constantly expanding (according to Earles), so there are new spaces to design and furnish.

Earles explained that EAA also owes its success to its core values. "We're client-focused,

responsive, resourceful, dedicated and we're driven to excel," he said. According to Earles, EAA believes catering to clients' needs in a timely and efficient manner has also played an important role in making EAA a prosperous firm.

Achieving these core values requires a like-minded team. Earles said he believes his team is successful in carrying out these values because they're a "work family." Building healthy relationships inside and outside of the workplace seems to be an important theme for EAA members. Earles even talked about how he's to take his team members to a Star Trek premiere soon.

Earles' appreciation for team-bonding stems from recent work experiences. As for workplaces that weren't very welcoming, he said, "It's been very important to me to maintain a place where people want to come to work and that they enjoy what they do." He said his motto for EAA's team is "What you put out is what you get back."

Throughout EAA's 25-year run, the firm has encountered a few speedbumps. For example, Earles explained that 2008's effect on the market hit them. EAA also experienced difficulties during its founding year, 1991. However, Earles reiterated the fact that keeping EAA's

business ventures diversified has helped them throughout the years. Earles said the biggest obstacle is a common one—the flow of business; sometimes the firm is extremely busy and other times it is slow. However, business relationships seem to help in this regard. Earles believes that doing a good job for clients has helped EAA because those clients seem to come back and remain loyal to the firm.

Making strong business connections with the right people is something EAA takes pride in. With that in mind, EAA obtained its LGBT Business Enterprise (LGBTBE) certification in 2014 through The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC).

In order to become LGBTBE-certified, NGLCC has to verify that qualified businesses are majority-owned by LGBT people, allowing LGBTBE-certified businesses to have access to numerous contacts and networks that are partnered with NGLCC.

Earles said that he wanted to get EAA LGBTBE-certified in order to further diversify the firm and open more doors. Becoming LGBTBE-certified, Earles explained, was a way to "give more opportunities to diversity suppliers." Earles also said he believes that being certified gives EAA the chance to connect with cor-

porations and companies it wouldn't normally encounter. However, since the certification is so recent, Earles explained that these opportunities are still in the making.

Earles, a part of the LGBT community, explained that this year he hopes EAA can use its newfound connections from the certification and NGLCC to create more business opportunities.

EAA currently has its main office located in Chicago; however, the firm has recently branched out in northwest Indiana. Earles said that he doesn't see EAA becoming a mega-firm in the future, adding, "Sometimes when you get to that bigger stage you lose some of the intimacy and those personal connections with clients."

When asked where he hopes to see EAA in the next 25 years, Earles said that he hopes the company he started 25 years ago in the spare bedroom of his apartment will "sustain itself and live past [him]." Earles accepts the fact that the hardest part of achieving this goal will be finding people with the same passion and love of architecture and design. However, he claimed to have a few people in his corner that he believes will carry out his mission.

Vives Q features trans activists Parker and Betancourt

BY NINA MATTI

The National Museum of Mexican Art was busy and lively Aug. 2 for Vives Q's First Tuesday event. Attendees gathered at the Pilsen museum to snack, chat and learn from the evening's special guests, Joe Betancourt and Channyn Lynne Parker.

One of Vives Q's cofounders, Emmanuel Garcia, conducted interviews with the two influential trans activists about their careers, lives and identities. Betancourt, president and CEO of Betancourt Realty, was the first interview. Betancourt left home at age 13 when he felt he was no longer accepted in his parents' home, worked as a busboy to provide for himself and his girlfriend and got his own apartment at 15.

In her interview, Parker focused on her identity as a Black trans woman and career as project manager for Chicago House Social Service Agency's TransLife Center. As a community caseworker, Parker's job was initially intended to cater specifically to the trans community; however, in reality only about a quarter of the people she works with are trans, she said. Parker said this points toward widespread issues in healthcare services. "If the masses feel safe just coming to me," she said, "then what is everyone else doing wrong?"

Parker said discrimination and biases are the roots of problems in healthcare. "Services are an attempt at covering very blanketed needs with the assumption that we all need the same thing," she said. "I think we need



From left: Joe Betancourt, Emmanuel Garcia and Channyn Lynne Parker.
Photo by Nina Matti

Through his struggles as a teen and his eventual success as a business owner, Betancourt said he learned a very important lesson. "Whatever you do in life, workwise, always do the best you can, no matter what it is," Betancourt said. "If you're cleaning toilets, clean them the best you can. Whatever you do in life, you should always try your best to succeed."

Betancourt came out publicly as transgender this past March in an interview with Windy City Times. "We need more and more people to come out," he said. "I came out because I knew it was time. I know so many people in the political arena, business world [and] clients from my real estate business. Many of them are straight. I said to myself, 'Hey, me coming out will tell them we're not different.'"

to deal with individuals from a more holistic standpoint. ... We need to begin to do a lot more individualized work."

When it comes to finding ways for ordinary people to make an impact on the issue of trans homelessness, Parker said the most important thing to do is give everyone a fair chance. "I didn't come from a really disenfranchised background, but at the end of the day, I'm still a Black trans woman. Someone gave me a chance. And that chance meant the world," she said. "It changed my entire life."

After the two powerful and educational interviews, local performers presented their original works in the form of song, dance and poetry, bringing the event to an impactful close.

The final Vives Q of the year will be Tuesday, Sept. 6.



bluewolf, a global management consulting firm that was a client of Earles Architect and Associates.

Photo courtesy of Earles

Gay fast-food worker joins fight for higher wages

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Samuel Santana, 20, of Cicero appreciates his job at an area Burger King, where he's worked for 10 months, but wants to make more money. He makes \$8.25 an hour and rarely works more than 30 hours a week.

"It feels like I'm living off chump change. One week I'll get 12 hours, the next week I'll get 10, so it's like, 'What's my check going to be?' No matter what, it won't be that satisfying," he said.

So for the last several months, Santana has been helping to advocate for a higher minimum wage, volunteering for the local chapter of the national organization Fight for \$15. That organization began about four years ago with agitation from fast food workers in New York City, but is now a presence in about 300 cities worldwide, according to the organization's website. Besides fast food workers, Fight for \$15 also addresses wages for home healthcare workers, airport workers and adjunct professors, among others.

States like California and New York have raised their minimum wage to \$15. It's currently \$10.50 in Chicago, but, since Santana is in the suburbs, he is subject to the \$8.25 wage. He'd like to see that raised at his restaurant.

Santana mainly works as a cashier and tries to go into with the restaurant with a positive attitude.

"I mostly go in there with a smile," he explained. "I could be having the most terrible day, but I always tend to go in with smiles, to get positive feedback from customers, but I want to make sure that I go in there being who I am."

Sometimes that's not easy, Santana admitted. "Mostly that's because of being a member of the LGBT community," he added, noting that he has never gotten flack for being out, but nevertheless feels like an outsider sometimes. "I feel like they look at me and [ask themselves], 'He is who he is, but should we respect him for that?'"

He lives with his mother, who is in poor health and currently unable to work. "I feel like she's always taken care of me, but I feel like now I need to take care of her. ...As her son, I feel like it's my passion to help her out. She's the one who drives me to work."

One of Santana's co-workers helped connect him to Fight for \$15, he recalled. "I was really nervous about it—about how it would affect me at work."

He'd usually been pretty introverted too, so being around a lot of people at organization meetings required stealing up some courage as well, he said. "I thought it would feel like I feel at work. But when I got to meet interesting people—workers doing what I'm doing—I was proud to see it, and enjoyed seeing that I wasn't the only one doing the work."

Santana had been part of his school's gay-straight alliance, but noted, "I was never outspoken. But it changed with Fight for \$15."

He hopes that his experience offers some inspiration to his co-workers, he said. "Most of them realized, 'Wow, if he can do it, I can do it.' Now, I don't have to be that 'quiet one,' I can be that 'positive-minded, out spokesman.'"

He'll be attending Fight for \$15's first national convention, which takes place in Richmond, Virginia, on Aug 12-13. That weekend, organization members will vote on a plan to mobilize working Americans making less than \$15 an hour, and discuss the correlation between the low-wage crisis and government policies adversely affecting people of color, according to a Fight for \$15 press release. It's a long overdue conversation, Santana said.

"I feel like my voice can be a 'breakout'

voice," he said. "Since I've inspired people at work, I hope I can inspire other LGBT workers in the world, so that they know that they're not just an 'outer-point' in society. They're working just as hard as anybody else. We want to make a living and support who we need to support. We want to make sure that we get the message to [executives] that, 'Just because we're LGBT doesn't mean we're not as 'normal' as you guys.'"

Santana had been enrolled in college but had to drop out to help out his mother. He said he also has tried to find better-paying work, but hadn't had any luck. So for now, he'll both keep working at the restaurant and advocating for higher pay.

"I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing, and do what I believe in," he said. "I want to make history and make my mother, and everybody else, proud."



Samuel Santana.
Photo by Matt Simonette



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International Asian LGBT confab to take place in Chicago Sept. 1-5

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The International Friendship Conference (IFCON) will hold its annual gathering at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Chicago—Magnificent Mile Sept. 1-5. This is the third time the conference has taken place in Chicago. Chicago hosted the second annual gathering in 1991 and then again in 2000. Chicago also hosted a Caribbean Cruise weekend in 2010.

The conference started as two annual events—International Friendship Weekend (IFW) spearheaded by Asian & Friends in 1990 and a separate iCON weekend hosted by the Long Yang Club International (LYCi) beginning in 1999. From 2005 to 2008, iCON-IFW held joint annual weekend gatherings. Since 2009, the conference has been held under the renamed IFCON banner. Along with cities across the U.S.; the conference has been held in London, Toronto, Montreal, Paris, Bangkok and Berlin.

This year's conference co-chairs are Asian & Friends Chicago Board of Directors President Angel Abcede and Chicago-area accountant and longtime Asian & Friends member John Lump. Ralph Childs and Wesley Hung are co-chairs of International Friendship Alliance, the umbrella group for Asian & Friends chapters across the country. Childs and Hung have been co-chairs for the past 10 years.

"Asian & Friends is the primary host of each

year's conference under the IFCON banner, although when the conference was held in San Diego four years ago LYCi were the hosts that year," said Abcede. "The stronger chapters in the different cities host the IFCON gatherings each year for the rest of the chapters."

"The conference provides a safe and fun space to meet people, from all over the country and the world," said Hung. "I've also known a few couples who met at one of the events and are now happily together. During the weekend, there are many opportunities to meet new people and get reacquainted with old friends. A number of the attendees have been with IFCON for many years."

Hung noted that at first the conference was a small event with 50 or so attendees, however, over the years it has doubled, tripled or quadrupled in numbers.

While most conferences consist of panel discussions and workshops, IFCON is primarily a social gathering for LGBT Asians and their friends. This year's conference will include a pre-conference party on Thursday evening, a cocktail reception on Friday night, a Saturday dinner boat cruise on the Spirit of Chicago, a Sunday evening "Speakeasy" banquet, a farewell luncheon on Monday, group field trips that Saturday and a hospitality suite. Abcede and Lump are also looking to have workshops focused on transgender issues and marriage on Sunday morning, however, they're still in the



Angel Abcede in costume with other attendees at 2015 IFCON New Orleans gathering. Photo courtesy of IFCON

preliminary stages and may not take place.

Past conferences have included workshops on immigration, a Q&A with LGBT writers, advice on day trading as a possible career, a Thai massage seminar, a sketching and photography seminar with a live nude model and introduction to bondage and usage of saran wrap. The 2005 Toronto conference included a side-trip to Niagara Falls. In 2012, the Denver conference featured white water rafting and horseback riding while the 2013 San Diego conference took the attendees to the famous nude beach—Black Beach.

"When we presented our ideas for this year's conference at last year's conference in New Orleans we got 100 RSVP's right off the bat," said Abcede. "This year we're expecting around 200 attendees and have already had 165 people confirmed to attend."

"Members of the Chicago LGBT community are also invited to attend," said Hung. "They're welcome to join us for our GALA dinner and boat cruise if they cannot make the full weekend. Tickets are already on sale on the IFCON 2016 website."

"Along with coordinating the entire conference, John and I have to raise about \$2,000 to cover the marketing and website costs," said Abcede. "We also have an app for the first time,

IFCON 2016, available in both the Android and iOS app stores."

"It's important to build community and that's what Asians & Friends is all about, but it's just as important to plan a great experience," said Lump. "That's what an event like the boat cruise is for. We'll have a D.J., two levels all to ourselves and the Chicago skyline as a backdrop. It was a big hit in 2000 and we know it'll be one of the best parts of IFCON 2016."

"The gay Asian community can often feel isolated from the mainstream LGBTQ community as far as the ability to communicate where language issues are a concern," said Abcede. "The issue of race is also a concern as far as social situations. This conference is a way for gay Asians to express themselves in a way they might not be able to in other LGBTQ social situations. People really look forward to this yearly event. This conference is an important platform for that kind of free expression."

"I invite everyone to check out IFCON 2016," said Hung. "We'll also announce the location for next year's conference that weekend. I heard it will be somewhere fabulous outside the US. Come join us for a fun filled weekend."

See <http://ifcon2016.org/> for more information and to register for the conference.

Ugandan police arrest 15 at pride event

On Aug. 4 in Uganda, authorities raided a nightclub that was hosting a gay-pride event, arresting at least 15 people.

The arrested individuals were charged with promoting homosexuality (which is not legal in that country) and staging an illegal gathering.

The incident took place at Club Venom in Kampala, the country's capital.

Gay-rights activist Clare Byarugaba told Reuters that police "were dragging people, they were beating people, they were undressing people. They were undressing, especially transgender women. Apparently they wanted to find out whether they were men or women."

In a statement, MSMGF (The Global Forum on MSM and HIV) condemned the attacks and arrests of everyone involved, including Frank Mugisha and Pepe Onziema, leaders of Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG). MSMGF's press release also stated that one person reportedly

jumped from a six-story window to escape police and is now in critical condition.

Also, SMUG, Chapter Four Uganda, Health GAP, Uganda Pride Committee, Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF), and East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project issued a joint statement. Mugisha said, "Any force by Ugandan police targeting a peaceful and lawful assembly is outrageous. The LGBTI community stands with all Ugandan civil-society movements against police brutality." (The full statement is at <http://msmgf.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Health-Gap-Uganda.pdf>.)

OutRight Action International Deputy Executive Director Maria Sjodin, in a separate statement, said, "The assault on the community, and especially the physical violence against trans people is appalling. The U.S. government and others with embassies in Kampala must continue to monitor the situation, their presence can make pride events safer and is a concrete way of supporting the targeted minority."

In years past, Uganda spurred global criticism for enacting an anti-gay statute that penalized people with life in prison for same-sex activities. A court later overturned the law.

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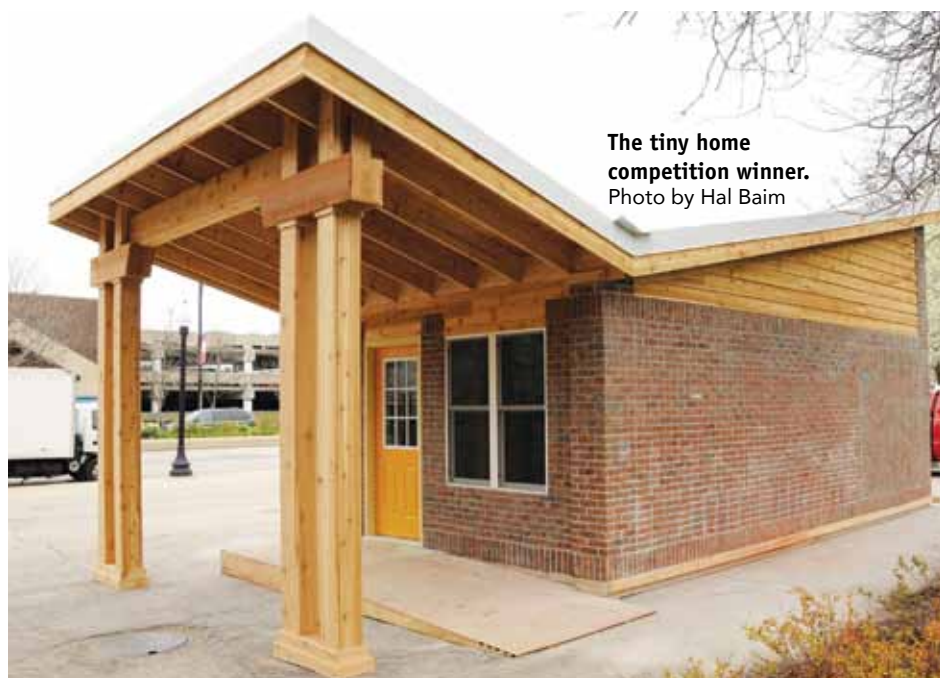
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The tiny home competition winner.
Photo by Hal Baim

Tiny Homes model tours in August

The winning design entry from the recent Tiny Homes for the Homeless competition will be on display for a few months on Chicago's Southwest Side.

August tour dates are set, and additional tours available on request, editor@windycitymediagroup.com.

The home, built by Price Construction, is up at 4631 S. Marshfield Ave., one block west of

Ashland Avenue in the Back of the Yards area, on a site The Resurrection Project owns. There is a free parking lot with the location.

The tours are the following dates and times: Saturday, Aug. 13, 10 a.m.-noon; Wed., Aug. 17, 3-5 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 20, 10 a.m.-noon. See the video of the home's original installation at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_kAV0t-mSsqk (video by Steve Maxey).

Event to examine LGBTQs and gun laws

The Gun Violence Prevention PAC is hosting an event focused on LGBTQs and guns Thursday, Aug. 18, 7 p.m. at Weinberg/Newton Gallery, 300 W. Superior St., Suite 203.

"Disarm Hate ... One Vote at a Time" is a discussion on how gun safety advocates and the LGBTQ community can join forces to demand better gun legislation.

The panel discussion, which starts at 7:30 p.m., includes Tracy Baim, publisher of Windy City Times; Kim Hunt of Pride Action Tank; Emmanuel Garcia of Familia Trans Queer Liberation Movement; Brian Johnson of Equality Illinois; and activist Michael Bauer.

Suggested donations are \$50-\$250, but sliding scale is available. People can RSVP at info@gpacillinois.com or call 847-920-4722. Also, see <https://www.facebook.com/Gays-AgainstGunsCHI/>.

Out NYC hotel set to close

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The Out Hotel in New York City, intended as luxury accommodations for LGBT travelers, has been sold and will no longer be branded as a gay hotel, according to the Advocate.

The hotel, which opened in 2012, was the focus of numerous boycotts in 2015 after its owners, developers Ian Reisner and Mati Weidpass, hosted a dinner for then-Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz. The pair also donated the maximum amount of money allowed to Cruz, who supported vehemently anti-LGBT policies during his campaign.

After numerous organizations cancelled

events at the Out Hotel in response, Reisner stoked the flames even more, with an interview in New York magazine where he said the gay community was both "cheap" and "entitled." The hotel, located in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood, was sold for \$40 million to the Merchants Hospitality real estate group.

The Out Hotel developers pitched an idea for a similar, \$30-million Chicago hotel in April 2013. Initially, plans called for a 100-112-room facility located above Minibar in Lake View, but community response to the original concepts sent the principals back to the drawing board. The concept ultimately was rejected by the now-defunct Belmont Harbor Neighbors association and Ald. Tom Tunney. Although Reisner said in early 2014 that he had a new plan in the works, a new concept never publicly materialized.

Advocate's article is at <http://bit.ly/2ai9of3>.

Trial in HB2 lawsuit to begin Nov. 14

A federal court has scheduled the trial in a legal challenge to North Carolina's sweeping anti-LGBT law, House Bill 2, to begin on Monday, Nov. 14, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Schroeder held arguments Aug. 1, on a motion for a preliminary injunction that asks the court to stop the enforcement of the provisions of the law that target transgender people for discrimination in single-sex facilities.

During the full trial, the court will also consider challenges to sections of HB2 that prohibit local municipalities from extending nondiscrimination protections to LGBT people.

To read more about the case, visit <https://www.aclu.org/cases/carcano-et-al-v-mccrory-et-al>.

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Judge Pethers explains leaving the bench

VIEWPOINT BY SHERYL PETHERS

What follows is a letter from Judge Sheryl Pethers, the first open lesbian elected to a judicial seat in the Chicago area. Pethers wrote this letter in response to the public report on an original letter she sent just to her colleagues and friends July 12, explaining her reasons for not seeking retention as a judge in Cook County. Below this first letter we are printing her complete original letter.

In July, I wrote an email about my retirement to friends, family and colleagues—fellow members of the LGBT judges association and the judges who were first elected with me in 2004. I did not care how many other judges or interested parties saw it; I did not, however, intend for it to be published in a newspaper. Unfortunately, someone leaked it to the press, and an article was written about it for the Chicago Sun-Times. I am now feeling Hillary Clinton's email pain.

To be sure, whatever wounds I have suffered in the process, many of them are self-inflicted. I was quite candid, as I am prone to be, and that left me open to having my words misinterpreted and taken out of context. I own that mistake.

I was contacted by the reporter but there was no sense of urgency given. Nor did he tell me Chief Judge Timothy Evans had commented on it. So, when the story appeared in the newspaper the next morning, my side of the story was not included. I never dreamed I would have the need to defend myself. But between the reporter and Judge Evans, they tore my wounds wide open.

Even now that I have this opportunity to respond, I choose not to get into a contest with Judge Evans about who is telling the truth. As a colleague told me, Judge Evans is running in an election to be selected chief judge once again, and seeks retention in November. Thus, he feels I have attacked him. Although I never intended to inject myself and my dissatisfaction with my assignment into his campaign(s), I understand he thinks he has to say certain things in his own defense.

I leave it to others to judge (pun intended) whether politics plays any role in: 1) who gets what assignment in Cook County; and 2) who has any chance of becoming an associate judge. I also leave it to readers of Judge Ev-

ans' response to decide whether it would make any sense for me to tell my supervising judge I no longer wanted to be assigned to the Law Division, and would rather stay in my current assignment—the one I think is so “boring.”

But I do take issue with Judge Evans' suggestion that I “did not appreciate having an assignment in which [I] could help to resolve issues involving matters that were crucial to the lives of people who needed her help.” From there, he went on to strongly imply that, because I have been left to handle mostly “minor” cases, I have not taken them or the people involved in them seriously.

Conflating two unrelated issues is, at best, an example of illogical thinking. Saying you have not felt intellectually challenged by the cases you hear does not equate to not caring about the litigants and issues presented. Frankly, I think any honest person would have to admit to being bored handling more than a hundred credit card debt cases and the like all day long, day after day.

Despite the “routine” nature of many of the cases I handle, I understand that each and every one of those matters is extremely important to those involved in them. For that reason, I have always given my full attention to them and treated the litigants with respect.

I cannot adequately express how much I resent Judge Evans' suggestion to the contrary. It is not that I did not appreciate being a judge; I did not appreciate the lack of any opportunity to advance my judicial career and to apply my particular skills in more demanding areas.

I have three other concerns about this controversy. First, I worry that readers will see these stories and decide “all judges are corrupt” or some such thing and then vote not to retain them in November. Nothing could be further from the truth. Most judges are good, hard-working and fair. It is the system that is broken, not them. Please read the judicial ratings (some of which are political, too, by the way) and vote accordingly, particularly against those few judges all the bar associations agree are bad apples. Please, please retain all the others.

Second, let me remind everyone that Judge Evans has always been a strong, reliable supporter of LGBT judges and our community. Nothing I've said or anyone else says can diminish that.



Judge Sheryl “Sherry” Pethers.
Photo courtesy of Pethers

Finally, I am concerned that the things I said about being “bored out of my mind,” etc., could make many people who worked on my campaign in 2004 think I did not appreciate their efforts or that I did not value my work and the opportunity to do it. I am more grateful than you will ever know. I was simply voicing my personal frustrations with the system and expressing my reasons for retiring somewhat early.

I'm a firm believer that some things are “meant to be.” Maybe it was a good thing, after all, that someone thought my note should be made public and did what I did not have the courage to do myself. As cynical as I can be, I doubt things will change, at least anytime soon. But hope springs eternal.

Thank you, everyone, for your support. I was truly honored to be elected by you.

Below is the original letter Judge Pethers sent to her colleagues:

Friends: I have officially given notice—I will not seek retention and instead will retire December 2 at the end of my term.

This decision, although not too difficult, has been a long time in the making. I had originally planned on a year or two from now.

But there is a log home in the Northwoods of Wisconsin calling my name.

So, I started thinking about it. At first, I thought I'd seek retention and decide whether to move up the date after that. Then I chose not to be evaluated by the bar associations, knowing that I would be found “not qualified” and simply let the voters decide for me, you know, as some kind of omen. But then I realized very few people look at those ratings, and I'd probably be retained anyway. Then what? And I needed to put on my big girl pants and make the call myself, so Clair and I can make plans.

Maybe I would have retired this early no matter what. Still, I wonder if I would hear the call from “up north” so loudly if I were more satisfied with my job. I never thought I

would refer to being a judge as a “job,” but it feels that way. I have spent 12 years throwing people out of their homes in evictions, placing judgments against poor people who cannot pay their credit card and student loan debts, and dealing with lousy insurance companies in fender-bender car accident cases. And the occasional breach of contract, slip and fall or dog bite.

I always thought being a judge would be more challenging. But I am bored out of my mind. In my current assignment, I do get to sink my teeth into some substantive motions—on afternoons every other week. That takes all of about 2-3 hours a day, including both the reading and hearing.

All I ever wanted was to go the Law Division, where I spent my entire career as an attorney. But that was never going to happen. And I should have known that from the start. I was so naïve. A well-known “mover and shaker” told me when I was campaigning that, if I thought an election was political, “wait until you're a judge—there's no place in Chicago more political than that.” I didn't understand that then, but I sure do now.

For years, I have watched folks elected long after me get assignments I wanted. Some of them, although not on the bench as long as me, were at least qualified for the positions. Others, not so much.

Colleagues always told me to talk to Judge Evans, like they did. He never once returned my calls. When I complained a bit about that, his assistant told me to write him and tell him what assignment I would like, and then she'd set up a meeting. I wrote. Never heard a word. Called to set up a meeting. Never got a call back.

Being “nobody who nobody sent” doesn't cut it. And because of that, qualifications and experience don't either.

I'm not saying I'm God's gift to the law, but, hey, I can think my way through some complicated issues. “I coulda been a contender!”

And I'm also not trying to go overboard on the sour grapes. Yes, my experience has been demoralizing (especially when there are judges who regularly don't even come to work, but get to choose their courtrooms), but it's had its real upsides, too. Good pay, great benefits, lots of vacation. Even as a “job,” it's the best one I've ever had.

There have been gratifying moments, too. Toward the end of my “career” here, I had the pleasure of working with Jim Snyder and Jerry Esrig, a couple of smart, wonderful men. I always enjoyed helping pro se litigants understand the system and explaining the law to them. (That's not to say there weren't some who drove me almost as nuts as they were!) And I liked settling cases and helping people resolve their disputes.

But it's not enough to keep me here. Time to move on while I'm still young enough to hike, canoe and kayak and even wield a chainsaw.

—Signed, Sherry

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in the LIFE

Kristen Kaza

TEXT BY NINA MATTI

As a high school student, Kristen Kaza organized a fundraiser gala for a women's rape crisis center, complete with a jazz band and a newspaper ad to spread the word. Since then, she's continued to stay committed to "partying with a purpose, creating social impact and a platform for people who need voices," she said. "We need spaces now more than ever that cultivate joy and comradery"

To continue progressing her love for "bringing people together and cultivating joy," as she put it, while creating a platform for social change, Kaza founded an event planning company No Small Plans Productions.

This year, her company is in its fifth year of presenting Slo 'Mo Jams for Homos (And Their Fans), an R&B dance party held every third Thursday of the month at the Whistler in Logan Square that aims to create a space where people "feel like family and like they can be themselves," she said.

As a queer lesbian, Kaza said she now is working to create spaces for other queer



Photo by Jackie Rivas

• **Orientation**
Queer

• **Favorite song/artist**
Shaw Day, Mefhelln de Geobello, Mary J. Blige

• **Hobbies**
Collecting colorful vintage clothing, hosting parties for friends and families, spending time with her husky

• **Three words to describe yourself:**
"Compassionate, colorful and committed"

• **Little-known fact**
She's a tenth-generation Vermonter whose family members are "hardcore" Vermont, down to making their own maple syrup.



Photo by Carolina Rodriguez

women within the community. "We still need to see ourselves reflected. There's so much validation and empowerment in that," she said. "Despite our seemingly growing rights and advances in the LGBTQ movement, we're seeing a diminishing of cultures, too. I know I want those spaces... more spaces that really provide an opportunity for queer-identified women, femme-identified women to really see themselves celebrated."

To bring these plans to fruition, Kaza is working on a series of events that not only

bring together queer people in clubs, but also for daytime wellness-based activities. Slo 'Mo Sundays focus on self-care while celebrating R&B music through activities like yoga, fitness classes and DJ workshops.

"That's been the best part of my career: watching people have a good time genuinely and making connections. That's what motivates me to move forward. We have to have all kinds of spaces for exerting our frustrations, our anger, our pain, our sadness. We also have to have spaces for joy as well."



Photo by Jackie Rivas

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viewpoints



The Movement for Black Lives platform

The Movement for Black Lives recently posted its platform as well as demands such as reparations, investing/divesting, economic justice, political power, community control and ending the war on Black people. The platform is listed below.

Black humanity and dignity requires Black political will and power. Despite constant exploitation and perpetual oppression, Black people have bravely and brilliantly been the driving force pushing the U.S. toward the ideals it articulates but has never achieved. In recent years we have

taken to the streets, launched massive campaigns, and impacted elections, but our elected leaders have failed to address the legitimate demands of our Movement. We can no longer wait.

In response to the sustained and increasingly visible violence against Black communities in the U.S. and globally, a collective of more than 50 organizations representing thousands of Black people from across the country have come together with renewed energy and purpose to articulate a common vision and agenda. We are a collective that centers and is rooted in Black communities, but we recognize we have a shared struggle with all oppressed people; collective liberation will be a product of all of our work.

We believe in elevating the experiences and leadership of the most marginalized Black people, including but not limited to those who are women, queer, trans, femmes, gender nonconforming, Muslim, formerly and currently incarcerated, cash poor and working class, differently-abled, undocumented, and immigrant. We are intentional about amplifying the particular experience of state and gendered violence that Black queer, trans, gender nonconforming, women and intersex people face. There can be no liberation

for all Black people if we do not center and fight for those who have been marginalized. It is our hope that by working together to create and amplify a shared agenda, we can continue to move towards a world in which the full humanity and dignity of all people is recognized.

While this platform is focused on domestic policies, we know that patriarchy, exploitative capitalism, militarism, and white supremacy know no borders. We stand in solidarity with our international family against the ravages of global capitalism and anti-Black racism, human-made climate change, war, and exploitation. We also stand with descendants of African people all over the world in an ongoing call and struggle for reparations for the historic and continuing harms of colonialism and slavery. We also recognize and honor the rights and struggle of our Indigenous family for land and self-determination.

We have created this platform to articulate and support the ambitions and work of Black people. We also seek to intervene in the current political climate and assert a clear vision, particularly for those who claim to be our allies, of the world

Turn to page 36

letters

Confronting Comcast

Dear Editor:

Fed up with hearing about gun shootings, me and my friend David D'Silva sat down over a beer recently and thought about how we could take action to stem gun violence on our own.

After looking at the roll call of specific senators who voted against gun measure votes this year, then scanning their top campaign contributions, we uncovered that Comcast had given nearly \$1 million to senators who voted no on background checks and straw purchasing of guns BUT ALSO decided to give \$1 million to the Pulse Orlando fund for victims of the massacre last month. David and I decided to pen a letter to Comcast CEO Brian Roberts asking him to explain to us as customers what the company's true position is on gun violence in the United States.

Given the utter lack of progress on this issue at the federal level, we've gotta start looking at where our consumer dollars are going and demanding answers when companies act irresponsibly with our money. Then we have to shine a big light on what they've done and what their response is. If you use Comcast and also would like an explanation, please print the letter below and mail it to CEO Brian Roberts.

Comcast Corporation
Comcast Center
1701 JFK Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19103
July 25, 2016
Brian L. Roberts
CEO
Comcast Corporation

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I am writing to you today to seek clarification and comment on seemingly contradictory actions taken by Comcast, NBCUniversal and its related political action committee.

As I'm sure you are aware, in June, NBCUniversal (and its parent, Comcast) made a generous, \$1M donation to the OneOrlando Fund, which sought to provide financial support to those families devastated by the terrible events that took place at the Pulse Nightclub a few days earlier. CEO Steve Burke commented, NBCUniversal had "given a lot of thought to what we could do as a company to honor and support the victims and acknowledge this profound loss." Burke also added that this donation was "to support non-

profits that are providing services to the victims and families, as well as working with the LGBTQ, Hispanic and other affected communities." (Variety, June 16, 2016)

Additionally, as I'm sure you are aware, a few days later Congress also decided to address the issue of gun violence and attempted to pass four separate pieces of gun control legislation. Unfortunately, none of them succeeded in passing—a disappointing conclusion to those, like me, who believe our nation's lack of gun control significantly undermines safety in our cities, schools, and communities.

Highlighting one of the specific pieces of legislation, let us look more closely at Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy's bill that would expand FBI background checks for gun purchases. A sensible requirement that has the support of up to 90 percent of the U.S. population in some polls. Ultimately, 56 senators voted against this—the vast majority being Republicans.

At this point, you are likely wondering where does Comcast come into play in this.

When we take the list of those 56 senators and compare it to the list of donations made by the Comcast and NBCUniversal PAC, we see that Comcast has made significant contributions to those same senators who handcuff the country from preventing tragedies like the one in Orlando. Just looking at the most recent election cycle, we see \$780,500 in donations—very nearly the same level of support given to "nonprofits providing services...and other affected communities."

At this point, I must ask how Comcast and NBCUniversal can truly "honor and support the victims and acknowledge this profound loss" while simultaneously supporting the very people who make sure true progress cannot be achieved? The true way to honor and support the victims is to make sure these events do not happen again. To that goal your continued support of these senators renders your actions hypocritical at best and actively destructive at worst.

A number of potential responses are likely already forming, or had been formed long before receiving this letter. You may state that the Comcast NBCUniversal PAC is a separate entity, operating independently of the larger Comcast Corporation. You may state that the support of these senators is not commentary on Comcast's support (or lack thereof) for gun control—that you support these senators because of other issues that are relevant to Comcast, like telecommunications.

Those types of responses may have been valid in the past, for issues that are less significant to

American society, but no longer hold muster today, for this issue. You will hear from more people like me, many of whom are your customers, on this hypocritical stance Comcast has taken. Based on your response, we will consider our next steps in advocating for gun control.

Sincerely,
First Name, Last Name
Your Home Address
City, State, Zip
Email

Contributions by senator:

- Lamar Alexander: \$20,000
- Kelly Ayotte: \$28,500
- John Barrasso: \$30,000
- John Boozman: \$11,500
- Roy Blunt: \$35,000
- Shelley Moore Capito: \$14,000
- Dan Coats: \$8,500
- Thad Cochran: \$15,000
- Susan Collins: \$13,500
- John Cornyn: \$40,000
- Mike Enzi: \$10,000
- Deb Fischer: \$14,500
- Cory Gardner: \$23,000
- Lindsey Graham: \$22,500
- Chuck Grassley: \$10,000
- Orrin Hatch: \$30,000
- Heidi Heitkamp: \$5,000
- Dean Heller: \$28,500
- John Hoeven: \$9,500
- James Inhofe: \$10,000
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- Lisa Murkowski: \$19,500
- David Perdue: \$10,000
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- Jon Tester: \$35,000
- John Thune: \$32,500
- Thom Tillis: \$15,000
- Pat Toomey: \$38,500
- Roger Wicker: \$27,500

Sincerely,
Mike Simmons and
David D'Silva

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34

Fig & Olive.



29

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Mother's day

26

Melinda Buckley stars in *Mother (and Me)*.

Photo by Anthony Bianciella

DANCIN' FEATS

Dance for Life marks 25 years, plans for future

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

Twenty-five years ago, dancers Keith Elliott and Todd Keich put on a sold-out dance concert raising money to do something about the AIDS epidemic, which, in 1992, was heavily impacting Chicago's dance community.

The formula was simple and effective: Put great dance onstage, and donate the revenue to HIV/AIDS research and advocacy organizations. Since its humble beginnings, Dance for Life (DFL) has become a staple in the Chicago dance calendar, to date raising more than \$5.5 million for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and 24 additional HIV/AIDS service organizations (included among the list of beneficiaries is always an emergency aid program for Chicago's dancers called The Dancers' Fund). Nearly 35 companies have graced DFL's stage, volunteering their time; this year, festival stalwarts Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Giordano Dance Chicago and the Joffrey Ballet are joined by Visceral Dance Chicago and Chicago Dance Crash for DFL's 25th iteration.

In 2011, Elliott asked Anthony Guerrero, who came up in the theater and dance worlds, to come on board as an associate producer. Guerrero told Windy City Times, "The most exciting and wonderful thing about it is [that] the dance community is close, and very welcoming." The heart and sense of community among Chicago's dancers is never more clear than at DFL, which highlights and brings together our best and brightest stars. "That one time of year, they can always get together," said Guerrero. "During the season, their lives are busy and they don't get to work together as much as they would like."

Shortly after Guerrero was brought in part time to assist with DFL's 20th anniversary, Elliott moved to Arizona and discussions about the shift from a one-night gala event to a nonprofit organization began. "We knew that [the 25th anniversary] was going to be upon us. The vital reason for the formation of a nonprofit was The Dancers' Fund. We started developing a new marketing strategy," Guerrero said.

Part of the strategy included acknowledging the changing nature of HIV/AIDS treatment and the destigmatization of and awareness toward the disease. "When Keith started [DFL] 25 years ago, his friends were dying at an alarming

rate," said Guerrero. "Now, there is much more awareness. It wasn't talked about 25 years ago, but what hasn't changed is the dance community and the idea of taking care of each other. That's why Keith started it, and that's why the dancers give their time. Any time, anyone can be affected by illness. It's important to do this work."

While The Dancers' Fund was created as a way for DFL to give emergency aid to dancers with HIV/AIDS, its mission is much broader.

Any and all members of the professional dance community—from dancers to stagehands to class accompanists—are eligible to receive unrestricted financial assistance when faced with a critical health crisis. When Hubbard Street dancer David Schultz was diagnosed with cancer in 2014, for example, he used money from The Dancers' Fund, which DFL raised, to meet the deductible for surgery and follow-up appointments. An ongoing goal of DFL and the newly formed nonprofit Chicago Dancers United is to get the word out about The Dancers' Fund to ensure that the dance community has the resources it needs to thrive.

Guerrero was named executive director of Chicago Dancers United, and the work of building a nonprofit organization from the seasonal, one-night-only format is ongoing. "We have to remember where we came from, how we got here, and those that will help us move forward," said Guerrero.

Saturday, Aug. 20, however, is all about Dance for Life and celebrating the work that has been done to improve the lives of those with HIV/AIDS, commemorating those who

have lost their courageous battles, and rejoicing in the ability of the dance community to weather storms together. Plus, guests get to see some phenomenal dancing, including two world premieres by Randy Duncan and Harrison McEldowney and Jeremy Plummer. For the first time, Chicago Dancers United will honor the commitments of individuals and organizations with the Dance for Life Impact Award, whose first recipients are Fred Eychaner and The Alphawood Foundation, Barbara Kipper and HMS Media's Scott Silberstein and Matt Hoffman.

Dance for Life begins Saturday, Aug. 20, at 5 p.m. with a gala reception at the Hilton Chicago's grand ballroom, 720 S. Michigan Ave. Guests then process to the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., for a concert at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for both the gala reception and performance (\$250-\$600) or performance only (\$15-\$75) can be purchased at 312-341-2300, ChicagoDancersUnited.com or the Auditorium Theatre box office.



Dance for Life in 2014.
Photo by Nash Photo

THEATER REVIEW

The Merchant of Venice

Playwright: William Shakespeare
 At: Shakespeare's Globe at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Navy Pier
 Tickets: 312-595-5600;
 ChicagoShakes.com/merchant
 Runs through: Aug. 14

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

This 10-day run is sold out but seek tickets anyway, perhaps cancellations or the waiting list. *The Merchant of Venice* is freshly deep, darkly lavish, tensely acted and revealing, as carefully edited and crisply directed by Jonathan Munby. Its buoyant comic scenes work brilliantly, alternating with the profound humiliation of Shylock (deliberate, subdued but full-blooded Jonathan Pryce) and bigotry's triumph.

Perhaps it's coincidence, but Shakespeare's two plays set in Venice—both staged at Chicago Shakespeare Theater within months—express the ugly racial and religious bigotry of Elizabethan England. Some argue Shakespeare attempted to counter bigotry but I'm not convinced. Elizabethan law prohibited Jews and Moors from living in England, so Shakespeare quite probably never met either a Jew or a Black man. But Venice, a global mercantile and military power, was far more polyglot than London and so-called "aliens," such as Jews and Blacks, could rise to wealth and distinction within prescribed limits. Thus, Othello the Moor is the hero of his eponymous tragedy, and



Shylock the Jew is the dominating antagonist of *The Merchant of Venice*. To create these characters, Shakespeare embraced Elizabethan stereotypes and prejudices expressed in some of the vilest language he ever penned.

This production immediately suggests the polyglot cultures of Venice in a prologue of Jewish-style klezmer clarinet music (Jules Maxwell, composer) juxtaposed with soberly-costumed (Mike Britton) Venetian gentlemen cavorting in carnival masks. Culture clash is reinforced via snatches of Italian, Hebrew and Yiddish added to Shakespeare's text (although 16th-century Italian Jews probably did not speak Yiddish). This is brilliant interpretation, quickly hinting at the tense swirl of opposing

forces.

As the play progresses, the anti-Semitism of Antonio (Dominic Mafham, an affable bigot as the title merchant) and his younger cohorts is abundantly clear in word and action, as is Shylock's turn to vengeance only after his daughter, Jessica (darkly handsome Phoebe Pryce), abandons and robs him to marry a Christian. These points, not always as clear as they must be, are perfectly illumined by Munby & Co. A powerful epilogue shows Shylock's forced baptism as Jessica—crucifix at her neck but praying in Hebrew—comprehends the destruction she's brought upon her father and her own isolation in her new community.

This is Shakespeare at its vigorous, involv-

ing and clear-rendered best. So much is pitch-perfect: the comedy scenes of Lancelot Gobbo (Stefan Adegbola deftly leading audience participation), the romantic passages of Jessica and Christian hubby Lorenzo (Andy Apollo), the cliquish male bonding and—above all—the unreasoned injustices against perceived outsiders, so very apt for this country today. Even Antonio—middle-aged, unwed and possibly gay—is an outsider in a heteronormative society that virtually requires marriage for Portia (a lithe Rachel Pickup) and Bassanio (an engaging Dan Fredenburgh), both past their youthful blush.

THEATER REVIEW

Mother (and Me)

Playwright: Melinda Buckley
 At: The Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.
 Tickets: 773-404-7336 or
 GreenhouseTheater.org; \$25-\$30
 Runs through: Aug. 14

BY SEAN MARGARET WAGNER

"Mother," Writer/Performer Melinda Buckley says, and the floor lights up with the word beneath her as thunder rolls, "It's a big word."

With that edict, we are whisked into the lives of Melinda and her mother Eileen, two uproariously funny women embodied by one. The Greenhouse Theater Center kicks off a series of

solo performances with a two-week engagement of *Mother (and Me)*, a production that asks us who we are when we lose someone we love.

In *Mother (and Me)*, Melinda Buckley deftly embodies all her closest relatives to tell the story of her family overcoming dysfunction to brace for inevitable loss. In one stretch of an elongated cigarette hand, she is her mother Eileen, a feisty Hungarian refugee slipping away into old age. With a slouch and gravel in her voice, she is her elder brother; add a bit more menace to her posture, and she becomes her long absent father.

That's hardly the extent of the expansive cast of doctors, hospice patients, husbands and game-show hosts that Buckley can call forward at a moment's notice. She also has an arsenal

of set pieces, costumes and—no, wait: She has none of those things. Instead, Buckley steps into her past by stepping in and out of gobo shadows, and conjures her memories with music cues. She gestures to her sleeves and, using only words, dresses her mother in a black satin dress for a date with a gentleman caller.

Eileen has come from a tumultuous past, and rankled against the authority of her Hungarian family, nations at war and her stoic GI ex-husband. Even as life's rifts pull them in different directions, Eileen and Melinda rally under the canopy of the thing they love most: musical theater. Years later, Melinda is a Broadway success, but her mother is fading due to dementia, and there is little either of them can do besides sing to each other, wage war with an unfeeling care facility, and await Eileen's final curtain.

Buckley is buoyant and hilarious in nearly anyone's guise, and does more with a stool and a smile than a lesser theater company could do with a big budget and cast roster. Director Kimberly Senior has engineered a deceptively simple technical marvel of a show. That said, there are moments where Buckley's characters border on culturally insensitive for the sake of a joke. When she seeks spiritual guidance from Japanese friend "Miyuki" (complete with strong accent and broken English), my heart sank.

The portrayal may be based on the mannerisms of a real subject for all I know, but the sentiment cheapened an otherwise very honest and rich exploration. There are stronger, funnier choices to be made, and I trust this stellar storyteller to find them.

THEATER REVIEW

The Anton Chekhov Book Club Returns

Playwright: text by Anton Chekhov
 At: Moving Dock Theatre Company at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.
 Tickets: \$17.50-\$19.50
 Runs through: Sept. 23 (Fridays only)

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Anton Chekhov is mostly known for his plays, not for the hundreds of short stories serving as a kind of verbal photo album of his society as he viewed it. Moving Dock Theatre Company's page-to-stage adaptations of these sketches formed the basis of their 2015 anthology titled *The Anton Chekhov Book Club*—a venture that proved so popular as to mandate a sequel, this one appropriately dubbed "*The Anton Chekhov Book Club Returns*."

This year's program encompasses such foible-prone personnel as a misanthropic professor whose excessive caution engineers his own downfall, a forlorn mother who clings to the hope of her daughter marrying well as a means of delivering the family from poverty, and a mischievous youth whose successful ruse to remedy his sweetheart's fear of to-



The Anton Chekhov Book Club Returns.
 Photo by Jazmin Corona

bogganing backfires upon him in unforeseen ways. The author at his most pessimistic introduces a farm wife and her estranged husband, the latter pampered to dissolution by their property's overlord, who confront the grim reality of their economic inequalities. Thankfully, this bleak portrait of conditions in Czarist Russia is offset by two purely comic vignettes, one involving a risqué work of decorative art, and the other, a studious bachelor besieged by romantic damsels, one of whom manipulates the reluctant scholar into wedlock, despite his claims to unswerving resistance.

Anton isn't the only Chekhov contributing to the evening's enjoyment: The acting techniques formulated by his nephew, Michael Chekhov—chiefly its emphasis on body language as a tool for conveying character—are employed by director Dawn Arnold's ensemble with an expertise rarely seen in our Meisner-

dominated theater community, rendering each individual personae immediately recognizable after little more than a change of a vest or a shawl, with any cognitive obstruction arising from the cross-gender casting likewise quickly dissipating. (Careful text interpretation also plays a part in securing our sympathy, even for those we might otherwise consider undeserving of it.)

Devotees of such elitist fantasies as *Downton Abbey* are free to cozy down for the 80-minute duration of Chekhov's tour, its nostalgic milieu enhanced by Weston Williams' delightful score of familiar pre-revolution classics, but the thematic link to the disparate segments—as the Book Club members remind us repeatedly—is the readiness with which these eccentric personalities can be seen in our own society today. Look around after you leave the theater and see for yourself.

CRITICS' PICKS

Between Riverside and Crazy, Steppenwolf Theatre, through Aug. 21. Cop shootings, economic insecurity and the troubles of marginalized citizens aren't funny in 2016, but at Steppenwolf, playgoers can expect to be entertained as well as enlightened. MSB

Byhalia, Mississippi, Definition Theater & The New Colony at Steppenwolf 1700, through Aug. 21. Don't call them "white trash"—these are the people who could elect our next president, these humble citizens struggling to better themselves in a changing world, and their efforts deserve our respect. MSB

Chops, Dashnight Productions at Theater Wit, through Aug. 14. This neat four-hander is an authentic Chicago "guy" play in the Mamet tradition, only slicker. Profound? Naw. Great play for actors, yeah! JA

Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf, Writers Theatre, Glencoe, extended through Aug. 14. Tim Ryder and Tim Sniffen's comic mashup of great U.S. theater dramas by the likes of Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Edward Albee and Thornton Wilder is a laugh riot. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

steppenwolf

“Cast is excellent without exception”
- Tribune

“Spectacular”
- Gena, Facebook

“Between Riverside and Crazy is exactly where you want to be”
- NewCity

“Mix of hyper-reality, social commentary and sitcom... nothing and no one in this play is exactly who they appear to be”
- Chicago Sun-Times

“Resonates with authenticity”
- Daily Herald

“What a compelling, vital story”
- Esther, Facebook

Between Riverside and Crazy

MUST CLOSE AUGUST 21

By Pulitzer Prize winner **Stephen Adly Guirgis**
Directed by ensemble member **Yasen Peyankov**

Ex-cop “Pops” navigates a steady stream of sketchy houseguests and the slippery slope of justice in this rowdy dark comedy from the author of *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*.

Through August 21 | Tickets start at \$20 | steppenwolf.org | 312-335-1650

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Chris Saunders as Haber and Vered Hankin as Clara in *Einstein's Gift*.
Photo by Ron Goldman

THEATER REVIEW *Einstein's Gift*

Playwright: Vern Thiessen
At: Genesis Theatrical Productions
at The Athenaeum Theatre
2936 N. Southport
Tickets: at 773-935-6875 or
Athenaeumtheatre.com; \$30
Runs through: Aug. 28

BY DAVID MCCANN

Noted Canadian playwright Vern Thiessen crafted this accessible 2003 drama about two Nobel Prize-winning scientists as a memory play.

It's a story about two friends who, despite working in similar fields of science at the same time in history, never fully agreed about many things. The more familiar Einstein alternates between narrator and participant in this fictionalized history. Einstein and Fritz Haber were both celebrated and dedicated Jewish-born German scientists; however, they differed on several scientific and moral issues.

While Einstein wasn't particularly concerned with his national or cultural identity, Haber was a proud nationalist who renounced his religion in order to become accepted and advance his career. Their views about the nature of pure and applied science also differed. Einstein considered chemistry unimaginative, while Haber thought physics to be impractical. Haber also viewed war as an often unavoidable means to an end, while Einstein was a devout pacifist. Both men would be honored and remembered for their contributions to science, but that would ultimately backfire.

While Haber developed a fertilizer that ended hunger in Europe, his lethal chlorine gas that helped Germany create chemical warfare during WWI would eventually be used to execute his own people in the concentration camps. Of Einstein's many wonderful gifts to the world, they would eventually include a bomb so destructive as to be capable of destroying all of mankind.

In a play about balance, about one man's pride and all-consuming drive to achieve fame and success, director Elayne LaTraunik has staged this Chicago premiere with as much integrity and creativity as both the script and her venue allow. She's provided her own kind of balance in the way she's guided her cast to simply tell this story of two noteworthy scientists who were, despite being friends, never on the same page. While Harrison Ornelas' and Jeremy Hollis' set and lighting are both serviceable, as are Paula Kenar's period costumes, it's the cast that stands out in this production.

Guy F. Wicke is warm and charismatic as Einstein. Stepping in and out of the story, he eloquently details memories of a friend and colleague with poetic flair. Chris Saunders juggles the demands of Haber, a role that calls for arrogance, with a passion for science over society. Infatuated by discovery and his need for recognition, Saunders attacks a chalkboard with unbridled eagerness and ecstasy, demonstrating more ardor for his work than for his wives (both nicely played by Vered Hankin, as Clara, and Becky Lang, as Lotta). Nicholas Hodge's Otto journeys from dedicated assistant to ruthless member of the Third Reich, and James McGuire's stern, savage Nazi regime minister of education brings chills in a play that offers the audience its own gifts.

Disco legend Clifford in concert Aug. 26

Disco legend Linda Clifford will be in concert at Unity in Chicago, 1925 W. Thome Ave., on Friday, Aug. 26.

There will be a meet-and-greet with Clifford at 7 p.m., followed by a concert at 8 p.m.

Clifford is known for such hits as "Runaway Love," "If My Friends Could See Me Now" and "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

Admission is \$35 (concert only) and \$50 (concert and meet-and-greet); visit Brown-PaperTickets.com. For more about the event, visit UnityChicago.org.



Linda Clifford.
PR photo

'LGBT Milwaukee' to be released Aug. 22

Milwaukee Pride, Inc. has announced the upcoming publication of *LGBT Milwaukee*, written by local author Michail Takach and with a foreword from Don Schwamb of the Wisconsin LGBT History Project.

LGBT Milwaukee, published by Arcadia Publishing & the History Press as part of the *Images of Modern America* series, will be released Monday, Aug. 22. Preorders are now available at Amazon.com and other retailers.

The book, believed to be the first compre-

hensive social history of LGBTQ Milwaukee ever published, traces the rise and fall of six dozen landmark bars, gathering places and pride festivals.

The book complements the efforts of the Wisconsin LGBT History Project and the History Of Gay Milwaukee Facebook group to initiate, cultivate and celebrate ongoing conversations about local LGBTQ history.

'Numbers Nerds' to be held Aug. 13

CPA Theatricals' workshop production of *Numbers Nerds*, or the Almost All-Girl Math Challenge, was selected to be produced at the Chicago Musical Theatre Festival Aug. 13 at noon and Aug. 27 at noon.

Numbers Nerds, based on a story by Larry Little, chronicles an all-girl math team from Our Lady of Perpetual Chastity (now a charter school) in Waukesha, Wisconsin. The mathletes have just won the Regional Math Competition and are chosen to compete in the National Math SUM-IT.

See CMTF.org.

NYC company moving to Highland Park

Musically Human Theatre (MHT) has signed a lease with the City of Highland Park for space in the Karger Center at 1850 Green Bay Rd.

The company founded in New York City in 2010 has established a strong reputation for producing intimate revivals as well as new works in Manhattan venues that included the Duplex Cabaret Theatre in the West Village, the Richmond Shepard Theatre and CAP21's 5th Floor Theatre.

MHT's first season in the venue recently vacated by The Music Theatre Company will include intimate new productions of *Passion*, *Next to Normal* and *Cabaret*. (Producing Artistic Director David Norwood will helm all three productions.) MHT has signed a Tier-N Chicago Area Contract (CAT) with Actors' Equity and will employ up to two Equity performers per show.

Leading the cast of *Passion* will be two-time Jeff Award winner Kelli Harrington as Fosca. Full casting for *Passion* and the remainder of the season will be announced soon. Single ticket and season subscriptions are now on sale at MusicallyHuman.org.

CULTURE CLUB

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FESTIVAL PRODUCER VENUE PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MEDIA SPONSOR

SPOTLIGHT

Bette Midler is readying her Broadway return in a high-profile revival of the musical *Hello, Dolly!* this season. Yet you can see another take on Midler in her early career with another revival. Hell in a Handbag Productions is bringing back its hit 2015 musical tribute *Bette, Live at the Continental Baths*. Caitlin Jackson once again inhabits the Divine Miss M in a recreation of the bathhouse concerts that endeared Midler to the legion of gay fans who would passionately follow her career throughout the ensuing years. *Bette, Live at the Continental Baths* plays 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays from Friday, Aug. 12, through Saturday, Sept. 10, at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. There is also an added performance 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, to make up for no performance on Saturday, Aug. 27. Tickets are \$26 in advance and \$28 at the door; call 773-327-5252 or visit Stage773.com.

Caitlin Jackson in *Hell in a Handbag's Bette, Live at the Continental Baths*, a musical tribute to the Divine Miss M's legendary NYC concert. Photo by Rick Aguilar Studios



Open TV hosts first-ever 'Friendraiser'

BY TARINA HARGRAYS

Open TV's first annual Friendraiser was held recently to bring more exposure to the platform designed to showcase diverse independent artists' TV series, and build a larger network of supporters and investors. The intimate event was invite-only, and the guests mostly consisted of Open TV affiliates. Open TV also premiered its final original series in its first cycle of programming, *Two Queens in a Kitchen*.

For the first part of the event, guests mixed and mingled while trying different dishes prepared by host Dr. E. Patrick Johnson and *Two Queens in a Kitchen* curator/director Elijah McKinnon. The event was filled with good food,

drinks and live performances. Artist ALEXA GRÆ performed in the living room of Johnson's South Side mansion while guests surrounded and overlooked from the balcony. GRÆ also mentioned an upcoming visual album that will be released later this year.

After GRÆ's performance, guests headed over to the kitchen for the premiere of *Two Queens in a Kitchen*. However, before that began, guests had the opportunity of learning a few cooking tips from Johnson as he made one of his favorite desserts: banana chocolate-chip pound cake.

The *Two Queens in a Kitchen* premiere episode was filled with good humor and conversation. It definitely was well received by view-

ers—there were several times throughout the premiere where guests could be heard chuckling loudly. The full series consists of nine episodes and will be released Aug. 11.

As the event came to a close, *Two Queens in a Kitchen* executive producer Aymar Jean Christian spoke about Open TV's progress in the queer community and the talent Open TV artists possess. Christian also took the time to announce future Open TV projects. Web series *Brujos*, *Afternoon Snatch* and *Brown Girls* will all have new episodes released throughout the next year. Open TV will also be doing a project called *Open TV Tonight* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in January 2017.

Carrie Fisher, 'Back to Future' stars at Comic Con Chicago

Wizard World, Inc., announced that Star Wars' Carrie Fisher will make her first Wizard World appearance ever in Chicago, where she will join the *Back to the Future* trio of Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, and Lea Thompson.

Also, *The X-Files*' Gillian Anderson will join the previously announced David Duchovny, Mitch Pileggi and William B. Davis for a cast reunion on Aug. 20-21.

Located at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois, they will join previously announced guests, including Norman Reedus (*The Walking Dead*), Sebastian Stan (*Captain America: The Winter Soldier*), Bruce Campbell (*Evil Dead*) and the cast of Netflix's *Marvel's Daredevil*, including Charlie Cox (Matt Murdock/*Daredevil*), Deborah Ann Woll (Karen Page), Jon Bernthal (Frank Castle/*The Punisher*), and more.

Comic Con will take place in Chicagoland Aug. 18-21. For more info, visit <http://wizardworld.com/comiccon/chicago>.

Writers' museum to open in Chicago

The American Writers Museum (AWM) announced that Penguin Random House has committed financial support to AWM, recognizing the importance of celebrating U.S. writers.

AWM will open March 2017 at 180 N. Michigan Ave., in Chicago. As the nation's only museum of its kind, AWM is expected to attract more than 120,000 annual visitors of all ages.

The museum will highlight the personal stories and literary works of U.S. writers with themed galleries, interactive exhibits, educational programs and special events. Additionally, the AWM Affiliates Program is collaborating with more than 50 author homes museums around the U.S. to collectively strengthen the American literary story.

For more information—including design plans, naming opportunities and renderings,—visit AmericanWritersMuseum.org, see "American Writers Museum" on Facebook, follow @AmerWriteMuseum on Twitter or call 312-346-9018.

LCHJ holding 'Cuba Libre' event Aug. 18

Legal Council for Health Justice (LCHJ) will host its annual summer party at Sidetrack in Lakeview on Thursday, Aug. 18.

This year's travel theme is "Cuba Libre: Holiday in Havana" and will feature cuisine by 90 Miles Cuban Cafe, cocktails by Sidetrack, entertainment by Angel d'Cuba, the Grand Raffle, a huge silent auction and more.

All proceeds directly support the Legal Council's programs providing free, immediate legal help to low-income individuals with HIV, people at risk of homelessness, and children with disabilities.

Cuba Libre tickets start at \$75; visit www.cubalibre.gesture.com or call 312-427-8990.



From left: Dr. E. Patrick Johnson, Aymar Christian and Elijah McKinnon hosted the Open TV Friendraiser.

Photo by Nina Matti



"A LAUGH OUT LOUD COMEDY EXPERIENCE!"

—SPLASH MAGAZINE



#LIVEATUP

BOOKS

Mark Zubro's long career is no mystery

BY LIZ BAUDLER

"All I know is, I plod," said Mark Zubro about his remarkable career as a mystery novelist. Zubro is the author of 28 mystery novels, plus a science fiction trilogy. In 2014, his work was nominated for the Lambda Literary Award.

Zubro spent years as a teacher, and thus learned how to balance work and writing effectively, as evidenced by his output. Teaching also served as an inspiration for his first mystery, where he had a gay couple, Tom and Scott, solve the murder of one of Tom's fellow teachers.

"Many people asked me after the first book came out, where I just roasted school administrators.... Three reporters, three different cities, they kind of leaned over and asked, 'you based these administrators on our administrators, didn't you?' Zubro said, laughing. 'You catch something universal. You want to catch something true to the human heart.'"

In general, Zubro finds his inspiration in everyday events. "When you're creating a world, it's real simple. All you have to do is repeat all the idiot things you've ever heard from relatives, former friends, TV commentators, Republicans. You don't have to make much up," he said.

Zubro said that he found himself shaken by the Orlando, Florida, mass shooting, as his latest entry in the Tom and Scott series, *A Conspiracy of Fear*, involved a gunman in a gay art gallery. He'd written the book prior to Orlando, but the coincidence seemed eerie. On the other hand, figures like Donald Trump and Milo Yiannopoulos seem like prime material for fictional villains to Zubro.

The writer likes to delve deep into the world of his characters. "I begin to live in their world, especially when I'm writing a first draft. I'm there with them," Zubro said. "And I know how they're feeling. What I'm trying to do is make it realistic: what would a sane, sensible, realistic person do here."

Occasionally, Zubro runs into stumbling blocks. Zubro said his sci-fi trilogy, *Alien Danger*, took 30 years to percolate. And of course



there's always those troublesome mystery plots. Once, Zubro said, he got to the end of a book and realized no one had committed the crime. "This is not good in a mystery. So you line them all up in your imagination, and of course you have to go back and revise in light of the new information."

Zubro's favorite authors include Robert B. Parker and Carolyn Hart: he loves their skill with dialogue. His inspiration for writing, however, came from a children's book series about a pig named Freddy, who briefly had a detective agency and read Sherlock Holmes mysteries. That Christmas, Zubro asked for Sherlock Holmes books.

As someone who has written both police procedurals and books with amateur sleuths--think Agatha Christie's Miss Marple--Zubro has little patience for what he calls the "Jessica Fletcher syndrome." Referring to the main character of *Murder, She Wrote*, Zubro cracked, "I think the

very best ending to *Murder She Wrote*: in the final, two-hour episode, it would be revealed that Jessica did them all."

As a writer, Zubro has never shied away from gay content. His sci-fi trilogy involves gays banished from their home planets, and the Tom and Scott series stars a longtime couple.

"In '87, when I was writing the first Tom and Scott book, Scott the baseball player was in the closet completely. He's come out. There is no question that the world is better for us," Zubro said. "In '87, there were no happy gay couples in mystery literature. There weren't very many anywhere. We either had some dreadful disease or we were going to commit

suicide. And I said, 'I'm going to have a happy gay couple and they're going to be in love.' And that, to me, was different."

Even though Zubro said he's a sucker for a love story, by the third book in the series he had to draw the line about how well Tom and Scott's relationship was going. "I wanted to give them something to fight about and argue about. So a friend of mine said, 'have them redecorate the house,'" Zubro laughed.

Ultimately, though, whether his heroes face danger or decoration, Zubro wants the world to be made right. "By the end of it," he said, "Tom and Scott's love is going to triumph."

Chicago man pens memoir about Tennessee Williams

BY NINA MATTI

Nearly 25 years after his complicated relationship with playwright Tennessee Williams, Tony Narducci decided to write it all down for his memoir, *In the Frightened Heart of Me: Tennessee Williams's Last Year*.

Working from his memories and a journal that he kept during their yearlong relationship, Narducci said all of the emotions he felt during their relationship became "more intense during the writing process. I felt again what I felt back then, but with more insight. I was able to better understand what had happened between us."

Narducci had spent his youth admiring Williams' work. After a chance meeting, the two struck up a friendship, which eventually came to mean something different to both of the men. "Lately, I've been thinking that he was in love with me," Narducci said. "But I couldn't give him what he needed. I respected and admired him, but I didn't love him."

Instead, Narducci said he wanted to be a friend and a crutch for Williams. "He was half-dead when I met him," Narducci said. "He had dug a hole so deep inside of himself that I didn't think he could get out of it. ... I was young enough to compartmentalize that though. I should have had more compassion for what he was experiencing."

Williams had been plagued with depression and substance abuse throughout his life. Narducci attributed this pain to "a profound sadness from life. He lost the love of his life

together, a time that Narducci said provided an escape for Williams. "He transformed when we were in a new environment," he said.

An escape was necessary for the duo, especially because their time together was also when AIDS swept the nation, in 1983. "We were both very concerned," Narducci said. "We talked about precautions. He also had a bunch of young men, friends, who helped protect him. That was very helpful."

The staggering glimpse at Williams as a person rather than as a writer formed a different type of relationship between the men than Narducci anticipated. "He had an interesting life. I romanticized him, as I did a lot of writers," Narducci said. "When I saw him as a human being, I thought I would help him."

Unfortunately, there was nothing Narducci could do and Williams died about five months after the pair broke up—something that Narducci said he sees as far more than a coincidence. "I think his heart broke, and that gave me guilt," he said.

Good did come out of their relationship, though. Narducci said his yearlong companionship with Williams had a great effect on his life. "It gave me such an insight into what it's like getting older," he said. As someone who had always aspired to be a filmmaker, he felt he saw the importance of sharing stories to help others learn.

'Wink and a Nod' at Driehaus

The Richard H. Driehaus Museum, 40 E. Erie St., will present the special exhibition "With a Wink and a Nod: Cartoonists of the Gilded Age," has opened.

The exhibition features 74 rare original drawings created for Puck magazine, as well as published cartoons and more than 20 vintage publications.

According to a press release, "the pages of Puck are a unique vantage point for understanding life in Gilded Age America. During this period Chicago banker Samuel M. Nickerson and his family built and lived in the 'Marble Palace,' now the Driehaus Museum."

The exhibition will run through Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017.

Call 312-482-8933 or visit DriehausMuseum.org.

'BITE' running thru Aug. 14

Pride Films and Plays (PFP) will complete its summer in Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St., with the world premiere of *BITE: A Pucking Queer Cabaret*, PFP Artistic Associate Derek Van Barham's pop-rock ode to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

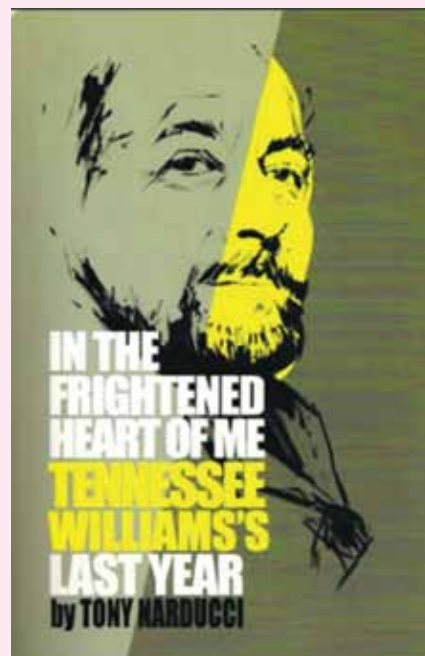
BITE: A Pucking Queer Cabaret runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 5 p.m. The closing date is Sunday, Aug. 14. (There's no performance Sunday, Aug. 7.)

Tickets are \$25 for Monday and Thursday performances and \$30 for Friday, Saturday and Sunday showings. (There are discounts for students and seniors.) See PrideFilmsAndPlays.com or call 800-737-0984.



Mark Zubro.

Photo courtesy of Zubro



and his career to some extent. Most of the people he loved were dead, many of them from AIDS."

At the time of their relationship, Narducci said he couldn't understand what Williams was going through. He was just too young and inexperienced in life and loss. "I ignored [his pain]," Narducci said. "I thought he was being dramatic. I didn't understand."

The pair spent considerable time travelling

Market Days talent unveiled

Northalsted Market Days has announced the musical acts for the Aug. 13-14 event that will take place on North Halsted Street between Belmont Avenue and Addison Street, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Among the acts performing Aug. 13 are Deborah Cox ("Nobody's Supposed To Be Here," at 8:45 p.m. on the Belmont Stage), Diana King ("Shy Guy," 4:30 p.m. on the Addison Stage) and Lez Zeppelin (7 p.m. on the Nissan Innovation Stage).

tion Stage).

The following day has these stars, among others: Alex Newell (5:45 p.m. on the Addison Stage), Amy & Freddy (6 p.m. on the Aldine Stage), Erika Jayne (8 p.m. on the Belmont Stage) and Windy City Cowboys (3 p.m. on the Nissan Innovation Stage).

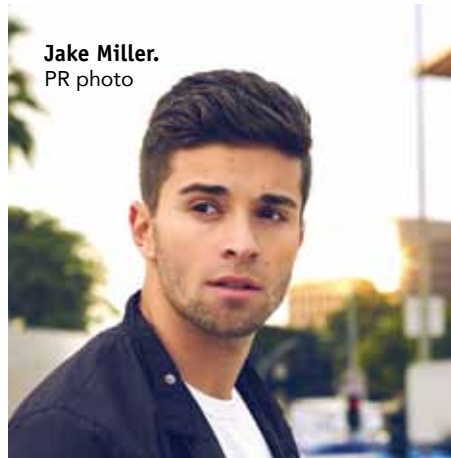
There is a \$10 suggested donation to Market Days. Visit Northalsted.com.

Following is a full schedule of entertainment.

Saturday, Aug. 13

North Stage at Addison

- 1 p.m.: Lakeside Pride Jazz Orchestra
- 2:30 p.m.: The Gingers
- 4:30 p.m.: Diana King
- 6 p.m.: Chicago's Hottest DJs
- 8:30 p.m.: Sir the Baptist



Jake Miller.
PR photo

Aldine Stage

1:30 and 6 p.m.: The Cabaret Project



Deborah Cox.
PR photo

Sunday, Aug. 14

North Stage at Addison

- 1 p.m.: Drag revue
- 3 p.m.: Girl Power Night
- 5 p.m.: FHB
- 5:10 p.m.: Kaycee Ortiz
- 5:45 p.m.: Alex Newell
- 6:45 p.m.: Autograf (DJ set)
- 8 p.m.: DJ Ryan Kenney



Alex Newell.
Photo by Ricky Middlesworth

Nissan Innovation Stage

- 1:30 p.m.: Sidewalk Chalk
- 3 p.m.: Windy City Cowboys
- 4:30 p.m.: Drag revue
- 6:30 p.m.: Rod Tuffcurls and the Benchpress
- 8:30 p.m.: 16 Candles

Aldine Stage

- 1:30 and 3:45 p.m.: The Cabaret Project
- 6 p.m.: Amy & Freddy



Amy & Freddy.
Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

Nissan Innovation Stage

- 1:30 p.m.: Jake Miller
- 2:45 p.m.: Slo 'Mo
- 5 p.m.: King
- 7 p.m.: Lez Zeppelin
- 8 p.m.: Chicago's Hottest DJs

Belmont Stage

- 1:30 p.m.: Drag Revue
- 4:15 p.m.: ABBA salute
- 6 p.m.: Lizzo
- 7:30 p.m.: La Bouche
- 8:45 p.m.: Deborah Cox

Belmont Stage

- 1:30 p.m.: Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
- 2:30 p.m.: Wedding Banned
- 5 p.m.: RJD2
- 6:15 p.m.: Catfight
- 8 p.m.: Erika Jayne
- 9 p.m.: Boy Band Review



Back to School

School Supplies Drive

Its time for kids to go back to schools and Chicago Survivors needs your help! We are running a school supplies drive to benefit families around Chicago who have lost a child to violence.

Please donate school supplies or money if you are able!

Checks can be made out to Chicago Survivors and should note "Back to School" in the memo. Or donate online at <http://www.chicagosurvivors.org/donate/> and just put "Back to School" in the comments.

All Donations are needed by August 15th and can be dropped at our office- 5600 S Woodlawn Ave, Chicago. For more info or to coordinate a pick up or drop off please call Siu at 312-501-1467.



- Backpacks
- Loose leaf paper - wide rule and college rule
- 1 subject spiral notebooks
- 3 subject spiral notebooks
- Composition notebooks
- Graph paper
- Thesaurus
- 2 pocket folders with 3 hole prongs
- 1-1/2 inch three ring binders
- 5 tab dividers
- Small pencil sharpener
- Pencil case with zipper
- No. 2 pencils
- Pens - red, black, blue
- Highlighter
- 8 pack Crayons
- 24 pack Crayons
- 3x5 index cards
- Compass
- Protractor
- Rulers
- Large glue stick
- Frisker scissors
- Add & Subtract flash cards
- Multi/Division flash cards
- Large eraser
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- Large box of Kleenex disinfecting wipes
- Paper towels

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Silas Howard.
Photo courtesy of praytell

'Transparent' director talks 'More Than T' documentary series

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Beginning with a brightly animated title *Trans 102*, a nearly two minute Public Service Announcement (PSA) released in late June contains a cast of celebrated transgender and gender nonconforming individuals representing the full scope of the community's beautifully multifaceted spectrum.

They each deliver a collage of voices to a succinct, powerfully written message sometimes highlighted by a perfectly placed graphic emphasizing both its biting satire and serious import.

"Bathrooms!" One transgender individual begins by mimicking the fear-inspiring tone used by far-right groups such as The American Family Association (AFA) who, aside from their usual pogrom of tearing up the First Amendment in favor of public mobilizations to boycott and thereby censor television sitcoms, dramas or commercials featuring positive LGBTQ characters, have made bathrooms their top priority.

"How does this keep coming up?," another star of the PSA asks who clearly has better things to talk about.

"You've been sharing bathrooms with us since ... always!," two others state.

"Every year, some fool tries to trick people into thinking this is an issue and somehow thinks the way to protect people's privacy in bathrooms is by policing them," the script continues. "The biggest irony is that their solution will create the very thing that they're trying to stop."

"It would put me in the women's bathroom," a handsome transgender man declares. He and a circle of animated arrows point to his face with—enthusiastically perplexed at the irony and sheer silliness of the notion that legislating transgender people out of bathrooms is somehow rational.

The PSA stands in stark contrast, both in entertainment value and stark reality, to a black-and-white advertisement released in 2015 by the organization Campaign for Houston—which, at the time, was fighting against the transgender restroom positions in the Texas's city's Proposition 1.

The video portrayed a faceless cisgender male confronting a terrified little girl as she exited a bathroom stall underscored by music that could have been lifted from the trailer to a snuff film.

The *Trans 102* PSA—designed to deliver common sense rather than a cold sweat—was written by the Emmy-nominated *Her Story* co-creator, writer, actress, activist and rapidly rising star Jen Richards and directed by celebrated and award-winning writer and director Silas Howard whose credits include the hit Amazon TV series *Transparent* and feature films including 2002's *By Hook or By Crook* which

garnered multiple awards on the international film festival circuit and 2012's equally lauded *Sunset Stories*.

It is a tantalizing preview of things to come as Howard and Richards prepare to launch *More Than T* in late summer/early fall on, as yet, undisclosed platforms.

More Than T is a series of documentaries detailing the lives of six everyday transgender individuals (plus one mentor) across the country who, despite the tremendous obstacles they have surmounted, are making a positive difference in their communities. The *Trans 102* PSAs will accompany the documentaries as their own stand-alone pieces.

Howard and Richard's involvement with *More Than T* has its genesis in The MAC AIDS Fund (MAF)—a mission of the hugely successful cosmetics line "to partner with the bold, the visionary and the brave who confront the [AIDS] epidemic in countries and communities where people are most neglected, off the radar and at highest risk. MAF funds innovative programs that deal directly with the most marginalized, stigmatized and under-heard victims."

MAF is funded by 100 percent of sales from MAC's VIVA GLAM lipstick and lip gloss. In 2016, MAF launched a specific initiative targeted towards providing economic empowerment and services for the transgender community.

Towards the end of 2015, MAF representatives had reached out to Howard for conversations about the project. *More Than T* was the result.

Howard chatted with *Windy City Times* by phone about *More Than T* and his hopes that it will change what has become an entirely self-serving political but dangerously antagonistic narrative about the transgender community.

Windy City Times: What was your reaction when MAF first approached you about the idea?

Silas Howard: I was over the moon about it. As a product, MAC has a lot of enthusiasm from the community and The MAC AIDS Fund has good street cred. All of the focus on trans and gender nonconforming [individuals] in the media doesn't always translate to support for the trans and gender nonconforming community and this felt like a real opportunity to really take [MAF's] idea and bring support into all of these organizations that I and people I know have used.

I also was impressed that they wanted to bring in a trans director because I think that, as the Emmy-nominated *Her Story* showed, it is very radical to tell the stories authentically and it creates an opportunity to reach more people. *Her Story's* authenticity in every frame and specificity makes it universal. [*More Than T*] is also chance for us to talk about our lives in richer detail—that we aren't just in a bubble of transness only. We do all these other things

and we can view all these things through a trans experience as an added value.

WCT: In an interview last month with *Windy City Times*, Jen Richards said, "We're taking for granted that there's a little bit of knowledge out there about trans people and we're going to push that conversation a little further." Jen is as brilliantly clever as she is a tremendously gifted writer. Can you talk about the creative process between the two of you both with the documentaries and the PSAs?

SH: I am such a fan of Jen's as well. She's incredible. So I asked MAF if I could bring her on. I really appreciate her voice in the world and her experience with navigating really tricky things. In my life, I walk through all kinds of experiences. She has a grace that accompanies that whip smart intellect and observational power. She and I spent a lot of time casting. On the doc series, we honed in on these lives that were rich in terms of the work that everyone did. All of the six people are in service; one's a minister, one's a defense attorney, one works for the oppressed. Everybody is working to make the world better for all the other communities around them.

We felt like we really needed to hear these stories. I think, more than ever it is politically urgent that these authentic stories of compassion get out into the world. We desperately need to look at the intersections of our identities, instead of constantly letting ourselves get separated out which happens so easily in this country, especially right now. The *Trans 102* PSAs have a rock star cast of icons, activists, actors, writers and filmmakers in our community who add a lens of humor. There is a huge trust and generosity from everyone involved. Jen wrote the scripts, added humor where appropriate, gravitas when needed and made it inviting in a "we're on this planet together and trying to figure this out" approach rather than "we're trying to educate you."

WCT: That is very clear with the first PSA on bathrooms which is so different in style and message than the far right's productions of *Last Bathroom on the Left*. What's the reception been like so far?

SH: Very positive. We got some great write-ups and press. People definitely enjoyed it. As a short teaser of the larger project, it was a nice surprise that people responded so well.

WCT: Do you think *More Than T* will have a similar positive effect, not only socially and politically?

SH: I would hope so. I am a very political person. I just keep thinking of recovering our humanity from the way that, for want of a better word, capitalism divides it up and commodifies everything. I personally feel we can use identity as a way to prevent it. That's what I feel these six people that we focus on are

doing. They just wanted to live and love and feel at home in their own skin. Everyone in this series has come through so many obstacles and yet feel lucky to have gotten where they are. They are reaching out to help others get there and realize the importance of that. They are driven by compassion and this idea of being of service to others. That is the most consistent voice in the doc. series. The [*Trans 102*] pieces are a way of giving information that does not short change human stories for politics.

WCT: Yet personal stories have helped change political minds. They were effective fighting "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and The Defense of Marriage Act.

SH: Exactly—but there also has to be an element of humor. We all know humor because that's how we survive. But a lot of times, when people are telling our stories, they don't touch on that. I feel an otherness so often with certain documentaries made from outside where there is a focus on one approach. I feel like laughing is how people connect to a moment whether they want to be or not.

WCT: How did you go about finding the individuals for the documentaries?

SH: It was a real collaboration with The MAC AIDS Fund, praytell [a PR agency], Jen Richards and myself. They gave Jen and I a lot of creative freedom to cast the way we wanted to. We spent a lot of time pulling together a diversity of people. For me, I was looking for these really inspirational lives who just happened to be trans. Even our homeless youth who are working with other people like helping Vietnam Vets find their voices.

I mean, here are these youth who are dealing with so many different levels of oppression and yet they are reaching out to others. That is such a powerful story. It was a challenge because I had a day and a half with my cinematographer and producer to find these moments where people tell the stories that they wanted to. I really didn't go at it with a list of questions and an agenda. I tried to just collaborate with each of the subjects. I spent a couple of days with each of them, hanging out and talking ahead of time and letting the story come out of the most authentic place. Their generosity was a high honor for me.

WCT: The trans community has so much to teach even fellow members. In putting *More Than T* together, what have you learned about the community that you didn't know before?

SH: My mind was blown. I teared up, my cinematographer teared up. I was inspired by each person's resiliency and their going above and beyond for others. I think each piece has its own organic theme about the art of living. For me, I was so drawn to each person and their individual, creative way of reaching out to the world.

WCT: You have experience in a lot of film mediums—features, television, commercials, music videos. How does helming a documentary series like this compare?

SH: I was doing this series while I was doing season three of *Transparent*. With the documentary, in terms of analyzing a scene, I am not walking in with an agenda. I approach each person with "what are the things we are going to explore together?" but then there is an air of discovery. The gift of this series was allowing me to go right to these inspirational people who I feel like don't get as much recognition. It's a treat for all of us to get to know them and see what we can discover in the process. My crew was so blown away and that added to the magic.

WCT: What do you hope viewers of *More Than T* come away with?

SH: That these are people I want in my life. Not because "they are so different" but because "I am inspired. They are amazing people." That's the scope of their lives, the generosity of their hearts and their humor, even coming out of difficulties. It should both inspire people and connect them.

For more information on The MAC AIDS Fund, visit MACAIDSFund.org.

Chicago Sky's Delle Donne opens up about lesbian relationship

BY ROSS FORMAN

Elena Delle Donne grabbed the national spotlight on Wednesday, Aug. 3 focused on her off-the-court life: in a two-page feature story that appeared in the August issue of *Vogue*, Delle Donne confirmed for the first time that she is in a same-sex relationship with Amanda Clifton



Elena Delle Donne.
Photo by Ross Forman

and the two will be married.

Delle Donne was the Chicago Sky's first-round draft pick (second overall behind out lesbian Brittney Griner of the Phoenix Mercury) and was the 2015 WNBA MVP. Delle Donne is a three-time WNBA All-Star.

The *Vogue* story states, "Elena divides her time between traveling with her team, the Chicago Sky, and her family's home in the rolling green landscape of Wilmington, Delaware. She and her fiancée, Amanda Clifton, keep apartments in both Chicago and Wilmington."

Delle Donne, 26, has long been outspoken about the inclusion of lesbian and bisexual players in the WNBA.

She is in Rio, eyeing gold with Team USA at the 2016 Summer Olympics. Delle Donne told media at the Olympics, "Vogue just did a very in-depth article and for those that are very close to me, they know Amanda very well. [It was] one of those articles where they came into my home and spent a couple days with me and Amanda is a huge part of my life. To leave her out wouldn't have made any sense. I've been with her for a very long time now and people who are close to me know that."

Clifton played basketball at Illinois State University and is now a director at of De11e Donne Academy, the basketball camps by the WNBA superstar. Clifton is in Rio, too.

Delle Donne apparently proposed to Clifton as Clifton last month posted photos on Facebook of the proposal with Clifton answering, "I obviously said yes!" to Delle Donne's "Marry

Me?" sign.

"Elena Delle Donne is a great representative for her country, her sport, and female athletes in general. I'm happy for her and fiancée, Amanda Clifton ... now go get that gold in Rio," said Linda Bache, the owner/GM for the Chicago Force women's football team.

Julie Colwell of Chicago tagged the news as "Fantastic."

"The Olympics and a wedding ... a great year for Elena. Let's hope there is gold at both events. Love always wins," Colwell said.

Robin Lee, who runs a sports memorabilia website geared for female athletes (www.girl-jocks.com), said it was "wonderful to hear" about Delle Donne.

"Good for [Elena] for being true to herself," Lee said. "The reigning WNBA League MVP, on the eve of the world's largest and most prestigious sporting event, quietly declares who she is. This simple grace is another reason to watch and admire Elena Delle Donne."

Alex Chambers, who lives in Arizona, has attended hundreds of WNBA games and even wrote a book about the league, said Delle Donne's news hopefully will inspire more athletes in the WNBA to already be out before they even come into the league, thus leaving the only thing to focus on is their game."

Michael Erwin, the president of the predominantly gay Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), said Delle Donne is now, without question, "a role model for many young and old LGBTQA athletes."

Sue Laschinski, who lives in suburban Chicago, added the Delle Donne "will have a huge impact on young girls as she is embracing who she really is [as] an individual. She is a great role model."

Second City Tennis Classic Aug. 12-14

Second City Tennis is holding its annual Classic Tennis Tournament Aug. 12-14 at the Midtown Athletic Club as well as Lakeshore Sport and Fitness.

Registration continues through Friday, July 29.

This will be a tournament with five divisions of abilities from beginner level (D) to advanced level (open). Players can register for singles and/or doubles. Although there isn't a separate women's division, women are encouraged to participate.

Also, the tournament banquet will be Saturday, July 30, 7-9 p.m., at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

For more information about the tournament, go to the tournament website at SCTClassic.com.

'Olympic Gear Party' fundraiser Aug. 20

The AFC Sirens will host a special fundraiser to benefit its sponsor, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC), on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2-5 p.m., at The North End, 3733 N. Halsted St.

Admission is free.

A percentage of the sales of MillerCoors products will benefit the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

See "Olympic Gear Party: Diving & Wrestling Gold Edition - An AFC Sirens fundraiser" on Facebook.



DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

BY MARC 'MOOSE' MODER



Mapping out your Market Days with Moose

Northalsted Market Days—second only to Taste of Chicago for city fests in scope and scale—is our city's *real* Pride Fest, if not in name, then in every other way. While "Pride" is celebrated in many other towns (and some would say in many better ways), Market Days has no equal. Like music festivals, Market Days can be daunting, and if you're not careful, one can miss a great act if you don't map out your trajectory.

First, if you're here from out of town, go explore on Friday night. It's a great big town outside Boystown. Hit up Downtown, West Loop, River North, Andersonville or Bucktown. Save Lakeview/Boystown/Halsted for Saturday and Sunday, starting on Saturday (post-brunch) with possibly Jake Miller.

1:20 p.m./Nissan Stage*: There's always one teen sensation at Market Days. We all walk past the line of 200 tween girls and scattered twinks and wonder aloud, "Who are they waiting for?". The answer this year will be **Jake Miller**. With looks that exceed Bieber's and skirt Jonas' (pick one), plus some talent to skim both, he's a dreamy all-in-one rap/pop/folk nugget. His new single, "Overnight," gets him more into Zayn territory and that sounds promising. (*Nissan stage is Roscoe and Halsted)

4:30 p.m./North Stage at Addison: You may know **Diana King** from her hits, "Shy Guy" and her classic cover of "I Say A Little Prayer," fea-

tured in My Best Friend's Wedding, but Ms. King has a sweet catalog of pop, reggae and soul to get to know. Let's just pray she leans toward the remix of "Little Prayer" to please the queens who still know that mix better.

6 p.m./Belmont Stage: Just hunker down here for a bit. We start with hip-hop/soul star **Lizzo**, who is hitting that Nicki Minaj sweet spot in the 'hood right now and will not disappoint. Soon, you will be saying you "saw her when." '90s stars **La Bouche** and **Deborah Cox** follow right after, bookending the decade with early euroclub vs. pre-millennium soul and house. It does have to be said La Bouche singer Melanie Thornton died in 2001, with singer Sophie Cairo now filling in, so if you need to break for a brat, don't miss the powerhouse, Cox.

What can I say about Sunday? You might come see yours truly spin our **Tea Dance (Tea in A'ville)** party at the Nissan Stage, 3-6 p.m. It will be the biggest party that day, but I might be biased.

5 p.m./Belmont Stage: I will say I won't throw you a look if you have to sneak away for the amazing DJ/producer **RJD2**, as he is far cooler than me, but unless you're hooked, start making your way to the **North Stage at Addison** for the 5:45 p.m. set by disco breakout star, **Alex Newell**, who's put out one brilliant song and EP at a time over these past few years. Think a more club-oriented Shamir or a new, shiny Sylvester: All gender-fucking and falsetto realness.

6:15 p.m./Belmont Stage: If Glee's not your glee, stay south for the stunning party that is always Catfight. Rival only to 16 Candles (and Rod Tuffcurls, same time, Roscoe Stage) in fan enthusiasm and cover band perfection, imagine all your favorite female rockers rolled into one, times ten.

8 p.m./Belmont Stage: Now the eight o'clock slot creates issues. You could go see our friends **16 Candles** at 8:30 p.m. at Addison. They are always a massive lovefest of '80s rock that brings all the boys to their yard, but at Belmont you have the magnetic **Erika Jayne**. Not only is she the biggest breakout star of any Bravo show in years (Real Housewives of Beverly Hills), but unlike her show contemporaries, she can sing and perform for real. She's filthy, she's gorgeous and there's not one sleeper song in the bunch.

Check out Moose at "Moose the DJ" on FB for more info on Sunday's Tea Dance set.

Tomlin to get lifetime award

Lily Tomlin will be the 53rd recipient of the SAG Life Achievement Award for career achievement and humanitarian accomplishment.

The honor will be bestowed Jan. 29, 2017, at SAG-AFTRA's 23rd annual SAG Awards.

Out actress Tomlin was nominated for an Emmy last month for a second consecutive year for her role on Netflix's comedy *Grace And Frankie*. She also earned an Oscar nom for her first feature film, Robert Altman's *Nashville*.

'Sexy Liberal Comedy Tour' in Chicago Sept. 10

The 2016 Sexy Liberal Comedy Tour—with Stephanie Miller, John Fugelsang, and Fran Callier and Angela V. Shelton (aka Frangel-la)—comes to the Chicago Theater, 175 N. State St., on Saturday, Sept. 10, at 8 p.m.

Miller's comedy album, *The Best of Stephanie Miller's Happy House, Volume #1*, debuted as the number-one Comedy Album on Amazon, iTunes and Google Play. It blasted on to the Billboard charts Feb. 18, 2015, at number two, dubbed by the influential industry magazine as its "Hot Shot Debut."

See Ticketmaster.com.

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Fig & Olive; Taste of A'ville coming up

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Elegant Gold Coast restaurant **Fig & Olive** (104 E. Oak St.; FigAndOlive.com) is still bringing the goods, this time with its summer menu.

Watermelon and asparagus are among the items emphasized on Fig & Olive's current menu, available through late September.

Things started off well with a raspberry mojito that was just on the right side of tartness—and I thank the server for steering me away from another drink (First Light) that sounded promising but turned out to be bland (thanks to a small sample he brought me).

Even the bread stood out, as the rosemary focaccia was served with olive oils from Portugal, Spain and Greece, and the tomato-watermelon gazpacho (with squash seed and basil olive oil) was an incredibly refreshing appetizer.

Rosemary was a key part of the savory lamb chops as well; I also enjoyed the ricotta gnocchi served with it, although I could've done without the braised honey eggplant. (Strangely, it didn't seem to add anything.) The conclusion of the meal



Lamb chops at Fig & Olive.
Photo by Andrew Davis

was, for me, the best part, as the chocolate fondant was a bowl of fudgy goodness accompanied by candied orange and vanilla ice cream.

Add some cool chillout music courtesy of a DJ, and it was a very tasteful (and tasty) experience.

Taste of Andersonville Aug. 10

The annual Taste of Andersonville Dinner Crawl will take place Wed., Aug. 10, 6-9 p.m.

The crawl allows guest to enjoy returning restaurant favorites, find new spots to dine, and meet neighbors and friends along Andersonville's business district. Taste of Andersonville participants can choose from one of two dining routes: the vegetarian-friendly SALT Route or the PEPPER Route, both filled with bites from a variety of host destinations, including newcomers Goddess and Grocer, TrueNorth, Rare Bird Preserves at the Andersonville Farmers Market, Appellation and Elixir Andersonville.

Tickets for the evening are \$30 for each route in advance and \$35 on the week of the event (if available). Alternately, guests can dine on both routes with the THE WHOLE ENCHILADA ticket package, which is \$55 in advance and \$65 the week of the event (if available).

For more details, see Andersonville.org/events/taste-of-andersonville-dinner-crawl/.



From top: Appellation's summer squash gnudi, Goddess and Grocer's chili maple bacon and True North's kale banana smoothie.

Photos courtesy of Andersonville Chamber of Commerce

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Bear Den's Market Days Kick-off with DJ Tracy McKenzie



Thu., Aug. 11, 9 pm
Big Chicks,
5024 N. Sheridan Rd.

Bring your dancing shoes to kick off this fun weekend in Chicago! Drink Specials: \$3 Miller Lite pints, \$4 Blue Moon, Summer Shandy, Vallejo & Rosa pints, \$4 Absolut cocktails and \$5 Jack Daniel's cocktails Kitchen open until 10 pm.

Off Center: New Live Music Series at Center on Halsted



Fri., Aug. 12, 7-9 pm
Center on Halsted,
3656 N. Halsted St.

New monthly performance showcase, featuring live sets from LGBTQ community musicians in a laid-back setting. Scott Free (Homolatte), Joe Stevens, and R.D.A. as Osiris. Cash bar available. \$10 suggested donation benefitting COH's Homeless Youth Initiative.

**Distrkt C
(Powered by Scruff)**



Sat., Aug. 13, 11 pm
Manhole

3210 N. Halsted St.

Distrkt C's Red Light Tour makes its way to Chicago! Featuring DJ Manny Lehman and porn stars Rikk York and Oscar Mejia. Suggested dress: leather, uniforms, jocks, singlets, jeans.

TatTuesday's 2nd Anniversary



Tue., Aug. 16, 9 pm
Replay Beer & Bourbon,
3439 N. Halsted St.

Celebrate two years of Chicago's inkiest, kinkiest night with your friends at Organized Grime, bartenders Ryan Willing and Keith Stryker, door whore Richard Streetman and foul-mouthed host Debbie Fox.



Edie.
PR photo

Zumanity's Edie at Davenport's Aug. 18

Drag sensation Edie—who just marked her 4,000th show as the Mistress of Sensuality in Cirque du Soleil's show Zumanity—will perform at Davenport's Piano Bar & Cabaret, 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave., on Thursday, Aug. 18, at 8 p.m.

The showgirl will sing and dance her way through an hour of original songs and standards all with her signature '60s go-go style.

Tickets may be purchased at reservations.DavenportPianoBar.com.



SIDETRACK

Six stories from the second anniversary of OUTspoken!, Tuesday, August 2.

Photos by Jed Dulanas



"I'm killing myself for this tour because there's a painting I want!"—**Barbra Streisand** explains the impetus behind this latest concert tour.

Singers typically have a short professional life. Beverly Sills sang her last opera at 51, while Callas was only 42. When Judy Garland died at 47, she had already been in vocal decline for several years. And let's not even talk about Liza. So my expectations were tempered walking into "Barbra: The Music ... The Mem'ries ... The Magic." After all, Streisand is 74—and yet, what you get is roughly 85-90 percent of prime Babs.

Yes, there is a discernible roughness to anything above a B. But rather than avoid these notes, she faces the challenge head-on and quite often, the risk pays off. The set list includes a number of songs she's never sung publicly before. A highlight is the sequence from *Funny Lady*. Her tackling of the breakdown scene of "How Lucky Can You Get" was staggering. OK, the gratuitous "Fan-fucking-tastic" is questionable, but it got a cheer—as expletives often do. Barbra also shares the stage for duets with a number of people who appear on her upcoming *Encores* CD. In LA, she had **Seth MacFarlane**, **Jamie Foxx** and **Babyface** (who sang with her on her 2014 CD, *Partners*). I'm told various special guests will turn up in most cities.

The concert is longer than most of her outings, and she seems to be genuinely relaxed and enjoying herself—although that might be because I went to an exclusive pre-tour event that was solely for "Family & Friends." I was grateful to be counted amongst that elite group, which included people like **Jane Fonda**, **Kristin Chenoweth**, **Darren Criss**, **Marissa Jaret Winokur**, **Rob Lowe**, **Pierce Brosnan**, **David Duchovny**, **Kathy Griffin**, **Sheryl Lee Ralph**, **Melissa McCarthy**, **Jane Lynch** and **Jenifer Lewis**. Since this was a dress rehearsal, there were some mishaps. At one point, Streisand noticed something on the ground. "What's that? It's beads from my dress!" She scurried around, picking up beads and clutching them in her hand—undoubtedly ready to hand them off to her seamstress Anna (who was in the audience, but surely worked through the night). And when she went to exit, the doors at the rear of the stage didn't open. She shrugged her shoulders, laughed and walked back out for her encore ("Happy Days Are Here Again," complete with words on the screen—it was like "Sing Along with Streisand").

I must admit, I enjoy the summer Olympics primarily because we get to see really hot guys in almost no clothing. Even the parade of nations wasn't exempt from that. The Tongan flag bearer (sporting a bare torso) stole the hearts of women and gay men everywhere. **Pita Nikolas Taufatofua**, a 6'3", 32-year-old athlete, will compete in taekwondo. He was slathered with copious amounts of coconut oil. "In Tonga, it's traditional. In any sort of event we use coconut oil," said Taufatofua. Interestingly enough, he was actually born in Australia. Although he lives in Brisbane, he wanted to compete for the country of his father—where, methinks, he'd have far less competition.

Speaking of the Olympics, this week numerous gay men on social media took aim at **Gus Kenworthy**—a name most people have never heard before. He's an openly gay Olympic skier, and he's really hot. And that's why he has a following—if he were losing his hair and had a hump, he'd have no fan base (medal or not). Gus posted a



Tongan athlete **Pita Nikolas Taufatofua** made an (oily) splash at the Olympics. Screen shot

photo with beau **Matt Wilkas** and **Caitlyn Jenner** at an undisclosed party in London. That party was to celebrate the birthday of **Prince Azim**, the son of the sultan of Brunei, a monarch with an anti-gay bent.

The "colorful" prince enjoys having celebrities at his fetes—folks like Janet Jackson, Diana Ross, Mariah Carey, Sophia Loren, Michael Jackson and others have attended in the past (and have been, presumably, well-compensated). But it does beg the question—how anti-gay is anyone with that kinda guest list? Once Gus was informed that this could be a touchy subject with his fans, he deleted the post—but not before it wormed its way through the web. Since then, he's been raked over the coals about how he's let so many people down. When you can find Brunei on a map or tell me any stats about Kenworthy other than the number of abs he has, then you can tell me how let down you are.

Sources say E! is putting I Am Cait out of its misery—and not a moment too soon. I hear the brass only tolerated it because they're in bed with the other Kardashians. Insiders claim there is no fan base for Bruce/Caitlyn. The gays don't care. The women don't care. And straight men don't watch E! What was the final straw? When an African network pulled the show after getting a complaint from a viewer in Nigeria. Once you've lost the Nigerians...

Some celebrated men were having a devil of a time keeping their clothes on. First, we had **Orlando Bloom** paddle boarding with paramour **Katy Perry** in Sardinia. First, let me thank Mr. Bloom—whether by design or simply happenstance—for at least providing us with a semi-fluffed penis. It's the little things, you understand. Really it's his entire body (and that ass) which made it for me—you can see for yourself on BillyMasters.com.

Not to be outdone, **Justin Bieber** risked over-exposure to the sun (to say nothing of the Zika virus) by hiking in flagrante. While I find the Beebes to be much ado about nothing, it's my job is to tell you where you can see him in the buff—which I will admit his body is. And that place would be our website.

When we have a positive story about Orlando, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Before we wrap up, I want to mourn the passing of Youree Dell Cleomili Harris. You probably knew her best as Miss Cleo, professional psychic. In a sad twist of fate, she had colon cancer that apparently spread to her other organs. If only she discovered it sooner. And you can discover all that and more on www.BillyMasters.com—a site that you can find without GPS! If you've got a question, send it along to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Brunei starts importing coconut oil! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Aug. 10

Gwen Stefani: "This Is What the Truth Feels Like" Tour Live Nation is proud to announce Gwen Stefani with special guest EVE. \$29.95 to \$149.95 7:00pm Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre, 19100 Ridgeland Ave., Tinley Park Tickets: <http://www.eventticketscenter.com>

Author Reading: Leigh Stein, LAND OF ENCHANTMENT Leigh Stein in conversation with Alison Bowen. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago (773) 769-9299 <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-reading-leigh-stein-land-enchantment>

TransMale Indulgence TransMale Chicago and Jackhammer team up to bring you TransMale Indulgence: A night for Gay Transmen and Men interested in them second Wednesday of each month. DJ, free pizza at 10pm. Transmale porn. The Hole will be open at 11pm for transmale cruising. 8:00pm - 12:00pm Jackhammer 6406 N. Clark St., Chicago <http://www.transmalechicago.com>

Thursday, Aug. 11

South Loop Farmers Market Sustainable-foods marketplace featuring a partnership with McCormick Place. Thursday through Sept. 29. 4:00pm - 8:00pm On the grounds of the National Historic Landmark Second Presbyterian Church, 1936 S. Michigan Ave. <http://www.southloopfarmersmarket.com>

Author Reading: Blair Braverman, WELCOME TO THE GODDAMN ICE CUBE Chasing Fear and Finding Home in the Great White North 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago (773) 769-9299 <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-reading-blair-braverman-welcome-goddamn-ice-cube>



GWEN YOU BELIEVE
Wed., Aug. 10

Gwen Stefani will perform at Tinley Park's Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre.
PR photo by Daniel Sannwald

www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-reading-blair-braverman-welcome-goddamn-ice-cube

Friday, Aug. 12

Music by the Fountain with Lucy Smith Trio Fourth Presbyterian's Summer Concert Series. Lucy, vocals. Marcin Fahmy, piano. Junius Paul, bass. Free 12:00pm - 1:00pm Michigan and Delaware <http://www.lucysmithjazz.com>

Queer Genre Fiction Book Group Lord John and the Brotherhood of the Blade by Diana Gabaldon. Set during the Seven Years War, Lord John Grey pursues a deadly family secret and a clandestine love affair against an eighteenth-century background of politics, treason, and

battle. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/1742410936048246/>

Off Center, Live Music at Center on Halsted New live monthly music series at Center on Halsted. Live sets from LGBTQ community musicians in a laid-back setting. Inaugural night welcomes Scott Free (Homolatte), Joe Stevens, and R.D.A. as Osiris. Advanced registration is recommended to secure a space Cash Bar Available \$10 suggested donation benefitting our Homeless Youth Initiative 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/OffCenter>

OPALGA's Potluck Dinner Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association. Guests always welcome 7:00pm - 10:00pm Contact organizer for location <https://www.facebook.com/events/647404505412004/>

Rebellious Magazine for Women: Reading + After-Party Come meet the writers behind Chicago's most rebellious feminist publication. The conversation will continue over cocktails at the Brixton, 5420 N. Clark St. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago 773 769-9299 <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/rebellious-magazine-women-reading-after-party>

Neverland kicks off Market Days weekend with Imperial Harem Drawing inspiration from costumes, story, and men of the blockbuster film, 300, Imperial Harem promises to be Neverland's most extravagant event ever. Mexico City-based DJ Alex Acosta will headline the event. \$40 early bird. \$60 at door. More information to come. 11:00pm Metro Chicago 3730 N Clark Chicago <http://www.NeverlandMarketDays.com>

Saturday, Aug. 13

Northalsted Market Days Northalsted Area Merchants Association presents the largest outdoor street festival in the Midwest with a vast array of national talent, unique vendors, arts, crafts, food and drink. Through Aug. 14. 11:00am - 10:00pm Halsted St. between Belmont and Addison, Chicago <http://www.northalsted.com/events/market-days/>

Book Launch Party: When Penny met POTUS by Rachel Ruiz Kids, are you ready for the election? A fun, free event with author Rachel Ruiz, as she reads from her new picture book, When Penny Met POTUS. Then, Rachel will lead you in an activity to design your own campaign poster. 3:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St., Chicago 773-769-9299 <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/book-launch-party-when-penny-met-potus-rachel-ruiz>

Bette: Live at the Continental Baths Handbag Diva Caitlin Jackson pays tribute to the Divine Miss M's legendary cabaret act at the equally legendary Continental Bathhouse in New York City. Features live band and musical director Jeremy Ramey as Barry Manilow. "Chattanooga Choo-Choo," "Superstar" and, of course, "Chapel of Love" done in Bette's inimitable style. \$25/\$20 8:00pm The Acorn Theater 107 Generations Dr. Three Oaks, MI 49107 <http://www.acorntheater.com>

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ) Support meeting to talk about illnesses, symptoms, treatment, doctors, and personal issues such as dating, relationships and work. Every Saturday. 11:00am - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

Sunday, Aug. 14

aChurch4Me Sunday Worship Service A place to find peace, comfort and always

needed prayer. 11:00am AChurch4Me MCC, 7366 N Clark St, Chicago <http://www.achurch4me.org>

Hambingo fundraiser for The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame Hosted by Felicity Metropolis calling out winning balls throughout the night. Someone yells BINGO and gets the opportunity to pick to a prize. There are over 10 chances and games to win. Donate online to help cover the cost of the 2016 Induction Ceremony. 8:00pm Hamburger Mary's 5400 N Clark Chicago <http://tinyurl.com/gvbrmeq>

Monday, Aug. 15

Center on Halsted Ballroom Nights Each Monday evening on the third floor. Free classes first Monday of each month goes into one particular style and subsequent weeks go into execution. No registration required. Students with no experience may join at any time but best early in month. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Tuesday, Aug. 16

Game Night Bring yourself, some friends, and a board game to share. There is also a TV available for anyone who prefers video games. Just bring your own system, games, controllers, etc. This event is free and open to people of all ages. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago

Wed., Aug. 17

Book Launch Party: EQUALITY ON TRIAL, by Katherine Turk Gender and rights in the modern American workplace. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago (773) 769-9299 <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/book-launch-party-equality-trial-katherine-turk>

New book looks at German LGBT life during 1880-1945

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

Clayton J. Whisnant's newest book, *Queer Identities and Politics in Germany: A History, 1880-1945*, is an examination of LGBT life during a time of great scientific discovery as well as changing social and political climates.

According to the book, it explores "the emergence of various queer identities," specifically what it meant to be LGBT in Germany from 1880 to 1945, and the "political strategies pursued by early gay and lesbian activists," drawing on emerging research related to the era.

It also looks at how scientific discovery in the area of sexuality impacted tolerance—or, sometimes, intolerance—in the scientific and medical community as well as society at large during the time period.

Spanning the period between the formation of the homosexual movement and the defeat of the Nazi state the book also addresses the question of how scientific studies of homosexuality may have "opened the door to Nazi persecution" of the LGBT community and particularly gay men.

The book is a follow up to Whisnant's first book, *Male Homosexuality in West Germany, 1945-1969: Between Persecution and Freedom*, which is based on his dissertation.

Whisnant—a professor of history at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina—told Windy City Times he wrote the follow-up at the request of his publisher.

"A lot of new work on the 1920s and 1930s is coming out now, but mostly for a scholarly audience," Whisnant said.

He said he wanted to write a book that was more accessible to a general audience, and specifically in a way that his students would find engaging.

To accomplish that, Whisnant said the book fo-

cuses on "human stories" and some of the "more fun stories," of the time period, while also balancing emerging scholarly research.

"I tried to begin each chapter with an individual who I thought exemplified something I was going to be covering in the chapter," he said.

Whisnant said he thinks readers will be particularly interested in how queer identities emerged during the turn of the century. "The notion of identities is something researchers have been very interested in," he said.

He added there was a perception that only a couple of identities existed; however, in reality, there were several types of identities that have emerged.

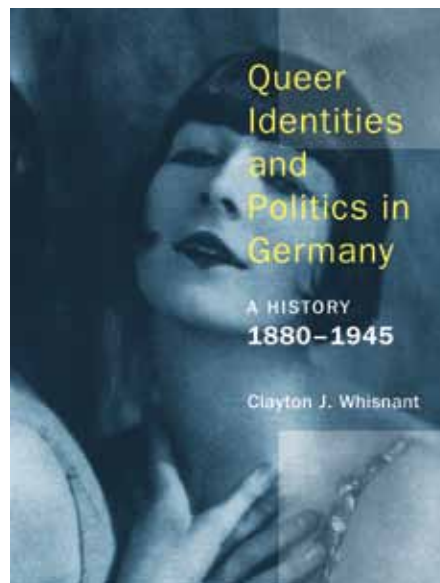
"There are a lot of identities out there," he said. "Identities are flexible and are influenced by a lot of different things. So that became a major theme. I wanted to show the many identities that existed in the subculture, and it worked well with picking people to focus on."

Whisnant said the book also tackles the sometimes-romanticized vision of Germany during the early part of the 20th century as a haven for queer people.

"This idea of Germany in the '20s and '30s being a golden age," he said. "I don't want to dispel that, but it was not the rosy scene we tend to remember."

Whisnant points to the many LGBT-focused publications that were started in Germany's largest cities as an example, saying while there were a plethora of them they often didn't last long, due to censorship laws that were passed with the specific goal of shuttering them.

There were also nearly 150 gay and lesbian establishments operating by the mid-1920s in Germany, which would seemingly indicating a positive climate for queer people, but in reality doesn't tell the whole story.



VIEWPOINTS from page 24

we want them to help us create. We reject false solutions and believe we can achieve a complete transformation of the current systems, which place profit over people and make it impossible for many of us to breathe.

Together, we demand an end to the wars against Black people. We demand that the government repair the harms that have been done to Black communities in the form of reparations and targeted long-term investments. We also demand a defunding of the systems and institutions that criminalize and cage us. This document articulates our vision of a fundamentally different world. However, we recognize the need to include policies that address the immediate suffering of Black people. These policies, while less transformational, are necessary to address the current material conditions of our people and will better equip us to win the world we demand and deserve.

We recognize that not all of our collective

Whisnant said police harassment of the patrons of these establishments was a regular occurrence during that time period as well.

Whisnant said there are parallels that can be drawn between the past and present day as well that he thinks readers will be interested in.

"It's a story of a lot of brave people working hard for this movement, but it took a lot of fortitude and gumption to stick with it," he said. "Maybe it gives a slightly different picture of the past, but it shows us there is a lot of work to be done, there will be setbacks, intolerance, but to stick with it and believe things will get better."

"On a different level, it provides a history of organizing that could be interesting for someone doing that work, to see how it began and to reflect on our own organizational work."

Queer Identities and Politics in Germany: A History, 1880-1945 is published courtesy of Harrington Park Press and distributed by Columbia University Press.

needs and visions can be translated into policy, but we understand that policy change is one of many tactics necessary to move us towards the world we envision. We have come together now because we believe it is time to forge a new covenant. We are dreamers and doers and this platform is meant to articulate some of our vision. The links throughout the document provide the stepping-stones and roadmaps of how to get there. The policy briefs also elevate the brave and transformative work our people are already engaged in, and build on some of the best thinking in our history of struggle. This agenda continues the legacy of our ancestors who pushed for reparations, Black self-determination and community control; and also propels new iterations of movements such as efforts for reproductive justice, holistic healing and reconciliation, and ending violence against Black cis, queer and trans people.

The Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of more than 50 organizations, is on Twitter @mvmt4bl and is on Facebook as well.

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NBA pulling All-Star Game out of N.C. over HB2

The National Basketball Association (NBA) is reportedly pulling next year's All-Star Game, scheduled for February, out of Charlotte, North Carolina, over the state's anti-LGBT law House Bill 2 (HB2). A formal announcement is expected soon, Yahoo! Sports reported.

House Bill 2 mandates that transgender people use public restrooms corresponding to the gender listed on their birth certificates. The law also bans LGBT people from North Carolina's anti-discrimination protections, forbids local governments from widening LGBT protections and excludes all forms of workplace-discrimination lawsuits from North Carolina state courts.

LGBT groups praised the move. "Today the NBA and Commissioner Silver sent a clear message that they won't stand for discrimination against LGBTQ employees, players or fans," said Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Chad Griffin in a statement HRC issued with Equality NC. "The NBA repeatedly warned state lawmakers that their hateful HB2 law created an inhospitable environment for their 2017 All-Star Game and other events. Nevertheless, Governor McCrory, Senator Berger and Speaker Moore doubled down on HB2 and refused to undo their discriminatory and costly error in judgment."

"The [withdrawal] of the 2017 NBA All-Star Game in Charlotte came as the NBA took a principled stand against the discrimina-

tory HB2 and the failure to repeal HB2 by Senate Leader Berger, Speaker Moore and Governor McCrory," added Equality NC Executive Director Chris Sgro.

The press release noted that North Carolina General Assembly adjourned its short session earlier this month after refusing to repeal HB2, and it is not scheduled to reconvene until January. More than 200 major CEOs and business leaders signed an open letter calling for full repeal of HB2. In addition, artists such as Beyonce, Bruce Springsteen, Demi Lovato, Nick Jonas and Cyndi Lauper have either spoken out or cancelled shows.

GLSEN Executive Director Dr. Eliza Byard said, "On behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth across the country, GLSEN thanks the NBA for sending a strong and clear message that discrimination is unacceptable.

Lambda Legal Southern Regional Director Simone Bell also weighed in, saying, "The NBA knows that the key to any organization's success—like that of a winning basketball team—is innovation and drive, and that only happens when you are inclusive. The league is a great example of how taking a stand for its teams and its LGBT fans against this extreme and discriminatory measure can create a better business climate by insisting on fairness for all families across this country."

"When the chips are down, true allies make the tough call. Right now, the defense of civil rights for all communities must be front and center for all of us."

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