



**STREEP IMPACT**  
 Iconic actress Meryl Streep discusses LGBT roles.  
 Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

**16**

# MARKET DAYS (AND NIGHTS)



PHOTO COVERAGE ON PAGES 18 & 20

Top three photos by Kat Fitzgerlad ([www.MysticImagesPhotography.com](http://www.MysticImagesPhotography.com)); this photo by Ed Negron



**VISIONARY EYE CARE**  
 LGBT-owned business expands services.  
 Photo of Michael Ciszek, Joe Warner and Jamar Holloway courtesy of Holloway

**10**



**MICHAEL LEAHY**  
 Local activist dies at 48.

**7**



**SUNFLOWER PROJECT**  
 Longtime couple fights for change.  
 Photo of Rita Alvarez and Kathy Fitzgerald by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

**6**

# Windy City Times Theatre 2016-17 Series

80%  
Sold!

## HAND TO GOD\*

by Robert Askins

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

VICTORY GARDENS THEATER

"Wickedly funny. Sesame Street meets The Exorcist." – The New Yorker

## I AM MY OWN WIFE\*

by Doug Wright

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

ABOUT FACE THEATRE

The Pulitzer and Tony award-winning play comes back to Chicago!

## HOLIDAY SHOW TBA

DECEMBER TBD

## MEN ON BOATS\*

by Jaclyn Backhaus

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

AMERICAN THEATER COMPANY

"A ROLLICKING history pageant brought to INFECTIOUSLY VIVID life!" – The New York Times

## THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS

Book by David Thompson

Music & Lyrics by Kander & Ebb

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

"Brave, Brilliant & Unmissable." – The Times London

## SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE\*

Based on the screenplay by

Marc Norman + Tom Stoppard

Adapted by Lee Hall

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

The Oscar-Winning romantic comedy blooms onstage!

## PARADE\*

By Alfred Uhry & Jason Robert Brown

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

WRITERS THEATRE

A rare intimate revival of this celebrated musical!

## HIR\*

By Taylor Mac

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

STEPPEWOLF THEATRE

"Four Stars! A dizzying theatrical tilt-a-whirl!"

– Time Out NY

**\$265** for all 8 shows!  
\*Receptions prior to shows!

**ACT NOW!**  
LIMITED AVAILABILITY

EMAIL [AMY@WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM](mailto:AMY@WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM) FOR AN ORDER FORM  
Shows, locations, dates/times subject to change. No requests for alternate dates will be guaranteed.

# WINDY CITY TIMES

## INDEX

**NEWS**  
 Report on LGB youths; column Sunflower Project 4  
 PASSAGES: Michael Leahy 6  
 Conversion-therapy law to be challenged District 211 case 7  
 LGBT-owned eye-care center In the Life: Oussenko 8  
 VIEWS on Victoria Woodhull 9  
 10  
 11  
 12

**ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS**  
 Theater feature: 'Good Person of Szechwan' 13  
 Interview with icon Meryl Streep 16  
 Music: Steele pays tribute to Orlando 17  
**NIGHTSPOTS** 18  
 Market Days photos 20

**OUTLINES**  
 Calendar Q 21  
 Classifieds 22

DOWNLOAD THIS ISSUE AND BROWSE THE ARCHIVES AT [WWW.WINDYCITYTIMES.COM](http://WWW.WINDYCITYTIMES.COM)



online exclusives at [www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)



**THIS AND THAT**  
 THIS director Carl Menninger (left) weighs in on his diversity-focused play.  
 PR photo

### HALL OF FAME



WCT took in out gay YouTube personality Todrick Hall's recent show in Thalia Hall.  
 PR photo

### BIG TIME

Out rapper Big Dipper weighs in on topics ranging from Chicago to the now-cancelled FX show Chosen.

### BUY AND CELL

In Around Chicago, WCT checks out the concessions and memorabilia at U.S. Cellular Field.

### THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Taylor Lautner, Adele and Laverne Cox.

### DOLLY GEE WHIZ



Dolly Parton entertained the masses at Ravinia.  
 Photo by Jerry Nunn

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

# AIDS RUN & WALK CHICAGO

OCTOBER 1, 2016

5K RUN / 10K RUN  
 5K WALK



Band together to erase stigma.  
**Register today at [AIDSRUNWALK.ORG](http://AIDSRUNWALK.ORG)**

#### PRODUCED BY

AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO

#### MEDIA PARTNERS

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

#### SPONSORS



Exelon | Humana | Marathon Sportswear | MillerCoors  
 Public Communications Inc. | Seyfarth Shaw | Starbucks

# Report looks at health-related behaviors of LGB youths

A report, "Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Related Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9–12—United States and Selected Sites, 2015," analyzes the health-related behaviors among LGB youths and their heterosexual counterparts.

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) examined six categories of priority health-related behaviors among youth and young adults: 1) behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence; 2) tobacco use; 3) alcohol and other drug use; 4) sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection; 5) unhealthy dietary behaviors; and 6) physical inactivity. In addition, YRBSS monitored the prevalence of obesity and asthma and other priority health-related behaviors.

Among the results:

—Across the 18 violence-related risk behaviors nationwide, the prevalence of 16 was higher among LGBT students than heterosexual students. Also, the prevalence of 15 was higher among students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

—Across the 19 alcohol or other drug use-related risk behaviors, the prevalence of 18 was higher among LGB students than heterosexual students, and the prevalence of 17 was higher among students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

Among the solutions proposed are reducing the disparities in health-risk behaviors among sexual-minority students by raising awareness

of the problem; and facilitating access to helpful educational, healthcare and evidence-based options. Other suggestions include encouraging respect for all students and not allowing bullying, harassment or violence; promoting parental engagement; and making sure that health classes and educational materials include information that is relevant to sexual minority students and use inclusive words or terms.

According to the 2014 School Health Policies and Practices Study, nationwide in 2014, 98.5 percent of elementary, middle, and high schools had adopted a policy prohibiting bullying on school property; and 90.7 percent had adopted a policy prohibiting bullying at off-campus, school-sponsored events.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation responded to the survey, which marked the first time YRBS asked young people about their sexual orientation. HRC Foundation Senior Vice President for Programs, Research and Trainings Mary Beth Maxwell, said, "This is a call to action to support and protect our young people. From the messages youth receive at their kitchen table, in their classroom, and on prime-time T.V., we all must do more to put an end to anti-LGBTQ stigma."

The foundation noted the survey did not interview trans or gender-expansive teens, and added that Congress needs to pass the Safe Schools Improvement Act, which would require school districts to adopt anti-bullying and harassment policies.

The report is at [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/ss/ss6509a1.htm?s\\_cid=ss6509a1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/ss/ss6509a1.htm?s_cid=ss6509a1_w).

## 18th trans woman killed in U.S.

In Columbus, Ohio, trans woman Rae'Lynn Thomas was fatally shot by James Allen Byrd, the ex-boyfriend of her mother, Renee Thomas.

An official from New York City's Anti-Violence Project said this is the 18th confirmed killing of a transgender or gender nonconforming person in 2016.

Renee said her daughter transitioned 10 years ago. Rae'Lynn's aunt, Shannon, added that Rae'Lynn was a performer who was devoted to fashion.

Several transgender women have been killed recently, including Erykah Tijerina in El Paso, Texas; Deeniquia Dodds in Washington, D.C.; Skye Mockabee in Cleveland; and Dee Whigham in Mississippi.

## Belize overturns anti-sodomy law

The Belize Supreme Court made a historic ruling Aug. 10 in favor of gay activist Caleb Orozco, and has struck down the country's anti-sodomy law.

This is the first case started in the Caribbean and the first case where the sodomy laws have been overturned. It was originally brought to court in 2010, and was heard in 2013.

Orozco, executive director of the United Belize Advocacy Movement, claimed the statute infringed on the "protections of the fundamental rights and freedoms" of the individual that Belize's constitution guarantees.

In a statement, Maria Sjodin, deputy executive director of OutRight Action International,

said, "The court ruling in Belize means that the number of countries that criminalize same-sex behaviour is now down to 72, and hopefully this downward trend can continue. But it is important to remember that laws are only part of what impacts people's lives—the fight to change societies must continue worldwide and this can only happen with strong LGBTIQ movements."

## Covenant House hires Illinois director

NEW YORK—Covenant House has hired Warren K. Chapman as the first executive director of Covenant House Illinois.

As the chief advancement officer at Chicago Lighthouse, Chapman led all advancement activities, including building a marketing and development plan, incorporating social media strategy, and leading the major gift cultivation, stewardship, grant writing, special events and donor-prospecting efforts. Prior to that, as senior vice president at Columbia College Chicago, Chapman led a re-organization of all academic programs and operations.

He has also served as vice chancellor for external affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and has been vice president and national philanthropic advisor at JP Morgan Chase.

Chapman is a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University, and earned his Ph.D. in educational policy studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He serves on the board of the ChiArts High School, the Jazz Institute of Chicago and the Chicago History Museum.

## GUEST COLUMN

BY MICHAEL A. HORVICH



### Is It OK To Label?

The initials GLBTQ reflect a long, successful journey. Once we were "Homosexual." With Stonewall we began being "Gay." Then it got to being "Gay" and "Lesbian." Slowly "Bisexual" was included. (G–L–B). Over time Transvestites and Transsexuals came under the word "Transgender" and "T" was added. The "T" is becoming a lot more visible today, especially with the issue of: Which bathroom does one use (G–L–B–T).

"Q" seems to identify two groups. One is buying back the word "Queer," not as an insult, but used with confidence and self-love and remembering the resolution of the rainbow flag that we will never go back into the closet again.

community events and meetings, it is now a common practice to ask people to state their "PGPs," or "Preferred Gender Pronouns."

Some say that we should not have to categorize or label any of us, gay or straight, and that is part of the problem we face. Ellen DeGeneres, who usually avoids discussing political issues on her TV show, did talk about why we still needed to address marriage between two men or two women as "gay marriage." We do not need to describe "straight marriage."

In the beginning I had trouble referring to my life partner, Gregory, as "my husband." Based on my early coming out, and societal norms of the day, if he was my "husband" that must mean I was the "wife."

"In the beginning I had trouble referring to my life partner, Gregory, as 'my husband.' Based on my early coming out, and societal norms of the day, if he was my 'husband' that must mean I was the 'wife.' And that was not true."

And that was not true. With the passage of time, and laws, and common usage, it feels OK to me to talk about two husbands, or two wives, two mommies or daddies. I have been able to leave the old thinking behind.

I believe that through flexible, open labeling we are able to gain a larger understanding of who

The other is "Questioning," which refers to the need of people, whether young or old, who must figure out who they are, who they want to be, and how they want to express themselves and their sexuality. Being open to possibilities that enable one to question fixed societal beliefs is necessary. (LGBTQ)

Some are now including "I" for "Intersex." Some add "A" for "Allies" or "Asexual" (LGBTQIA). Some also add P for "Polyamorous."

In some cases, people also use GNC, or "Gender-Nonconforming." And at many

we are and that we will also be better able to accept that "we are all one" deserving the respect and privileges of being human. Stereotyping no, but understanding our life through categorizing and labeling is how we make sense out of complicated issues.

Being part of a label shows, in my opinion, inclusion rather than looking the other way and pretending non-existence. So I am pleased to be part of the LGBTQ community and look forward to the addition of other letters to demonstrate the importance of growing one's community.

After a 30-year teaching career, Michael Horvath has been retired for 20 years but has been more than active as an educator, writer, poet, photographer, blogger, artist, jeweler, book binder, lecturer, actor, supernumerary, museum curator, and dementia/Alzheimer's caregiver partner for his life partner Gregory Maire (RIP.) Visit [www.horvich.com](http://www.horvich.com).

WERQ!  
CHICAGO

Friday, Sept. 16, 2016

11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago



@windycitytimes1



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

[www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com)

# Rauner signs bills to help victims of sexual assault

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Gov. Bruce Rauner, on Aug. 12, signed legislation addressing procedures that assist victims of sexual assault.

Senate Bill 3096, according to a press statement, provides sexual assault victims with stricter protections during the evidence collection process and ensures transfer of evidence from the hospital to law enforcement agencies in a timely manner. The legislation, introduced by state Sen. Scott M. Bennett (D-Champaign), is expected to address the rape kit backlog that



Gov. Bruce Rauner.

## Gay man attacked in Logan Square

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Logan Square man said that a group of teenagers attacked him because he is gay.

Levi Frerichs was returning home from a birthday party in the 2600 block of North Spaulding Avenue at about 2:30 a.m. on July 29 when he was assaulted by the group of six teens—all between the ages of 16-19—who were also shouting homophobic slurs, according to DNA Info.

"They didn't ask for anything. They didn't want my wallet. They didn't want my cell-phone," Frerichs said. "They were just taunting me for no reason."

He said that he pushed one of the teens after she threatened to steal his dog, with which Frerichs had been walking. They then intensified their attack.

Eventually, Frerichs got away and the group gave chase. He turned onto Milwaukee Avenue and ran into some acquaintances; the assailants eventually turned around. Part of the chase was captured on video. A woman who was attacked on the 606 trail Aug. 9 recognized one of Frerichs' assailants as her own attacker after seeing the video.

Frerichs reported the incident to police, but told DNA Info that the police had done not yet done any follow up with him. He suffered a black eye and his glasses were broken.

"Despite my shiner, I continue to smile and stay positive," Frerichs said. "That's who I am and no act of hatred or violence will change that truth about me."

DNA Info's story is at <http://dnainfo/2bjGjT3>.

has befallen the state in recent years.

"As a state, we must do everything within our power to ensure victims are supported and that their aggressors are quickly brought to justice," said Rauner. "We stand with the victims of these malicious crimes. This bill strengthens the policy behind evidence collection and gives the state tools to speed up the testing process to ensure victims have the ability to hold their aggressors accountable and get the justice they deserve."

Rauner also signed House Bill 4036, which extends the coverage of the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act to victims of domestic or sexual violence to smaller companies across the state. Under that rule, those individuals would be entitled to time off from work, the length of which is determined by the size of the company.



Affinity Executive Director Imani Rupert-Gordon.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

## Affinity moves to Bronzeville

The group Affinity has moved to Bronzeville, with its new address being 2850 S. Wabash Ave., #108, Chicago, IL 60616.

This new location contains more than 3,200 square feet, is accessible by public transportation, and has a free parking lot and gender-neutral bathrooms.

"We are excited to bring Affinity to the Bronzeville community which is steeped in a beautiful history of Black and queer activism," said Affinity Executive Director Imani Rupert-Gordon. "This move marks a turning point for Affinity. For the first time in several years, Affinity has a space large enough to comfortably

host large meetings, as well as meet all of the needs of all of our peer groups. This move represents a huge step forward for Affinity and the work we will be able to do in the future."

According to its website, Affinity is a social-justice organization that focuses on health and wellness, leadership development, and community building. Our core constituents are Black lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and LGBTQ youth of African descent in the Chicago metropolitan area, although much of its work addresses needs and issues related to the broader LGBTQ and Black communities.

Support for this move was made possible by an anonymous supporter of Affinity.

See [Affinity95.org](http://Affinity95.org).

INTO THE  
20 WOODS 16

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016

7:00 PM–10:30 PM Michigan Time | 6:00 PM–9:30 PM Chicago Time

The Home of Leo G. Aubel and Aaron J. Dennison, Three Oaks, MI

Featuring a menu of signature cocktails designed by

JOURNEYMAN  
Distillery

Dancing under the stars with DJ Sadie Woods



\$150 INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

\$250 VIP TICKETS

Includes special pre-reception beginning at 6:00 PM Michigan Time, 5:00 PM Chicago Time

Sponsor or purchase tickets on-line at [LAMBDALEGAL.ORG/WOODS](http://LAMBDALEGAL.ORG/WOODS)

 Lambda Legal  
making the case for equality

f /lambdalegal

🐦 @LambdaLegal

# Lifetime partners share their bliss with a sunflower

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

The image of the sunflower has always been equated with happiness.

For kids, its popularity is the botanical answer to a dinosaur. Sunflowers regularly dominate childhood drawings hung on kindergarten classroom walls or proudly displayed on household refrigerators. Between the Crayola-colored bright yellow petals atop of a towering green plant, an equally dazzling smile is often included.

However, for two contented life partners living in a quiet Southeast Side neighborhood of Chicago, just across from the Indiana border, the sunflower has become the focal point of a project that began as a way to combat the industrial pollution discharged by the furnaces and refineries that are stacked along the lake-shore just a few miles from their home.

Rita Alvarez and Kathy Fitzgerald have been fighting for change in their city, state and country all of their adult lives.

Their determination to transform careless bureaucracy or equally lackadaisical politicians into the kind of meaningful action that positively impacts thousands of people was how they met and became lovers for now 26 years.

Their home is the very definition of simple comfort which makes use of every inch of its humble space without ever looking cluttered. Even an oven, taken for granted by so many, cannot be found in their kitchen. One counter-top convection appliance and a single burner is all they need.

For Fitzgerald and Alvarez, happiness is not defined by collecting material goods which, in the end are far less sturdy or meaningful than the sunflower plants which line the entrance to their home.

It is defined through the companionship they provide to each other and anyone who touches their lives, however briefly.

When Windy City Times visited, the welcome provided was akin to that of an old friend.

The proud tour of their house was brief, but the story behind the couple who have made it into a place of unending love and the headquarters of a project that they hope will, one day, touch every light and sign post nationwide with the feeling they share was a detailed portrait of devotion.

In 1988, Alvarez began working for the Council for Disability Rights (CDR). Founded in 1970, the CDR "advances the rights of people with disabilities" through promoting "public policy and legislation, public awareness through education, information and referral services."

Their offices have since closed but the organization's website remains active.

By 1990, Alvarez was working tirelessly for the CDR advocating for disability rights and helping people with disabilities fight job discrimination.

"Kathy had become disabled three years before and she would come to the office as part of a grassroots organization of people with disabilities working towards getting things like accessible transportation and curb cuts," Alvarez said.

"None of that existed before the ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] was passed [in 1990]," Fitzgerald added. "The CDR used to host our meetings."

"We didn't really talk but we would cross paths every now and then," Alvarez said. "In February 1990, my executive director, Jo, asked me if I would be interested in going on a trip to Washington, D.C. and acting as a support person for a quadriplegic in a wheel chair. She told me it was going to be big disability rights

action and a march with thousands of people attending. Then she said that she thought the woman I'd be supporting [Kathy] might be gay."

"I was out myself but I never said anything," Alvarez added. "We had a few meetings at Kathy's house and, on March 10, we flew from Chicago Midway to Washington, D.C. I was terrified of flying but I wanted to do it because I knew this action could make a difference."

At the time, getting on the plane was a bigger ordeal than it is today, even without the unwelcome presence and often nasty interference from Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials.

"The airline personnel were so rude," Fitzgerald said. "They would take our wheelchairs to cargo, transfer us into aisle chairs, strap us in and leave us there. There was no privacy. It was not at all comfortable."

"It's different now that they are trained," Alvarez noted. "But, back then, they had very little understanding."

Once Fitzgerald and Alvarez arrived in the nation's capital, they got to know each other through late-night discussions that began almost the moment after they had checked into their hotel.

"The march was quite the spectacle," Fitzgerald recalled. "All the way down Pennsylvania Avenue there were people with all kinds of disabilities."

On March 13, 1990, The New York Times reported that about 150 protestors converged on the Capitol Rotunda to meet with then-House Speaker Thomas S. Foley and, "Other Congressional leaders to demand quick action on the Americans with Disabilities Act."

"When we got there, many of the people who were paraplegics got out of their wheelchairs and crawled up the steps to the Capitol," Fitzgerald added. "It was incredibly emotional. Once we were in, we created a human chain blocking off the public access to the Rotunda. They told us that the police were coming and anyone who didn't want to get arrested should step back."

"I had never been arrested," Alvarez said. "I kept saying 'I can't get arrested.' But it worked out because there were other able-bodied supporters who had been through this before."

The New York Times stated that "More than 100 protestors in wheelchairs were arrested. The process took about two hours."

"There were no buses with wheelchair access, there were no police vehicles that had ramps," Fitzgerald explained. "There was one policeman for every person under arrest who had to walk with us to the police station. They put us in one room. The people that they could, they [handcuffed] and, after several hours they let us go."

Meanwhile, Alvarez had returned to the hotel to help those people who had not been taken into custody.

"I was so worried about Kathy," she said. "But I knew she had done this kind of work many times before."

Fitzgerald added that, locally, her work involved blocking the entrances to Greyhound buses or Metra stations. She was more than used to equally provocative reactions from both the police and the public.

"The whole idea was to make the public uncomfortable enough that they would act," she noted. "Still people getting off the buses would yell at me incessantly."

Ultimately, the public took notice and, finally the politicians.

Fitzgerald, Alvarez, the CDR and thousands like them were victorious when, on July 26,



Rita Alvarez and Kathy Fitzgerald flanked by their mammoth sunflowers.  
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

1990, the ADA was signed into law prohibiting employment discrimination and, in 2015, updated to include enhanced access to public accommodations and services.

In Chicago, there are still occasions that Fitzgerald must fight for a curb cut or remind a business that they have an obligation to provide her with access.

However, certainly in their neighborhood, the couple have found people not only to be accommodating but also enthusiastically supportive when they walk down their local street with their hands locked together in a singular determination that their love be visible.

That love was another significant result of the 1990 Washington, D.C. trip.

"Three days into it, we were sitting in the parking lot in Washington, D.C.'s Chinatown," Alvarez said. "It was a warm evening and we were just reminiscing. I told Kathy I loved her."

"We came home on March 17," Fitzgerald said. "She held my hand under the blanket on the plane and I told her to come home with me."

"We haven't been apart since," Alvarez added.

However, despite their now legally being able to marry, Fitzgerald and Alvarez have their reasons for simply remaining life partners whose love does not need to be endorsed by a piece of paper from the City Clerk.

"Rita is also my personal assistant," Fitzgerald said. "So she gets a salary from the state to manage my care. Until things are different, if we got married, we'd get penalized and we can't afford it."

"If I wasn't Kathy's life partner, she would only be able to depend on somebody for eight hours a day," Alvarez added. "I don't know how people can survive on their own after that."

It is an issue that has been made significantly worse by the Springfield budget impasse and Gov. Bruce Rauner's budget cuts. Even more concerning would be life under a Donald Trump presidency—a man who has made his hatred towards disabled people infamously clear.

"There are people who aren't fully aware of people with disabilities and their place in the world," Fitzgerald said. "Someone like Trump could turn the clock back to that time when people had a negative attitude towards us. He could stop funding so people cannot have care."

"When Gov. Rauner came into office it affected us," Alvarez added. "Kathy's eight hours of care comes through the Department of Hu-

man Service's Office of Rehabilitation Services. Gov. Rauner has said 'no' to paying a single caregiver over 40-hours-per-week. If you need help over that amount of time, you have to find someone else. Before he came into office, I had been Kathy's only caregiver for many years. Other people with disabilities now have to find multiple caregivers. So they are bringing in people they don't know, people who steal from them, threaten them. If they can't get help, then they are stuck."

Yet, if there is one thing Alvarez and Fitzgerald have done throughout their lives together, it is to find a bright side to every situation.

What could be brighter than a sunflower?

"The Southeast Side has, for a long time, been an industrial area," Alvarez explained. "Steel mills, scrapyards; we were right in the middle of the Petroleum Coke [pet coke] controversy. When we first moved here in 1997 we noticed all this residue on the deck and the siding of our house. Kathy has asthma and she was having trouble breathing. We called the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). Someone came over and nothing was done."

Alvarez noted that it was not until the community stepped up in 2013 that regulatory action over the spread of pet coke dust (a by-product of petroleum refining) was taken by the EPA.

CBS reported that, as late as May 2016, residents were still concerned that a series of class-action lawsuit victories won by Southeast Side residents and promises by refining companies to install dust suppression systems had not gone far enough to protect air quality in the community.

"A couple of years ago, we had started planting these mammoth sunflowers," Fitzgerald said. "The kids in the neighborhood loved them and it was then that I started to do some research."

Fitzgerald discovered that sunflowers are not just about a pretty face. They can actually absorb toxicity. Their phytoremediation effect is so powerful that they have been used to help clear radiation in Chernobyl and following the 2011 leak from a nuclear power plant in Fukushima, Japan.

"We have four grandchildren," Fitzgerald said. "I wanted to do something for their generation. These sunflower plants not only clean the soil, they bring back the bees and other wildlife. I wanted to try and figure out a way to spread this information around so other people

PASSAGES

# Michael John Leahy

Michael John Leahy died July 27 at Weiss Memorial Hospital. He was 48.

Leahy worked in manufacturer sales, representing several plumbing faucet companies across the globe.

He was involved in the Chicago AIDS Ride, TPAN and Chicago House.

Leahy was born on April 12, 1968, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Edward J. and Joan (Kramer) Leahy.

Leahy grew up in western Iowa. In his younger years, he enjoyed going to his grandparent's farm near Danbury, Iowa, and taking part in all the farming activities. He attended Spalding Catholic High School in Granville, Iowa and graduated from Tipton High School in 1987. He followed his sales instincts after high school working in sales jobs to earn money for college. He attended Kirkwood Community College and became a graduate from the University of Northern Iowa in May 1991, with a Bachelor of Arts in marketing and sales.

His professional talent later blossomed as he worked with many industry leading kitchen and bathroom hardware companies as a product manager and national sales accounts manager. In working these positions his travels took him to Japan, China and, most recently, Vietnam. He will be remembered for his warm ready smile and kind heart.

He is survived by his parents and brother Steve (Sheryl) Leahy of Madison, Alabama; sons Ryan and Kevin; daughters McKenna and Tara; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family and friends.

Leahy was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Martin and Mary Ellen Leahy; maternal grandparents, Arnold and Eileen Kramer; aunts, Ann Kramer, Mary Leahy and Sally Leahy; and uncle Frank Leahy.



Michael Leahy.

His friends will celebrate his life with a memorial Thursday, Aug. 18, 6:30 p.m. at Unity Church, 1925 W. Thome Ave. A funeral Mass was held Aug. 4 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sac City, Iowa; his father officiated.

Local business leaders have banded together to have a post-memorial gathering at The SoFo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St., where the owners, Mark Robertson and Mike Sullivan, will donate \$1 from each drink (cash bar) to Chicago House, Leahy's intended charity. The organizers of the

memorial are Neil Smith and Ken Bertrand.

The businesses providing food for the event are:

- Lady Gregory's: Martin Courname
- Replay/Elixir: Mark Liberson and Sean Kotwa
- Cantina 1910: Mark and Mike
- Hamburger Mary's: Brandon and Ashley Wright
- Pastoral/Appellation: Greg O'Neill and Ken Miller

Send donations in his name to Chicago House in lieu of flowers. The link is [www.chicago-house.org/get-involved/](http://www.chicago-house.org/get-involved/). Condolences may be sent online to [ArmstrongFuneral.com](http://ArmstrongFuneral.com).

## 'Legacy Live' looks at LGBT history

A new series of LGBTQ programming from The Legacy Project, the Northalsted Business Alliance and the Center on Halsted aims to entertain as much as educate.

The Legacy LIVE series uses art, film, music, discussion and more to explore LGBTQ history with a series of programs.

The series debuted to a sold-out crowd on May 31 with "A Tribute to Billy Strayhorn."

Remaining events include:  
—Wed., Aug. 24: "Remembering Bayard Rustin" will feature a community gathering at the Bayard Rustin bronze memorial on the Legacy Walk in Boystown to commemorate the 29th anniversary of his passing.

This celebration of the gay African-American civil-rights icon will start with a 5:30 p.m. ceremony at the Bayard Rustin bronze memorial at 3314 N. Halsted St. This will be followed by a 6:30 p.m. screening of the movie *Brother Outsider* at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., and an 8 p.m. reception/Q&A at the Center's Hoover-Leppen Theater.

The panel will feature Walter Naegle (Bayard's surviving partner) and John D'Emilio

(Author of *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin*), with Zach Stafford moderating. The sponsors include The Legacy Project, Center on Halsted and Northalsted Business Alliance, in cooperation with presenting partner Affinity Community Services.

The entire event is free. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/remembering-bayard-rustin-tickets-26893165181>.

—Thursday, Aug. 25: There will be a screening of *West Side Story* in Gill Park (at Sheridan Avenue and Broadway) at 7:30 p.m. to celebrate the 98th birthday of maestro Leonard Bernstein.

This event is also free. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-side-story-tickets-26893380826>.

More details are available at [Northalsted.com](http://Northalsted.com) and [LegacyProjectChicago.com](http://LegacyProjectChicago.com).



Walter Naegle, Bayard Rustin's surviving partner. Photo by Erica Demarest

THE BRAD LIPPITZ GROUP presents August Featured Properties



1510 N DEARBORN #501

Wonderful light-filled Gold Coast gem on the top floor of a charming vintage boutique elevator building. Enjoy a spacious skylit floorplan with fabulous south city views. \$849,000



3150 N LAKE SHORE DR #24F

Truly spectacular, total renovation of expansive 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath residence with the most amazing views in all directions of the lake and the city, both day and night. \$799,000



2920 N COMMONWEALTH #9A

With glorious views of the park and lake, this 4 bedroom, 3 bath vintage condominium of a classic pre-war elevator building offers classic elegance and a wonderful floor plan for living and entertaining. \$925,000



3400 N LAKE SHORE DR #2D

Refreshing, beautiful, sunlit residence in move-in condition in prized Beaux Arts building has been totally renovated and redesigned for gracious living and entertaining. 2-car on-site parking included. \$1,295,000



3524 N OAKLEY

Custom designed, light-filled 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home on extra-wide lot in Bell School District in Roscoe Village. 100% move-in ready, with everything finished and designed with style and integrity. \$1,599,000



607 W BUCKINGHAM PL #3N

Spacious 2 bedroom vintage unit on top floor in East Lakeview has sun pouring in and oozes charm at every turn! Wonderful separate formal living and dining rooms, gorgeous granite/stainless kitchen, rear deck overlooking common yard. \$359,000

A proud member and supporter of our community for over 20 years, no real estate broker in the city sells or gives back to our community as much as Brad.



BRAD LIPPITZ

3323 N. Broadway | Chicago, IL 60657  
980 N. Michigan Ave #900 | Chicago, IL 60611  
773.404.1144  
BLippitz@KoenigRubloff.com  
BradLippitz.com



Boutique Real Estate, Worldwide

## The "Firehouse" Residence

4,500 Sqft of Ultimate Entertainment Space!

3921 N. Ravenswood in Lake View  
Chicago, IL 60613  
\$1,295,000



### Finally a property with style and character!

"A true original Chicago Firehouse with 14' ceilings, exposed brick walls, 4,500 square feet of huge open space and 3 original working firehouse doors. This unique home is the ultimate entertaining space! Imagine hosting an event for 100 guests, displaying your art collection, parking your sports cars or having your own personal basketball court. The custom high end kitchen offers a custom 2 keg draft system, sparkling water from the tap and a large deck great for grilling or spending time outside on a nice evening".

- Featured in Curbed Chicago, Market Watch Magazine and DNA Info.

Create your own legacy with new possibilities.



LAURA TOPP  
Top 1% Producer  
Platinum Award Winner  
(773) 419-0076  
ltopp@koenigrubloff.com  
www.lauratopp.com



3921N Ravenswood Ave. KoenigRubloff.com

# Pastors challenge Illinois anti-gay conversion law in court

BY MATT SIMONETTE

An ad hoc group of religious personnel, calling itself Pastors Protecting Youth, on Aug. 11, filed a federal lawsuit against the state of Illinois, arguing that the Youth Mental Health Protection Act infringes on the rights of individuals offering pastoral counseling.

The Youth Mental Health Protection Act,

conversion therapy upon minors answerable to authorities.

The suit, which names Attorney General Lisa Madigan, who is responsible for enforcement of the law, as defendant, says that the law makes no exception for pastoral counseling and related activities, thus placing the state between a pastor and a congregant needing help. In an Aug. 11 press conference at the federal court-



Steven Stultz, John Mauck and Arthurine Wilkinson. Photo by Matt Simonette

which was passed in Aug. 2015, bans so-called conversion therapy that purports to "cure" individuals of their homosexuality from being practiced upon minors.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit include Pastors Steven K. Stultz, Frank Teesdale, Brenda Bravatty and Arthurine Wilkinson. Lead attorney on the case is John Mauck of the Chicago law-firm Mauck & Baker, which specializes in church-related litigation.

Conversion therapy has long been discredited by numerous medical and psychiatric professional associations. The Youth Mental Health Protection Act largely frames the issue as one of consumer protection against fraud, and makes mental health practitioners engaging in

house, Mauck called that "dangerous."

"These pastors want a court declaration saying the law does not apply to them," Mauck said. "The law does not have any specific exemptions for pastoral counseling, so that's why we're seeking the court order protecting them, so they will not be charged with consumer fraud for their teachings that homosexual conduct is sinful. We also are representing young people who don't have a place in our courts but are struggling with their sexual identity and sexual conduct. In particular, they need advice when they are young and their hormones are raging, and they are trying to form an identity. Pastors can help them and want to help them."

Mauck's firm has been looking to challenge

the law since it was originally signed. On Aug. 26, 2015, six days after the bill was passed, a Mauck & Baker attorney told the anti-gay American Family Association's OneNewsNow outlet that it was willing to take on pro bono work against the legislation.

Mauck said at the conference that there he did not know of any cases where the state had intervened after a pastoral counselor had spoken against homosexuality.

"To date we haven't heard of any pastor being charged with consumer fraud," he noted. "Consumer fraud is what's [addressed] in the law.

We know of quite a few counselors who've said that they've stopped counseling about reparative therapy or homosexual conduct, but that's a different section of the law—we're only challenging the section of the law that applies to unlicensed counselors, which are primarily pastors and other religious leaders. So far there hasn't been a case brought that we know of."

The Youth Mental Health Protection Act was sponsored in the House by state Rep. Kelly Cassidy and in the Senate by state Sen. Daniel Biss.

## Out & Equal workshop challenges companies to engage allies

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Jenner & Block has hosted many LGBTQ-related downtown events.

On Aug. 10, the law firm hosted the national LGBT workplace equality and inclusion advocacy organization Out & Equal to present solutions for Chicago-based companies with "How to Effectively Identify, Engage and Leverage Your Allies."

Presented as the third of Out & Equal's Workplace Advocates Midwest Learning Series, the event provided a unique education to both a packed live audience and those taking part in a web-based simulcast that featured strategies on growing the ranks of LGBTQ diversity within a company through effective engagement of straight and cisgender colleagues and the community as a whole.

The panel and its moderator represented some of the most successful and inclusive companies in the city.

Panelists included PepsiCo Senior Finance Manager Gatorade Brand Cory Calvin, AON Director Global Marketing & Communications Phil Clement, Accenture Senior Analyst Strategy Allison Katz and CNA Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications Sarah Pang.

Mesirow Financial Chief Inclusion and Human Resources Officer Toni Cornelius moderated the event.

Each panelist offered ideas for ally engagement presently in use at their companies that were often so innovative, their peers were inspired to suggest them at their own places of work. Everything from creating proud ally badges, to taking part in community events such as LGBTQ job fairs to recruiting support from world famous soccer teams such as Manchester United became part of a wealth of information enthusiastically received by the audience.

"To me, being an ally is something that is not just limited to the LGBT [community]," Katz said. "For other groups across gender, race, social economic groups, the concept of an ally is so important."

Based in London, Clement noted both active LGBT and ally communities.

"The group of allies is really a maturing movement," he said. "The notion of if you're straight there is a role for you and that you are welcome to make mistakes is really something that needs to happen."

For more information about Out & Equal, visit [OutAndEqual.org](http://OutAndEqual.org).



From left: Toni Cornelius, Phil Clement, Sarah Pang, Allison Katz, Cory Calvin and Out & Equal Chicagoland Chair Jim Huberty. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

## WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST

WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST  
5233 N. CLARK  
CHICAGO, IL 60640  
(773) 769-9299  
[www.womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com)



Hours:  
M-T 11-7  
W-F 11-9  
Sat 10-7  
Sun 11-6

Books & Magazines  
Cards & Gifts  
Weekly Storytime  
Frequent Author Events  
Book Clubs

 Tucker, Inc.

ENGAGEMENT RINGS WEDDING BANDS

IS



Donald Strzepek  
Proprietor, community member

JEWELRY FOR ALL OCCASIONS

5 S. Wabash, ste 507  
Chicago, IL 60603

312.263.3315  
[tuckercompany@aol.com](mailto:tuckercompany@aol.com)



# Judge hears District 211 injunction arguments

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A federal judge, on Aug. 15, heard oral arguments as to whether a transgender girl who last year won the right to use the locker room facilities in her Northwest suburban high school can continue to do so while parents and right-wing activists mount a legal challenge.

Plaintiffs in the case, heard by U.S. District Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Gilbert, asked for a preliminary injunction to stop Student A, who, in 2015, won the right in Township High School District 211 to use the school facilities of the gender for which she identifies, from using the girls' locker room while courts hear the lawsuit, which was filed in May 2016.

Schools Alliance also asked to intervene in the case.

Plaintiffs argued that the 2015 determination from federal authorities, which they characterized as a hodgepodge of regulation, constituted a governmental overreach that did not reflect societal or constitutional norms. After that determination, the district settled the matter with the government.

Attorney Jeremy Tedesco of Alliance Defending Freedom said that the determination ultimately violated the privacy of students uncomfortable with having a trans student in the locker room as well.

"The personal notion of privacy ... also falls apart when you exchange an objective defini-

Leiber added that the government was within its duties by releasing updated interpretations of Title IX policy.

"There are no facts that would suggest a court needs to intervene and substitute its judgement for that of the school district," added Michael Warner, an attorney for District 211.

ACLU of Illinois' John Knight said that the plaintiffs were operating with a narrow definition of sex and gender identity and were singling out transgender students, excluding them from full participation in school activities.

"They said they would like to force exclusion of the transgender students, and that's not what Title IX is all about," Knight added.

At a press conference following the hearing,

Illinois Safe School Alliance Executive Director Owen Daniel-McCarter noted that Chicago Public Schools and other districts had done extensive work in ensuring the safety and well-being of transgender pupils.

"It's important to look to them for best practices in this kind of situation," he said.

Tracey Salvatore, a parent with children in District 211 feeder schools, also spoke at the conference, to reiterate that many parents in the community supported the transgender students.

Gilbert will make a recommendation about the motion to Judge Jorge Alonso, who is overseeing the litigation.



Owen Daniel-McCarter (left) and John Knight.  
Photo by Matt Simonette

A group of students and parents calling themselves Students and Parents for Privacy (SPP) filed the suit with aid from two conservative legal organizations, Alliance Defending Freedom and Thomas More Society. It names the Departments of Education and Justice, Education Secretary John B. King, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Township High School District 211, Cook County and the state of Illinois as defendants.

Student A, along with two other transgender students, is represented as an intervening defendant by ACLU of Illinois. Illinois Safe

tion of sex with a subjective definition of sex," Tedesco said.

Defendant attorneys argued that there had been no incidents where any students had reported harm because of the new arrangement that permitted Student A in the girls' locker room.

"There is documented harm to Student A," said Sheila Leiber, deputy director at the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, arguing on behalf of the federal government. "There is no documented harm to any other student here."

## 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](mailto:info@gpacillinois.com) or call 847-920-4722. Also, see <https://www.facebook.com/Gays-AgainstGunsCHI/>.

## 'Nikkei Queer' event Aug. 18 in Chicago

"Nikkei Queer\*: A Workshop on Making Our Spaces LGBTQ Affirming" will take place Thursday, Aug. 18, 6:30-8 p.m., at the Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark St.

Participants will work on recognizing and interrupting homophobia and transphobia and, more broadly, taking on more expansive notions of sexuality and gender. This workshop is open to everyone, including people who have little or no experience engaging with LGBTQ issues. Gender-neutral restrooms will be available.

The sponsors are Invisible to Invincible; Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago, the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society

and the Japanese American Citizens League: Chicago Chapter.

The event and parking are free; RSVP to Ryan Yokota at 773-275-0097, ext. 222, or [RYokota@jasc-chicago.org](mailto:RYokota@jasc-chicago.org).

## 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 and are available by visiting [www.cubalibre.gesture.com](http://www.cubalibre.gesture.com) or calling 312-427-8990.

## 'State of LGBT Health Symposium' Aug. 18

The inaugural State of LGBT Health Symposium will take place Thursday, Aug. 18, 1-4 p.m., at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law's Aspen Hall, 375 E. Chicago Ave.

This symposium will feature a keynote lecture by Karen L. Parker, director of the Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office of the National Institutes of Health, followed by a panel discussion with Northwestern faculty.

Visit [http://isgmh.northwestern.edu/calendar\\_event/state-of-lgbt-health-symposium/](http://isgmh.northwestern.edu/calendar_event/state-of-lgbt-health-symposium/).



## DISTRICT HOUSE

ARTFUL URBAN RESIDENCES IN THE HEART OF OAK PARK

Single-level 3 bedroom  
+ den residences

\$599,900 - \$889,900

**VISIT OUR NEW  
SALES CENTER!**

Open daily 12-6pm  
805 Lake Street in Oak Park

[DistrictHouseOakPark.com](http://DistrictHouseOakPark.com)

Frank Vihtelic

708.386.1810 🏠

[fvihelic@jamesonsir.com](mailto:fvihelic@jamesonsir.com)

**25% SOLD!**

Jameson

Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

RANQUIST  
DEVELOPMENT GROUP





Visionary Eye Care's Michael Ciszek, Joe Warner and Jamar Holloway.  
Photo courtesy of Holloway

# LGBT-owned eye-care business expands service to community

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

LGBT-owned Visionary Eye Care has been serving the community for 20 years at its Andersonville location. Over those years, it has expanded its services in a variety of ways. This month marks the launch of its redesigned and expanded practice to incorporate the storefront next door.

Visionary will also be holding a trunk show and exposition Saturday, Aug. 20, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at its 5222 N. Clark St. location. The show will feature four eyewear designers (141 Eyewear, ic! Berlin, LaFont Paris and Tom Davies), deals of the day and 15-minute discussions with the doctors.

"With this being our 20th anniversary, we thought it was necessary to highlight and showcase who we are as a practice. That's why we decided to do both a trunk show and exposition when we usually only do trunk shows," said Jamar Holloway, co-owner and director of operations.

Visionary Eye Care began when Dr. Barbara Butler and Dr. Michael Ciszek, both Illinois College of Optometry (ICO) graduates, decided to open a private practice in their own neighborhood and within five years the staff doubled in size and the client list grew at an exponential rate.

"We advertised in the gay papers when we first opened up," said Ciszek. "One of our slogans at the time was '50-percent gay-owned, 100-percent gay-friendly.' When we first opened, Barb got hit on way more than I did because some people assumed she was the one who was gay."

"It's been super-important to be inclusive of the LGBTQ community. Our most loyal patients, and often the most fun to work with, were the gay, lesbian and transgender folk in the area. When we first opened, we took care of an amazing transgender woman who'd been treated poorly at a previous office. She became an integral part of our early success, coming in regularly for glasses and contacts until she moved to Europe."

"Being able to be out in a practice seems like the norm now but 20 years ago, it wasn't. I worked for places before opening Visionary that wanted me to tone down the gay. I believe that being out at work and working with the LGBTQ community makes me a more happy, concerned and fulfilled healthcare professional."

Shortly after Butler and Ciszek opened their practice, Holloway joined them as manager/optician. Holloway told Windy City Times that, as an optician, he doesn't hold the doctor title but his role includes (but isn't limited to) doing pre-testing work before the optometrists come into the exam room as well as lab-manager duties.

"Michael and I worked together at another practice after I came to Chicago from Michigan," said Holloway. "He'd just opened Visionary but was working part-time at that practice. After about a year, I decided to leave the practice where we met and work in wholesale for awhile and that's when he asked me to work at Visionary on a part-time basis. After my contract ended with the wholesale company, Michael asked if I'd come on board as the manager here. That was in 1998. Within five years the company had grown so much that I was able to make the move to become a partner in the business."

Butler relocated east in 2002 and, two years later, Dr. Joe Warner joined the practice. Warner's specialties—contact lenses and geriatric optometry—added to the practices' roster of services. Since then, Visionary Eye Care has added medical optometry to its list of services.

"I remember when I first interviewed with Michael in 2004 and he specifically asked if I was comfortable dealing with the LGBTQ community," said Warner. "It was hard to suppress my smile as I replied with a resounding 'yes.' My first two jobs out of residency I was uncomfortable being out with my boss or co-workers, and it only took me a few weeks at Visionary to realize that this is the type of atmosphere I wanted to work in. The best part about being here is knowing that patients can feel the same level of comfort I did, no matter what the situation."

"It's pretty amazing to run a business with two other out gay men and have people accept who you are as a person," said Holloway. "This has given us the ability to focus solely on our patients and grow the business. Personally, I've been able to accept who I am a lot more than if I'd worked at a place where being out wasn't a given."

In order to serve the needs of clients who worked in the Loop, there is a satellite office at 181 W. Madison St. that opened in 2004.

In addition, the partners also do community outreach within and outside of Chicago and

have partnered with ICO to train the college's fourth-year optometry students.

Dr. Jamie Johnson, one of the first interns to come out of Visionary Eye Care's training program, joined the practice after graduation and is now the lead doctor at the Loop location. Dr. Fatima Ibrahim, another ICO graduate and Visionary Eye Care training program participant, was added to the practice earlier this year.

The community outreach initiatives include providing free vision care to Howard Brown Health patients and traveling on VOSH (Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity) Illinois Missions each year to provide remote villages in Central or South America optometric services as well as donated gear such as refurbished

prescription glasses, donated medicines and eye-care devices at five-day commando clinics. Each year, they help about 1,000 people get the vision care they need during their VOSH Illinois Mission trips.

They also donate services to local school programs that support outreach and early childhood eye testing as well as provide \$10 gift cards toward a patient's next purchase for each pair of old glasses donated under their Sawbucks for Sight program.

See <http://visionaryec.com/special/20th-anniversary-trunk-show-exposition/> for more information on the show. No registration is required.



Anthony Martinez.  
Photo courtesy of Martinez

## Martinez named to Equality Council post

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Anthony Martinez, who formerly headed the LGBT-rights organization The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA), has been named as director of communications for the national organization Family Equality Council, which advocates on behalf of LGBT parents and their children.

Martinez will be responsible for creating and implementing an organization-wide communications strategy supporting an array of initiatives and programs, according to a statement from Family Equality Council, and will continue to be based in Chicago.

He was previously TCRA's executive director and participated in the marriage equality co-

alition Illinois Unites for Marriage. Martinez also founded a non-profit, LGBT Change.

Family Equality Council previously named Rev. Stan Sloan, formerly the head of Chicago House and Social Service Agency, as its executive director. "We are eager to welcome such a capable and strategic mind to our growing team," said Sloan. "Anthony brings a wealth of knowledge from his past work and shares my vision of bridging the worlds of people who are in need and those who are able to help them."

Martinez told Windy City Times, "I'm so excited. It's amazing how much the organization does. There has not been a communications director for about three years, so it will be very exciting to bring their work to the forefront. ... [Family Equality Council] is a very robust organization, so I hope to bring a strategic framework that allows it to reach out to communities across the nation."

## Ship named after Harvey Milk

The Harvey Milk Foundation announced that a ship-naming ceremony in honor of Harvey Milk by the US Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus was slated to take place at Treasure Island in the San Francisco Bay area on Aug. 16.

The USNS Harvey Milk will be one of six total ships in the class which will all be named after civil- and human-rights leaders.

Among those slated to speak at the ceremony were San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee, San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, and Harvey Milk Foundation co-founders Stuart Milk (a nephew of Harvey) and Anne Kronenberg.

In the 1970s, Milk became the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in California when he won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

## SUNFLOWER from page 6

would start planting sunflower seeds."

Fitzgerald has begun the process of founding a nonprofit with a huge goal.

"I want to see mammoth sunflower plants growing along every pole in the city and then the nation," she said. "We met with our Alderwoman, Susan Sadlowski Garza, who is just enamored with the idea. We have a website now, a Facebook page and we are selling seeds to raise money. We tell people just to plant the seeds right in the ground. They are amazingly resistant plants. They don't need a lot of water. Once the heads are fully formed, the seeds will emerge. You can harvest those seeds, replant them, or eat them."

The Sunflower Project has already had a positive effect on the neighborhood and is beginning to spread beyond the Southeast Side as the fledgling nonprofit has picked up board members from as far north as Rogers Park.

The couple have even printed signs asking people not to mistake the baby sunflower plants as weeds and to give them every chance to grow to their full potential of up to 12 feet.

"We are telling people to plant them in alleys and other public places," Fitzgerald noted.

"When we spoke to our alderwoman about planting them along Union Avenue in the business district, she was very excited."

"We have a new school opening up four blocks east of us," Alvarez added. "So we are going to talk to the principal about the project."

As close as Fitzgerald and Alvarez live just across from the Indiana state line, it could soon become a multi-state endeavor.

However, Fitzgerald and Alvarez have no plans just to leave it at that. Much like the love they found at the same time they faced arrest in the Rotunda of the Washington, D.C., Capitol building, the heights that their Sunflower Project could reach seem limitless.

"If we can spread the world, we can get a sunflower on every pole in the nation," Fitzgerald said. "Our hopes in doing fundraisers in the fall for next year's planting and information blitz will depend on the amount of money we can raise towards our efforts. It is rather costly to file for the 501C3 but our goal is to raise enough money to get all of that paperwork filed before 2017, unless we are so fortunate as to get big donors. So we are starting out small, then we can move to other countries."

<https://www.facebook.com/cleanair2015/>



Photo by Daniel Kullman

**in the LIFE**  
**Nadia Oussenko**  
 TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN

- **Age**  
39
- **Neighborhood**  
Edgewater
- **Relationship status**  
"It's complicated, [but] technically, single. Love, for me, is always a bit complicated. But isn't complicated love what inspires most artists? I'm no different."
- **Orientation**  
Queer
- **Favorite TV shows**  
Battlestar Galactica, Dexter and Breaking Bad
- **Hobbies**  
"I love partner dancing—West Coast Swing and Brazilian Zouk are my favorites." Cooking and watching Netflix, too.
- **Little-known fact**  
"I used to be a really good bowler. I dated a bowling alley mechanic in [college], so I spent a lot of time bowling by myself. I got kind of obsessive. Now, I'm terrible, [though]."



Still by Anna Marks

Nadia Oussenko has quite the resume, such that, she admittedly is a "Jane of all trades, and finally old enough to be a master of some." She is a photographer/videographer and dance educator, with classroom knowledge, professional stunts, and plenty of on-the-fly work.

"The spring semester is when I do most of my teaching, so my busy season just ended. Now I'm catching up on editing. Also, I'm wrapping up shooting this dance film called 'On Following, Part 1: Negotiating Embrace,' based on my struggle with learning Argentine Tango," said Oussenko, whose 2009 project, "On Falling..." was based on her fear of falling after recovering from knee surgery.

"Now I'm embarking on a three-part dance project about my fear of giving up control. When I first began partner dancing, I was expecting to break all these gender norms and learn to lead. But then I realized that I

couldn't follow [whatsoever], so I got really curious about that."

Most of Oussenko's video work consists of documenting contemporary dance shows for friends. With photography, she shoots weddings, parties, celebrations and more. She also sets up a studio in her apartment for headshots or family photos.

"I'm interested in movement, plain and simple," Oussenko said. "Early on I realized

how much a moving camera could enhance dance movement and how much editing was part of choreography. I wanted to make films that would send viewers on the rollercoaster of movement that I felt while dancing, so most of my early stuff made people nauseous. Now my focus is a little different. I love close-ups, details. A tap of the finger or turn of an eyeball can say so much."

Oussenko was, at age 7, obsessed with the Flashdance soundtrack. The song "What a Feeling" inspired her to dance. She then started choreographing dances and have concerts in her living room. And she sold tickets for 10-cents to the neighbors.

"The rest of my summer will consist of catching up on editing, daily physical therapy, binge-watching Netflix and perhaps finally finishing "Leather Queen," a documentary we filmed in 2011 about my awesome Chicago-based queer performer friend Tamale running for International Ms. Leather," she said.



Photo by Patty Michels

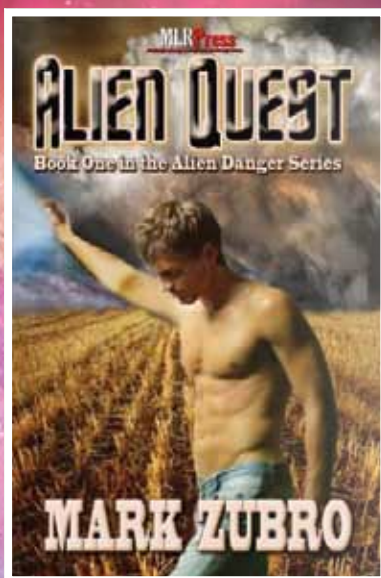


Photos by Daniel Kullman

**THE GREAT LGBT SCIENCE FICTION TRILOGY OF OUR TIME**

"If you're looking for something incredibly well-written, a Sci-Fi romance epic that delivers on every front: action, love, perfect villains and triumph, this is the series you need to read. Even if you're not a Sci-Fi fan (and I'm not), you will likely fall in love with "Alien Dangers". I did."

- Allen @ Sinfully Gay Romance Reviews



**Available as paperbacks and ebooks at MLR Press and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)**

**Available at Unabridged Bookstore, 3251 N. Broadway, Chicago**

# viewpoints



**Nicole  
EVELINA**

## Before Hillary, there was Victoria—an unlikely presidential candidate

Since Hillary Clinton became the presumptive Democratic nominee for President in early June, many people have noted that she's not the first woman to run for President. I'm not sure if she actually claimed to be or not, or if that was an error in the media—she's actually the first woman to run for President on a major party ticket—but the general sentiment is true. Our nation's first female Presidential candidate was Victoria Woodhull, who ran as part of the Equal Rights Party, a party she founded, in 1872.

This relatively unknown woman who doesn't appear in most history books obviously wasn't elected and may have faded into oblivion if it wasn't for Mrs. Clinton's success. While we may not know how many votes she garnered in 1872 (they either weren't counted or were destroyed), we do know a fair amount about the woman who made Hillary's historic run possible. But unlike her modern counterpart, Victoria wasn't bred for a life in politics. In fact, she's just about the least likely candidate.

### The female sex

Victoria Woodhull was female in an age when women had little authority. Women couldn't vote or serve on juries. Personal ambition in a woman was considered evil and there were social taboos against women speaking in public. To call attention to oneself in public was thought unladylike and considered a form of treachery to one's husband or father because when a woman strayed from her proper place in the home, she caused him shame. The one exception to this were Spiritualist mediums, who could speak freely because it was the spirits speaking through them, not their own opinions being expressed.

Of course, many women's suffrage leaders ignored these rules. Victoria happened to be a Spiritualist medium, and she did couch many of her words in the context of conversations with the spirits, but she also wasn't afraid to speak her own mind, even going so far as to call for women to overthrow the government and start a new one that will not only listen

to them, but give them equal rights. But it was still unthinkable for a woman to run for office, let alone the highest office in the land. Fun fact: Victoria's sister, Tennie, ran for a Congressional seat in 1872; she didn't win. (The first woman wouldn't be elected to the House until 1916 and the Senate in 1922.)

### Age

Victoria Woodhull was only 32 when she declared her candidacy and 34 when the election took place. According to the Constitution, one has to be at least 35 to serve as President. Whether or not Victoria or anyone else realized she was in violation of this requirement is up for debate. Chances are good a woman running to for President was controversy enough; it's possible no one bothered to check her age.

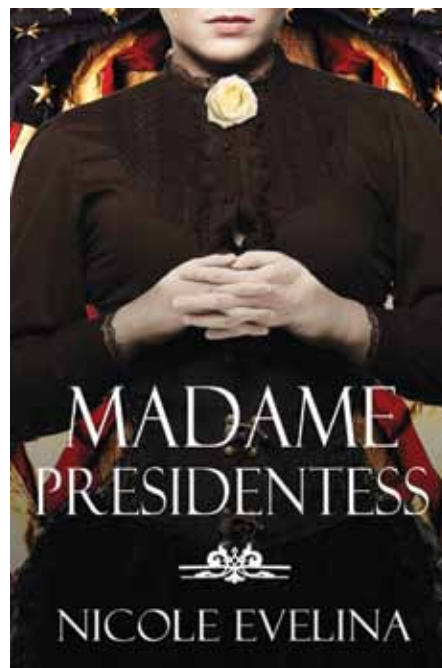
### Humble beginnings

Nowadays we tend to equate politicians with money and many of them have had it since birth. But Victoria was not born to a rich family; she grew up in a small shack in Homer, Ohio, with a father who was at best down on his luck and unemployed, and at worst, a con man who broke laws in several states. Her mother was a religious zealot some called insane. The fifth of seven children (or 10 depending on who you ask) with two out-of-work parents, Victoria learned early to earn her keep. She started working when she was a young girl as a clairvoyant and healer alongside her sister, Tennie, a job which she continued until she was married at 14. Her husband's drinking kept them poor, and Victoria took a job as a seamstress and actress before returning to life as a magnetic healer and medium. A second marriage brought her a more stable living, but not what you would expect from a presidential candidate.

### Experience

Victoria Woodhull certainly didn't have the experience to become President, never having held any kind of governmental or elected position. According to her own recollection, Victoria had at most three years of formal education. How she went from that to being a self-made millionaire by the age of 33 is anyone's guess. After moving to New York in 1868 she was employed by Cornelius Vanderbilt as his medium; it may have been from him that she and Tennie learned the ins and outs of Wall Street, but that has not been proven.

Whatever the source of their financial skill, Victoria and Tennie opened the first female-run (and owned) stock brokerage on Wall Street in 1870. Hailed as the "Bewitching Brokers" and the "Queens of Finance," their firm was a hit despite being extremely controversial. Victoria made a fortune from the Black Friday crash of 1869 and continued amassing funds as her firm



prospered, allowing her to afford to run for President on the merits of her financial success (which sounds a lot like Donald Trump).

In late 1871, Victoria added to her resume when she became the first woman to testify before a sitting House committee. She unsuccessfully argued that the wording of the Fourteenth Amendment already gave women the right to vote. This launched a successful speaking career that carried her to the 1872 election and beyond even though she had little directly applicable experience.

### Will 2016 be the year?

This is a story where we have the benefit of hindsight. We all know the ending. Prophetically, Victoria wrote in New York Herald on November 20, 1872, only weeks after her failed election, "They may succeed in crushing me out, even to the loss of my life, but let me warn you that from the ashes of my body, a thousand Victorias will spring to avenge my death by seizing the work laid down by me and carrying it forward to victory." She lived to see women get the right to vote in 1920 and a string of women have followed in Victoria's footsteps, hoping to become President. Perhaps in 2016, Hillary Clinton will finally successfully finish what Victoria began 144 years before.

**Nicole Evelina is an award-winning historical fiction and romantic comedy novelist based in St. Louis, Missouri. Her most recent novel, Madame Presidentess, based on Victoria Woodhull, is the first-place winner in the Women's U.S. History category of the 2015 Chaucer Awards for Historical Fiction. Connect with Evelina on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and via her website, NicoleEvelina.com.**

toward LGBTQ people. But like George and Pope Francis, Cupich defends the same old bigoted teachings, and practices the same old discrimination. Cupich is the church's smiling enforcer in Chicago. Until anti-gay church teachings are dropped and employment discrimination is stopped, LGBTQ people will be welcomed into a church that treats us as second-class human beings.

Bob Schwartz  
Chicago

# letters

## Losing my religion

Dear Editor:

Colin Collette was discharged from his position as music director at Holy Family parish in Inverness in 2014, shortly after he announced his engagement to his longtime partner, William Nifong.

To his credit, Collette has chosen to fight the employment discrimination forced upon him. The archdiocese rejected arbitration in the

case, and has also barred Collette from seeking employment in other diocesan churches. Now, the archdiocese, having failed to get the case dismissed in federal court, will have to defend its discriminatory behavior.

The man directing the discrimination at Colin Collette is, of course, the archbishop of Chicago, Blase Cupich. This is the same Cupich who opposed marriage equality in Spokane, Washington, before arriving in Chicago.

Avoiding the harsh rhetoric of his predecessor, Francis George, Cupich takes a softer tone

**WINDY CITY TIMES**

**VOL. 31, No. 47, Aug. 17, 2016**  
The combined forces of Windy City Times, founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper, founded May 1987.

**PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
Tracy Baim

**ASSISTANT PUBLISHER** Terri Klinsky  
**MANAGING EDITOR** Andrew Davis  
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** Matt Simonette  
**BUSINESS MANAGER** Ripley Caine  
**DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA** Jean Albright  
**ART DIRECTOR/NIGHTSPOTS EDITOR** Kirk Williamson  
**SENIOR REPORTER** Gretchen Rachel Hammond  
**SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES** Terri Klinsky, Kirk Williamson, Amy Matheny, Chris Cheuvront, Gretchen Rachel Hammond, Scott Duff, David Strzepek  
**NATIONAL SALES** Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863  
**SENIOR WRITERS** Bob Roehr, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair  
**THEATER EDITOR** Scott C. Morgan  
**CINEMA WRITER** Richard Knight Jr.  
**SPORTS WRITER** Ross Forman  
**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS** Mary Shen Barnidge, Lawrence Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Jerry Nunn, Jonathan Abarbanel  
**COLUMNISTS/WRITERS:** Yvonne Zipter, Jorjet Harper, Charlsie Dewey, Carrie Maxwell, Billy Masters, Sarah Toce, Dana Rudolph, Melissa Wasserman, Joe Franco, Nick Patricca, Liz Baudler, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, Angeliq Smith, Meghan Streit  
**SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS** Mel Ferrand, Hal Baim, Tim Carroll, Ed Negron  
**WEBSITE LISTINGS VOLUNTEER** Gene Naden

### CIRCULATION

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

Copyright 2016 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609  
e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com or Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com  
podcast: WindyCityQueercast.com

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

Windy City Times Deadline every Wednesday.  
OUT! Chicago's LGBTQ Visitor's Guide Online  
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

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

FOUNDING MEMBER

National  
Gay Media  
Association  
The LGBT Market. Delivered.

# WINDY CITY TIMES DIVERSIONS

THEATER • FILM • ENTERTAINMENT • SPORTS



18

Revival Food Hall.



18

Alegria at Concord Music Hall.



## Glare package

14

Windy City Times reviews *The Promise of a Rose Garden*.

Photo by Steven Townshend

### THEATER FEATURE

# Gender change distinguishes 'Good Person'

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Good Person of Szechwan—Bertolt Brecht's fable of a kind-hearted hooker forced to disguise herself as a hard-hearted pimp in order to survive the predations of her underclass peers—has been approved for college curricula since the 1960s at least, making *Die Gute Mensch von Sezuan* one of the prolific author's most-produced plays. (Formerly known as *The Good Woman of Setzuan*, the gender-neutral "mensch" is nowadays more often translated as "Good Person.")

Many of Brecht's conceptual affectations (notably, his faux-Chinese motifs) have given way over the decades to more nuanced interpretations, but one factor remaining constant from its premiere in 1943 to the present day—with one exception in 2013—is the casting of a female actor as the cross-dressing protagonist. Cor Theatre intends to change that convention in its production, however. Taking on the dual identity of the gentle Shen Te and the steely Shui Ta is company member Will Von Vogt.

Why has it taken more than 70 years for men to attempt this role? Are theatergoers more comfortable with women playing men than vice-versa? Are all prostitutes automatically assumed to be female? Is a tough, businesslike demeanor considered an exclusively masculine trait? Was self-proclaimed radical Brecht adhering (if inadvertently) to conventional stereotypes?

Cor director Ernie Nolan addressed these questions to Windy City Times. He said, "People forget that Brecht was, first and foremost, a theatrical artist. Again and again, he would use 'foreign' settings in order to, not simply replicate, but to explore what was on the stage. Our Szechwan is an urban, industrial, multicultural environment—not unlike India, or Haiti, or, yes, like Chicago today, with all the sexual diversity inherent to that environment."

So why aren't male actors cast as Shen Te more often? "We talked at length about people who live on the fringes of society," Nolan recalled. "Shen Te is someone to be exploited by everybody else. She isn't supposed to find love—or even know it exists. In our own world, where gay men die simply for being who they

are, this seemed the right play to raise these issues."

Will Von Vogt concurred, saying, "I don't think Brecht ever intended to affirm the status quo, but to highlight the notion that we all carry masculine and feminine traits within us, whether or not we are free to fully express

them. This balance is what allows me, a gay man, to physicalize this connection that makes us human."

Many recent plays have featured leading roles for men in drag: *Hit The Wall*, *Charm*, *Kinky Boots*, etc. However, although Von Vogt said he sees no indication of male actors incorporating "movement in high heels" into their training regimen, he had nothing but praise for writers ("two of them from Chicago") who are creating roles promoting broader representation of gender identities. He also admitted to relishing the interplay between Shen Te and Shui Ta, confessing, "There are moments when I've felt alienated by both [of the characters]."

Brecht's much-analyzed didactic approach to his arguments might seem an odd match to Cor Theatre's trademark emotion-fueled viscerality, but Nolan said he sees no contradiction in the two principles. Brecht himself, asserted Nolan, repeatedly declared the Epic Theater's critical attitude "passionate"—passion being a quality

that Kushner's translation emphasizes and that Cor Theatre conveys with unquestionable confidence, according to Nolan. "Brecht's artistic and social message is at the center of what we [Cor] do and why we do it," he said.

Asked what sort of audience response they anticipate, Nolan shrugs, "It's easy to say that in an election year, every play becomes about the election, but what I hope is for the playgoers to leave with a new appreciation of Brecht's genius," while Von Vogt adds, "We are taking this classic work, its elements already resonating in today's political climate, and we are infusing it with Cor's boldness and conviction. I can't wait for people to come and reflect on the universe we show them."

**Cor Theatre's production of *The Good Person of Szechwan* continues at A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 N. Wells St., through Sunday, Sept. 11. Tickets are \$25; visit [CorTheatre.org](http://CorTheatre.org).**



Will Von Vogt in *Good Person of Szechwan*.

Photo by  
Matthew Gregory  
Hollis

## THEATER REVIEW

**The Jackie Wilson Story**

Playwright: Jackie Taylor  
At: Black Ensemble Theater, 4450 N. Clark St.  
Tickets: \$55-\$65  
Runs through: Sept. 4

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Matinee audiences frequently are slower to warm up than evening crowds, daylight hours tending to discourage suspension of disbelief. At the remount of this, Black Ensemble's most successful show—its second since premiering in 2000—almost a whole 15 minutes went by before spontaneous applause burst forth from playgoers unable to contain their enthusiasm or anticipation.

Don't come expecting the same biomusical that opened sixteen years ago to run continuously for nearly two years, however—the text recounting the rise and fall of iconic pop singer Jackie Wilson has been trimmed in the intervening decade-and-a-half to track with tidy efficiency the events of its subject's volatile life, while allowing plenty of room for the musical spectacle that constitutes this 40-year-old theater company's stock-in-trade.

The score still encompasses Wilson's signature hits—the breakthrough “Reet Petite,” the socially conscious “No Pity in the Naked City,” the seductive “Doggin’ Me Around” and tour de force “Lonely Teardrops”—presented mainly as straightforward play-within-play performance, but occasionally integrated into the storyline,

Kelvin Roston Jr. portrays the title person in *The Jackie Wilson Story*.  
Photo by Danny Nicholas



too (as when Wilson placates his angry wife with a heartfelt rendition of “To Be Loved”). Chronological markers are provided by other popular recording groups, like Frankie Lymon chirping “Goody Goody” and the Crystals harmonizing on “Da Doo Run Run,” while a pair of original songs composed by author Jackie Taylor for Wilson's steadfast mother engender the necessary sympathy for the man whose prodigious talents were matched by his appetites.

This selection in the BET repertoire needs more than an instructive story and infectious

melodies to satisfy playgoers recalling the showmanship that propelled Chester Gregory II to Broadway stardom. Though a bit on the beefy side (as was Wilson himself, who fancied a boxing career before turning to singing as his escape from poverty), Kelvin Roston Jr. has put in his time at the gym to render himself capable of replicating his persona's body language down to the last serial split and segmented back-bend. Nor has Rosten neglected his vocal exercises, negotiating intricate gospel-cadenzas and multiple-octave falsetto jumps to set

your blood to tingling, all for more than two hours with never a hint of laryngeal fatigue.

Be thankful for the stalwart ensemble of seasoned company players, Rueben Echols' precision-drill dance choreography and Robert Reddrick's likewise high-stamina stage band. An actor tasked with portraying the artist who taught Elvis, Michael and Prince why he was called “Mister Excitement” needs a rest break *sometime*.

**The Promise of a Rose Garden**

Playwright: Dustin Spence  
At: Babes With Blades Theatre Company at City Lit, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.  
Tickets: \$22  
Runs through: Sept. 10

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

In stories about men and war, the soldiers squabble among themselves, raise ruckus out of sheer boredom, but stand shoulder-to-shoulder on the battlefield, only to be haunted in later years by memories of horrors witnessed. In stories about women and war, however, the

soldiers share sororal unity, pine for boyfriends left behind, are discharged for getting pregnant, and—in recent years—reassure husbands and children via Skype that mommy will be home soon.

Playwright Dustin Spence's attempt to “level the playing field” by imposing band-of-brothers tropes on female actors, while inevitably falling short of its goal—actual war experience being too broad and varied to ever be confined within the conventions of fictional narrative—is commendable, nonetheless.

For those exercising the necessary suspension of disbelief, Spence keeps the khaki-clad thrills coming as he tracks the progress of Nichols, Ferguson, Ruiz and Sharif—members of the U.S. Marine Corps taking advantage of the 2015 announcement opening combat duty

to women by volunteering for the grueling Advance Infantry Officer Course—and their two sole surviving predecessors, Selmy and Rockford. After a first act densely packed with background intel, punches, kicks, grapples, gunfire of every caliber, group drinking and the kind of vulgar language that men imagine women employ, one of our GI Janes begins to hallucinate interrogations by death angels. The struggle to keep her from becoming a danger to herself and to those around her propels the second act.

Increased social awareness of post-traumatic stress disorder enables Spence to summarize Rockford's descent into post-combat irrationality with relative coherency, but what commands our attention and sympathy is Maureen Yasko's carefully modulated performance in a

role that proclaims its outcome at the play's very beginning, yet still succeeds in generating suspense over her welfare. This Babes With Blades Theatre Company production also features a supporting cast selected by director Elyse Dawson lending their generic dialogue a colloquial verisimilitude to generate a wholesome appeal, though the decision to have Rockford's demons portrayed by human actors at viewing ranges as close as those at City Lit should be reconsidered in future productions.

Playgoers looking for summer action-adventure excitement will find plenty of it in this saga of pioneering underdogs seeking the recognition bestowed upon our country's elite troops. Admit it: We never tire of cheering on/crying over heroes in uniform.

## THEATER REVIEW

**Three Hotels**

Playwright: Jon Robin Baitz  
At: Bluebird Arts at The Athenaeum, 2936 N. Southport Ave.  
Tickets: 773-935-6875;  
AthenaeumTheatre.org; \$25  
Runs through: Sept. 17

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

This excellent production reminds me of the power and deeply woven texture of this frequently produced 80-minute tragedy.

Kenneth Hoyle (Dave Belden) is broken, but we don't know that at first. Addressing us directly from a well-appointed foreign hotel suite, he's a fiftyish executive exuding physical energy and confidence. He likes action and sees plenty in his business marketing baby formula to Third World mothers.

After 27 years, Ken's high on the corporate ladder and now fires underperforming executives (he never discusses hiring anyone) and defends the company's indefensible sales strategies at global meetings. He loathes the CEO and chairman above him but relishes his power and license to mock. He easily reveals his birth name is Marcus Hershkovitz, choosing to ignore his Jewish identity rather than



Three Hotels.  
Photo from Bluebird Arts

deny it.

The shoe drops in the second of three scenes, each a monologue. Set in a different foreign hotel, Ken's wife, Barbara (Jaimelyn Gray), tells us Ken's been made president of international operations, and that she's given a speech to other international wives, who live in luxury they couldn't afford at home.

Speaking too frankly, Barbara unloads after years of silent suffering. Some advice is amusing, warming wives never to have affairs with subordinates of their husbands, even though she did. But she also says her husband never “would do something undignified just to get ahead,” knowing full-well the corporation's systemic dishonesty. The big reveal, however, is that their adolescent son had been murdered on a Brazilian beach for his expensive watch, and Ken continued with the company.

Indeed, the loss may have seeded his rapid climb. Still, Barbara says, “my husband turned to stone” after the death and was not the same man she had married. “Your husband's mission is not your mission,” she warns. “Keep the clarity of your own life or you'll come home with dust.” Barbara is trying to save her soul.

The last scene is on Day of the Dead in the Mexican hotel where Ken and Barb (yes, like the dolls) honeymooned. Ken, now fired and abandoned by Barbara, sets up a Day of the Dead altar to a lost child. As the lights fade, he kneels before it and sings a Yiddish lullaby to his son as Ken, too, tries to save his soul.

Under director Luda Lopatina Solomon, Three Hotels is devastatingly effective. Belden's Ken is more aggressive than I've seen, less slick and more visceral. Gray's quiet counterpoint is powerful because one doesn't know at first where she's headed or why. That's the beauty of Baitz's writing, too. Rick Frederick's set features Lucite furniture and opaque hotel walls, warmly lit by Carl Ulaszek, as if everything was transparent when, in fact, almost nothing is.

**CRITICS' PICKS**

**Between Riverside and Crazy**, Steppenwolf Theatre, through Aug. 21. Time is running out to catch the critically acclaimed Chicago premiere of Stephen Adly Guirgis' painfully relevant 2014 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama. SCM

**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

**Direct From Death Row: The Scottsboro Boys**, Raven Theatre, through Aug. 27. If you missed this jolly high-stepping song-and-dance account of an outrageous event in our nation's history last season, come see why its ensemble won a Jeff. MSB

**Now. Here. This.**, Brown Paper Box Co. at Rivendell Theatre, through Aug. 21. FThis scrappy and intimate production fits the ethos of its writers who are capable of making something significant out of nothing. SCM

—By Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEWS

## Planted; Pen; The Transcivility of Albert Cashier

At: Chicago Musical Theatre Festival at Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.  
 Tickets: 773-871-3000 or [cmtf.org](http://cmtf.org); \$20 per show  
 Runs through: Aug. 24 (Cashier); Aug. 25 (Planted) Aug. 26 (Pen)

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

I probably shouldn't be writing this triple review of *Planted*, *Pen* and *The Transcivility of Albert Cashier*, three new LGBTQ shows in Underscore Theatre Company's 2016 Chicago Musical Theatre Festival. Even though the shows' creators and producers allowed me in to critique, two productions (*Planted* and *Albert Cashier*) requested to be labeled as "workshops in development."

Nonetheless, it's startling to compare and contrast the three by levels of completion. AL-

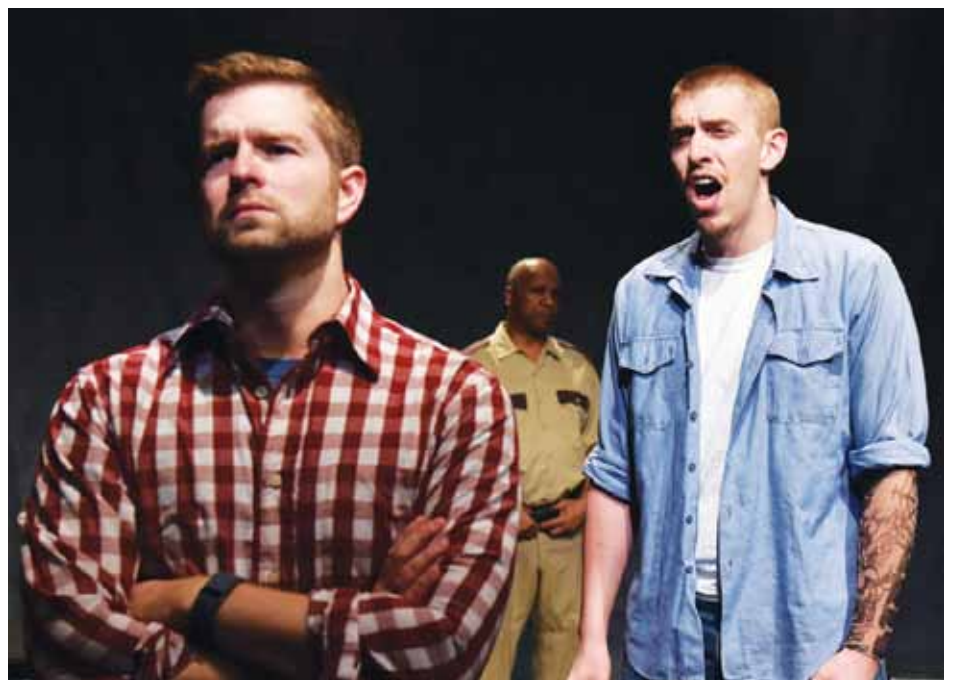
bert Cashier is essentially a reading with seated cast members at music stands unsurely reciting from unfinished scripts and scores. Meanwhile, the script-free actors of *Planted* and *Pen* offer up emotionally sung and well-staged performances that almost make you forget the minimal production values.

One wishes that Permovio Productions' *Albert Cashier* was closer to being finished. Its timeliness is essential with several states fighting the federal government over so-called "bathroom laws" that ostracize transgender people.

Book writer Jay Paul Deratany insightfully finds an amazing figure from U.S. history—the Civil War soldier Albert Cashier—to point out the injustice of forcing people into rigid gender roles assigned at birth. Having trans songwriter-performer Joe Stevens aboard to adapt period songs from the era is also a step in the right direction.

But the script and song integration need a lot of trimming and finessing to make the show's message a little less ham-fisted in highlighting the many modern parallels. *Albert Cashier* would also benefit from an ensemble that was more vocally assured.

*Pen* certainly grabs attention with its un-



From left: Shaun Baer, Randolph Johnson and Michael Owen Achenbach in *Pen*. Photo by Michael Courier

conventional premise: a love story between a recently dumped ad executive named Paul (Shaun Baer) who starts a correspondence relationship with an imprisoned convict named Rod (Michael Owen Achenbach). *Pen* collaborators Leo Schwartz and DC Cathro certainly know how to get laughs amid the romantic drama and quirky supporting characters, though some basic motivational questions linger—especially with the wide chasms in class and physicality between Paul's twink ex-lover, Grayson (Paul Michael Thomson), and the imposing Rod.

The songs in *Pen* provide a heightened insight to the characters feelings, yet one can't shake the notion that the show could be more dramatically intense without the music. With more bottled-up emotions, *Pen* could be more of a psychological or manipulative minefield between Paul and Rod.

Of the three shows I saw, Rogue Elephant Productions' *Planted* is the most ready to be expanded into a full-fledged production (take notice *Pride Films* and *Plays* or *About Face Theatre*). Christopher Pazdernik and Jeff Bouthiette's theatrical song cycle about modern dating and relationships in the gay community is both funny and touching, especially with the powerhouse voices of the diverse ensemble featuring Vasily Deris, Max DeTogne, Cisco Lopez, Conor McGarry, Jerome Riley and Korey White.

Sure, *Planted* could use a better title, while a few songs like "Too Far to Hear" and "Hot and Cold" could be more dramatically specific. But in terms of confidence and self-assured swagger, *Planted* is the furthest along in growing up to the next level.



Nelson Rodriguez.  
 Photo courtesy of Rodriguez

### PFP names Rodriguez its artistic director

Nelson Rodriguez—a Chicago-based actor and writer of Puerto Rican descent who has been an ensemble member of *Pride Films* and *Plays* (PFP) since August 2012—has been named the company's first artistic director.

"Nelson's contributions to the company as

an actor, production manager and curator of our film programming have been enormous," Executive Director David Zak said in a statement. "His work and reputation throughout the Chicago theatre community will be a tremendous asset in growing the artistic product of *Pride Films* and *Plays* in this new phase of our company's life."

Rodriguez has acted in the *Pride Films* and *Plays* productions of *The Children's Hour*, *Some Men, The Boys Upstairs*, and *Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown*. He also was named one of *Windy City Times*' 30 Under 30 honorees this year.

### Auditorium Theatre names new CEO

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University has named Tania Castroverde Moskalenko as its chief executive officer.

Castroverde Moskalenko is currently the president/CEO of The Center for the Performing Arts and the Great American Songbook Foundation in Carmel, Indiana. She joined the Center in June 2012.

Henry Fogel, who has been interim CEO since April of this year, will return to his position as dean of Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts. This transition in leadership will take place Oct. 3.

## SPOTLIGHT

For its first season benefit, Chicago Theatre Workshop is going big with Broadway talent by featuring Tony-winning star LaChanze in her solo *Windy City* debut. Not only is LaChanze famous for originating the role of Ti Moune in *Once on this Island*, but she also won her Tony Award for creating the role of Celie in *The Color Purple* (10 years before Cynthia Erivo would win the Tony for the same role). LaChanze's other Broadway credits include the 1995 revival of *Company* and starring in the original run of *Ragtime*. Following her performance, LaChanze is set to meet and mingle with the audience. There's also a cocktail reception and a live auction with the featured prize of premium house seat ticket packages to the Chicago production of *Hamilton*. LaChanze performs at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20, at The Edge Theater, 5451 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$100, \$125 or \$150; visit [ChicagoTheatreWorkshop.org](http://ChicagoTheatreWorkshop.org).

Tony Award-winner LaChanze performs for Chicago Theatre Workshop's season benefit on Saturday, Aug. 20. Photo courtesy of Chicago Theatre Workshop



LIVE  
in CONCERT

YOU KNOW THE HITS...

- "IF MY FRIENDS COULD SEE ME NOW"
- "RED LIGHT"
- "BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER"
- "RUNAWAY LOVE"

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26TH

80s DISCO LEGEND

# LINDA CLIFFORD

7pm • Concert + Meet & Greet with Linda | \$50  
 8pm • Concert only | \$35  
 Beer and Wine Only \$5

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT BROWN PAPER TICKETS

VISIT [UNITYCHICAGO.ORG](http://UNITYCHICAGO.ORG) FOR ALL DETAILS

1925 WEST THOME AVE | CHICAGO, IL 60660 | 773.973.0007

sponsors

Meryl Streep in her newest film, *Florence Foster Jenkins*.

Image courtesy of Paramount Pictures



## MOVIES

# A moment with Meryl Streep

*Acting luminary opens up about being 'in love with gay people,' the Snapchat conundrum and her beloved LGBT roles*

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Meryl Streep is laughing her signature laugh. You know it: Sometimes light and airy, sometimes a surge of boisterous euphoria that carries well into the next question—but always unmistakably Meryl.

Cinema's grand dame cracks one of her warm, famous chortles during our recent interview while entertaining the idea that her latest chameleonic role, as real-life opera diva Florence Foster Jenkins in the movie of the same name, could once again spur drag queens to emulate another one of her queer-loved characters. Then she laughs again as she fondly remembers locking lips with Allison Janney in 2002's *The Hours*. Meanwhile, the mere mention of 1992's *Death Becomes Her* has Meryl unleashing a hearty roar. There's another laugh, too, when she ponders how sexting and Snapchat are related.

Gay audiences know this laugh because they know Meryl Streep. They also know her compassion for LGBT issues, both as an extension of her queer-inclusive acting repertoire and more explicitly, when, during her Golden Globe acceptance speech in 2004, she slammed then-president George W. Bush by condemning his anti-gay marriage stance. They've learned the art of shade from her sharp, searing tongue in *The Devil Wears Prada*, and they live for all the campy one-liners in *Death Becomes Her*. And during *Angels in America*, HBO's 2003 watershed miniseries about the AIDS crisis, they wept.

Now, Streep, 67, sheds her skin once again to portray Jenkins, one of the worst singers in the world. In the poignant dramedy *Florence Foster Jenkins*—from Stephen Frears, director of *The Queen*—the esteemed once-in-a-lifetime luminary plays a wannabe opera singer with a voice so hysterically appalling her loyal husband (Hugh Grant) bribes critics into letting her think she can sing.

Here, during this rare and revealing one-on-one conversation with Streep, the three-time Academy Award winner and record holder for most Oscar nominations discusses why she regards *Angels in America* as one of the most important LGBT-themed films she's done and how she feels about gay men performing Meryl monologues. And looking ahead, is the biopic queen ready to consider her own story becoming a feature-length film in the future? Streep laughs at the very thought, of course, but she's

not kidding when she says, "I hope I fade into oblivion."

**Windy City Times:** You've given the gay community a breadth of greatness over the last four decades. When you look back at your gay roles, which has been the most important to you?

Meryl Streep: Oh, gosh. To me, I mean, *Angels* is such an important piece of history, and I felt really lucky to be part of that because I don't think there was anything like it before. It really felt like being at the Democratic National Convention in the moment that Hillary shattered the glass ceiling—a big deal. *The Hours* was important, too. And, of course, I got to kiss Allison Janney, which was a perk! [Laughs]

**WCT:** Don't tell Emma Thompson, who famously tongue-kissed you and gave you an orgasm in *Angels*.

MS: [Laughs] Yeah, right! [*The Hours*] was nothing like that!

**WCT:** I remember Emma talking about that kiss in an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*. She's very proud of it. She said she learned that "you have to use tongues even if you're not a lesbian."

MS: Oh, yeah—you really do. [Laughs]

**WCT:** When you look back at that moment, how does your takeaway from that kissing scene compare to Emma's?

MS: It's just, you can't take the baby from the bathwater. You can't. It's just the whole thing of it—that [orgasm scene] was just like the culmination of it. But what [screenwriter Tony Kushner] was doing was for a really mainstream HBO audience at that point—just groundbreaking. That hadn't been on television. Movies, yes. But not television. So it was very cool.

**WCT:** You discovered you were a gay icon in 2012, when you found out about Streep Tease—gay men taking on Meryl monologues in West Hollywood. Did you ever get a chance to see it?

MS: I didn't. We went immediately to London to shoot something else.

**WCT:** How do you feel about watching other people—gay men, for instance—do Meryl?

MS: I love it when they do other people! [Laughs] I don't know. I'm sure it would tickle me, but I'm just not—I don't have a distance on myself yet that I probably should have. It's like when my kids imitate me. I laugh but I kind of don't like it. [Laughs]

**WCT:** Do they imitate you often?

MS: Oh my god, yes. Endlessly. Especially when I answer the phone and they can tell that it's [me pretending to be], like, a Jamaican operator or something, because I sort of start talking in the accent of the person I'm talking to. Oh, they're merciless.

**WCT:** Do you feel a connection to the LGBT community?

MS: I just can't remember when LGBT people

were not in my life. You know, gosh. My piano teachers when I was 11 and 12 were two gay men in a little town in New Jersey who had a collection of Mexican art and piñatas and silver lantern covers, and their house was wonderful, not like anybody else's house in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. And yeah, I came of age when everything was kind of opening up and that's a good time, right like now.

This film harkens back to the '40s when communities were kind of cloaked and undercover, and yet in Greenwich Village and just communities of people in the artistic world, they were always embracing of people, every kind. That freedom—very staid people were drawn to that world because of its imagination and exoticism and willingness to embrace life in a different way.

**WCT:** How do you think the message of *Florence*—doing something you love because you love it and not because of what other people think—will resonate with the LGBT community?

MS: Well, to the extent that anybody tells you that you can't be a certain way or you shouldn't be a certain way. You know, I think the limits other people put on you are the least valuable. A child announces who they are and people who encourage them are the ones to be around... and you have to get rid of everybody else who doesn't help! [Laughs] I feel that way about everything, but certainly LGBT audiences will understand that.

**WCT:** In 1979, when you played a lesbian in *Manhattan*, being LGBT wasn't cool. Why did you take on a role that might've been deemed "too much" during that time period?

MS: I didn't think of it that way. I mean, I was coming to movies sort of sideways from the theater. I got an early movie and I thought, "Well, this is a one-off; they'll never ask me again." I was fine with that. I was happy in the theater. And in the theater I had lots of gay friends and my longtime collaborator Roy Helland is gay. I've grown up with gay people and been in love with gay people.

**WCT:** Romantic love?

MS: Oh no, not that kind!

**WCT:** I mean, I know women who've had gay boyfriends and gay husbands.

MS: No, no. Well... not that I know of! [Laughs]

**WCT:** If you were to play another lesbian role, who would be your dream co-star?

MS: Oh, well, someone younger, clearly. [Laughs]

**WCT:** But who? I mean, you and Sandra Bullock have already had practice making out at the 2010 Critics Choice Movie Awards.

MS: Yeah! That was famous. But I don't know! I can't pick! There are so many. One thing I think is, there are so many young talented actresses and actors. I grew up in a time when people emerged—like, there were a handful of people. Now, there's like 35, 40 people who are just beyond talented, and because of the opening up of long-form television and all the other platforms—webisodes and things like that—I think there are more opportunities for people to demonstrate their talent. There are so many talented people.

**WCT:** And streaming—I heard you say you're learning about it.

MS: Getting on that, yes. Not really. [Laughs] Somebody told me that I Snapchatted but I don't know how to Snapchat and I thought it was the thing that you do when you're sexting sort of and then you want it to be erased. I didn't know what they were talking about!

**WCT:** It's very confusing out there, Meryl. Stay in your bubble.

MS: OK, fine! [Laughs]

**WCT:** Emily Blunt said she's interested in doing another *Devil Wears Prada* if everybody else returns. Would you be interested in doing a sequel?

MS: In theory. But the heart sinks until you read the script. It's like, somebody said [they want a] *Mamma Mia 2!* and it just—ack! I thought, *Gram-Mamma Mia!?* Really? No. [Laughs] So it would depend on the script; the

script is everything. If somebody has the imagination and wit to apply and has an interesting story, yeah, sure. But absent that, no.

**WCT:** Your gay fans wouldn't mind, I'll tell you that—as long there's a solid script, of course.

MS: No, I wouldn't mind either if the script were good.

**WCT:** Your *Death Becomes Her* co-star Isabella Rossellini said that she didn't know she was making what became a gay cult film until after some market research. When did you realize *Death Becomes Her* would become a gay cult classic?

MS: I knew when I met the writer! [Laughs] When I met Martin [Donovan], I thought, "OK, here we go." And then [when I sang] my first number, I thought, "Oh, all right, I'll see this in a club somewhere." I mean, with lines like, "Now a warning?!"—I mean, come on! It was so much fun, and it's sort of a documentary on aging in Los Angeles now, it seems to me.

**WCT:** For years you've been playing real-life people: Julia Child, Margaret Thatcher, and now Florence Foster Jenkins. If one day there's a Meryl Streep biopic, what do you hope it captures about your life and career?

MS: I hope that doesn't happen! You know,

Turn to page 22

## Photographer/author Mark Thompson dies

Photographer/author Mark Thompson recently died at his home in Palm Springs, California. He was 63.

The Riverside County Coroner's office has said an investigation into the cause of death is pending, with a toxicology report expected in a few weeks.

Thompson was a former senior editor at *The Advocate*, and edited a book on the publication's history called *Long Road to Freedom: The Advocate History of the Gay and Lesbian Movement*. Among some of his other works are *Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning*, *Gay Soul: Finding the Heart of Gay Spirit and Nature*, and *Gay Body: A Journey Through Shadow to Self*.

He was an early gay-rights advocate, co-founding the Bay Area-wide Gay Students Coalition and starting a gay student publication while attending San Francisco State University in 1973.

Thompson's partner, Malcom Boyd, died last year. They met in 1984 and legally married in 2013.

## Leather Fireside Chat travels to Amsterdam

"Inside Leather History, A Fireside Chat," in cooperation with *Leatherhistory.eu* Foundation, is joining Amsterdam Leather Pride this year with a live-on-stage interview with Amsterdam's own Martijn Bakker Saturday, Oct. 29, at Club Church, Kerkstraat 52 1017 GM, Amsterdam.

Bakker will discuss his leather history, contributions, knowledge and observations. Following the formal live interview, the floor will open for audience questions.

"Inside Leather History, A Fireside Chat" is a program of the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago. The chats are a live-on-stage interview program designed to capture for posterity the stories and historical significance of the community's finest contributors. The chats are filmed for historical preservation in the Leather Archives in Museum in Chicago and in local historical repositories.

Inside Leather History, A Fireside Chat is co-produced by Chicago leatherman Douglas O'Keeffe who hosts the chats, Mistress Joanne Gaddy, Christina Court and technical director Vonn Tramel of *The Leather Journal*.



# Out singer Anne Steele reacts to Orlando tragedy with 'Love'

BY SARAH TOCE

"When the Orlando shooting happened, I was devastated—as we all were," Anne Steele said. "I didn't know how to react. I was on my way to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, to do a concert at The Blue Moon and my wife, Kelli, and I listened to the coverage all the way there. I knew I had to get on stage that next night and do a show and speak to our community in a way that would bring us all together in our moment of grief."

was finding Grammy winning Engineer/Mixer Jonathan Crone, to create the most incredible dance track for our lyrics and melody. Together I believe we have created a perfect tribute to those we have lost, yet will never forget and will continue to honor."

Steele spent two years in Nashville post-college and welcomed the reunion.

"I have always loved the musical energy that comes from this incredible city," she said. "I have been collaborating with several different songwriters and am currently working on my

travel quite extensively throughout the year," Steele said. "A bit of our travel is within the United States, but we do travel a lot internationally as well. We are continually exposed to other cultures and I am often struck by how people find joy in their lives. As I stated before, I am someone that finds joy in my life pretty easily. I grew up without a lot of access to travel or financial means, yet my mother taught me that those things are not what truly makes you happy. Finding joy in the simplest things can make a full life. Every moment can be a chance to discover something new and magical. As I now travel the world with my wife, I can appreciate that we all find joy on our own path."

The Love is Louder project seemed the perfect fit for the inspirational single.

"I have a friend, Courtney Knowles, that I have known for a long time. Love is Louder is a nonprofit movement he started with The Jed Foundation and actress Brittany Snow to support anyone feeling mistreated and misunder-

stood," Steele explained. "It was initially an anti-bullying campaign primarily. The reason I have grown so completely connected to this movement is because of the message that has grown from it. The message that if you turn the volume up on the love, that it is louder than hate, bigotry, racism, homophobia, fear, and hurt. That if we focus on the love—nothing can stop us. That together, we can make a better world for all of us. That is why I wanted to focus on love for the single, 'Love Can Take Us There.' It's easy to get wrapped in the sadness and unfairness of it all, but how will that help us and move us forward as a people? Instead, I chose to embrace the potential of what we can be together."

Learn more about Anne Steele by visiting her website, [AnneSteele.com/index.php/news](http://AnneSteele.com/index.php/news). "Love Can Take Us There" is available on iTunes at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/love-can-take-us-there-single/id1135493408>.



Anne Steele (front, left) with wife Kelli Carpenter (front, middle) and others at the couple's wedding.

Photo courtesy of Steele

Steele took hold of the one resource she continually has access to in her arsenal when all else fails—the gift of song.

"As a singer, I know that my first reaction is to respond with music," she said. "Music unites and binds us. I knew that after that show, I needed to create something that would be able to give back to all the victims and their families. I couldn't understand how they could even survive the day, let alone the life that was ahead."

The unplanned journey to pen an inspirational tune led the New York resident to Nashville.

"I have a really good friend named Shane Stevens who is a very accomplished out singer/songwriter and I immediately reached out to him in Nashville," she said. "I told him what I wanted to do and what kind of song I wanted to write. I wanted to focus on the outpouring of love and acceptance that happened after the Pulse tragedy. I wanted to focus on the fact that the people in that club that were taken were young and dancing and feeling like they were in their safe place of acceptance and community and that they were ripped away in their 'sanctuary.' That resonated to me."

The concept of coming together in light of tragedy also resonated with the What's Mine (February 2015) powerhouse.

"I wanted to create a dance song that would encourage our community to continue to gather and celebrate their lives by remembering what was lost, while still celebrating who we are as a community," Steele said. "Shane reached out to Stephony Smith, an incredible singer/songwriter, and asked her to collaborate with us on this track. The final piece

next record. I feel like every time I go back to Nashville I grow as an artist and a songwriter. I plan on spending a lot of time there in the coming year and hope to release a new record soon. We are writing new things every day and can't wait for people to hear what is coming next for me."

Steele and her wife of three years, R Family Vacations co-founder Kelli Carpenter, have found a sweet spot in their life with their four children.

"I am inherently a positive person and so is my wife," Steele said. "Although you have to explain things every day to your children about terrible things that happen in our world, we continue to live in the light and positive of what the world has to offer. We just watched Hillary Clinton become the first woman to be nominated for President of The United States! It's a beautiful time to show our two girls that anything is possible for them. We have four fantastic, smart, kind, loving children and we just strive every day to expose them to all the good in the world."

As much as they shower their children with love, it goes both ways.

"I never knew love like I do now after falling in love with my wife Kelli," Steele shared. "She shared her beautiful family with me, and that made me understand a completely different level of love. There is nothing that comes before Kelli and the kids. All priorities change when you love someone like that."

Steele and Carpenter spend a good chunk of time on the road.

"I am very fortunate in that, because of my work and the work that my wife does, we do

## CULTURE CLUB

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

HELL IN A HANDBAG PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

CAITLIN JACKSON AS BETTE MIDLER IN

**BETTE**

LIVE AT THE CONTINENTAL BATHS

• A TRIP DOWN MAMMARY LANE •

DIRECTED/CHOREOGRAPHED BY CHRISTOPHER PAZDERNIK MUSIC DIRECTION BY JEREMY RAMEY

STAGE 773

1225 W. Belmont Ave.

ONLY 9 SHOWS!

Aug. 12, 19, 20, 25, 26

Sept. 2, 3, 9, 10

WWW.HANDBAGPRODUCTIONS.ORG

"A really cool way to spend a warm summer night"

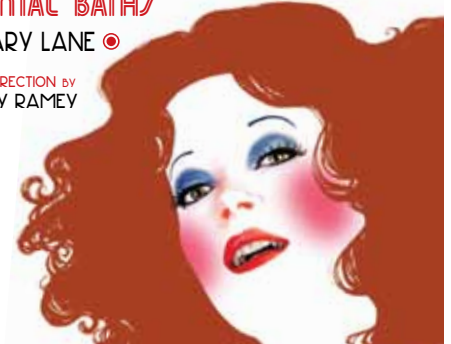
- Chicago Theater Review

"Jackson is divine as the Divine Miss"

- Broadway World Chicago

"Caitlin Jackson commands the spot!"

- The Windy City Times



CHICAGO PREMIERE

**BAKERSFIELD MIST**

BY STEPHEN SACHS  
DIRECTED BY KEVIN CHRISTOPHER FOX  
STARRING JANET ULRICH BROOKS AND MIKE NUSSBAUM

**Timeline** Theatre Company  
20 YEARS OF HISTORY

STARTS THIS WEEK AT STAGE 773  
773.327.5252 [timelinetheatre.com](http://timelinetheatre.com)

**14 SHOWS. 48 PERFORMANCES.**  
**3 NON-STOP WEEKS OF NEW MUSICALS.**  
**AUGUST 9-28 AT VICTORY GARDENS IN LINCOLN PARK.**  
**WHY SHOULD NEW YORK HAVE ALL THE FUN? CHTF.ORG**

**THE 2016 CHICAGO MUSICAL THEATRE FESTIVAL**

UNDERScore THEATRE COMPANY  
VICTORY GARDENS THEATRE  
kokandy PRODUCTIONS  
RAILWORK THEATRE CHICAGO  
DPA THEATRE PRODUCTIONS  
WINDY CITY TIMES

FESTIVAL PRODUCER VENUE PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MEDIA SPONSOR

# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Revival Food Hall

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Revival Food Hall (125 N. Clark St., RevivalFoodHall.com) aims to make quite a dent in the Loop lunch scene with what could be called a “culinary collage”—a compendium of some 15 vendors that sell everyone from tacos and catfish to health juices.

Vendors include Aloha Poke, Brown Bag Seafood Co., The Budlong, Smoque, Graze Kitchennette, Furious Spoon, Danke, The Fat Shallot, Harvest Juicery, Antique Taco Chiquito, Black Dog Gelato and others.

And diners will have plenty of space to roam, as Revival is located in 24,000 square feet of The National, a historic space in the Loop.

A soft opening was held Aug. 10—and there were some standouts among the items we tried:

—The Budlong (which launched in May in Lake View at 2928 N. Broadway) served a Nashville hot chicken sandwich that was spicy and even a little sweet.

—Brown Bag Seafood Co.’s crispy shrimp roll with lobster sauce was fantastic.



From top: The Budlong; Revival Food Hall. Photos by Andrew Davis

—Antique Taco’s crispy fish tacos really worked, thanks in part to the fish and also because of the sriracha tartar sauce.

—Harvest Juicery had several items that impressed, including the pear juice and Green Juice #1: “Straight Forward Green.” (However, be warned that a bottle of each of these juices goes for \$10.)

Revival Food Hall will officially open Thursday, Aug. 18, at 7 a.m.

#### Staff changes

—Michael Battocletti is the new executive chef of Mon Ami Gabi, 2300 Lincoln Park West. After beginning his career as a chef in his hometown St. Louis, Battocletti moved to Chicago and worked as the chef de partie and then sous chef at Next Restaurant before taking over at Mon Ami Gabi this summer. Among other things, Battocletti plans to introduce a new charcuterie program and spearhead a chef-driven happy-hour series.

—Sable Kitchen & Bar, 505 N. State St., has announced the promotion of Mike Jones to head bartender. John Stanton has stepped down for his post to accept the position of head bartender at the soon-to-open Kimpton Seafire Resort + Spa in Grand Cayman. A Midwest native from Cleveland, Jones brings more than 20 years of industry experience.



Mon Ami Gabi Executive Chef Michael Battocletti. Photo by Anjali Pinto

## nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

### Cuba Libre: Holiday in Havana



Thu., Aug. 18, 6-9 pm  
**Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.**  
 Legal Council for Health Justice’s annual travel-themed fundraiser celebrates Cuban nightlife. Cuisine by 90 Miles Cuban Cafe. Entertainment and silent auction. Supporting LCHJ’s efforts to provide free legal services for the most vulnerable in our communities.

### Golden Girls Trivia Night



Thu., Aug. 18, 8 pm  
**The Glenwood, 6962 N. Glenwood Ave.**  
 Test your knowledge of everyone’s favorite Miami ladies! \$10 per team to play (limit of 6 members). Winning team gets 75% of the pot; second-place gets 25%. Hosted by KWizmaster Kirk Williamson.

### Trikone Chicago presents Jai Ho: Summer Sutra



Fri., Aug. 19, 10 pm  
**Big Chicks, 5024 N. Sheridan St.**  
 Jai Ho is a queer dance party featuring South Asian music and performances. It is open to all, so bring friends, lovers, and family. A \$5 donation that goes toward supporting future TriKone Chicago events is encouraged.

### Welcome Back OTTER



Sat., Aug. 20, 9 pm  
**The Sofo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St.**  
 Go “back to school” with hot-for-teacher host Drew Skeens. DJ Moose spins your favorite ‘80s/’90s jmas to take you back to your party days.



## NORTHALSTED MARKET DAYS

Photos by Jerry Nunn



## ALEGRIA @ CONCORD MUSIC HALL

Photos by Jerry Nunn



"I think the way David just described it was flawless. The fact that I was going into this event knowing that my identity is rooted in Christ and not what the result of this competition is just gave me peace."—**Steele Johnson** (a porn name if ever there was one) talks about winning the silver medal in synchronized diving with **David Boudia**, who also thanked Christ. As long as Christ wants them to have rockin' bodies, kicky haircuts and use the word "flawless," I'm happy.

Let me start this week's column by applauding the **U.S. men's gymnastic team**. Now, I'm not applauding them for any professional achievement. I'm applauding them because they've blatantly asked for the media to objectify them. And, in a striking departure from my typical sexual modus operandi, I am happy to take this direction. The team has posed for numerous shirtless pics and deluged social media with same. Prior to the Olympics, all-around national champion **Sam Mikulak** wondered how to get the attention of the American people (and, perhaps, score some financially lucrative endorsement deals post-Rio). His answer? He said, "Maybe compete with our shirts off. People make fun of us for wearing tights. But if they saw how yoked we are maybe that would make a difference." I don't know exactly what this "yoked" is, but I'm all for anything that delivers a little flesh.

NBC has received some criticism for bias against LGBT Olympians. While many parents, spouses and children of competitors are being mentioned on TV, the same cannot be said for same-sex partners. **Tom Daley's** fiancé, **Dustin Lance Black**, was shown on the screen sitting with Daley's mom—but only mom was acknowledged. After a volleyball match, **Larissa Franca** hugged her wife. The commentator said, "That is her husband. She married Lili in 2013." Huh? If you think this is all happenstance, riddle me this—why is **Greg Louganis**, possibly the greatest diver who ever lived, doing commentary for Brazilian TV and not NBC?

The Brits aren't much better. In reporting the bronze medal won by Tom Daley and Dan Goodfellow in men's synchronized diving, the UK press did something so egregious that even I was repulsed—they cropped Goodfellow right out of the photo! Headlines blazed, "Daley Wins Bronze," but relegated his lesser-known partner to the small print. I get it—Daley is a media darling (and a bobcat in the sack, btw). But still, he didn't win it alone. Shame!

If the U.S. media is here (I'm indicating a high level with my hand), and the Brits are here (somewhere in the middle), then the Daily Beast is close to the bottom of the barrel. You might have heard that a straight reporter was sent to Rio to lure gay Olympians on Grindr and out them. But that wasn't the purpose of the story (which has since been deleted). The story was ostensibly about how much sex is going on in the Olympic Village—something we've heard about for years. The writer went on both gay and straight apps looking for sex and—again, not surprising—he got more responses on Grindr than all the other apps combined. That explains why the piece was titled "I Got Three Grindr Dates In An Hour In The Olympic Village." What shocked me most is that the writer used his own photo—and let's just say he's not a looker. While no athletes are named, he included clues about the guys' events, countries, and placing. Ultimately, the takeaway is that gay men are looking for more sex than straight women—surprise, surprise. If he wanted to get a real scoop, he should have used the photo of a hot female on Tinder! My point is not to defend the writer or



**Well-Strung, a caring hubby and death threats are all part of John Barrowman's (above) life.**  
PR photos

the Beast itself. But I do think it's important that this incident is reported by someone who actually read the article—which does not appear to include most critics.

This may come as a shock to you, but I just spent a lovely time with **John Barrowman** and his hubby, Scott Gill, in Provincetown. The duo were vacationing prior to Johnny's appearance at Boston's Comic-Con. The pair caught a number of shows while in town. The night before I arrived, they went to see **Well-Strung**, which they loved. We all went to see **Varla Jean Merman**, and I had the best time watching Barrowman—who, at one point, was laughing so hard, I thought he was going to hyperventilate. (To be fair, the sight of Merman in a burqa is quite hysterical.) We discussed my recent split-open forehead which was glued shut in an ER. Scott then told me that he sliced open one of his fingers while cutting vegetables and actually glued the wound shut himself! Johnny shared an anecdote about how pleasurable Scott's now-rough digit was, which I have filed away for future reference. It should be mentioned that Gill was quite tickled to visit the mega-popular ScottCakes shop in Provincetown, owned by my pal Scott Cunningham. You must sample his sinfully delicious treats—Cunningham's, not Gill's.

I also asked Barrowman about a death threat he received. The organizers of Montreal Comic-Con received an email from someone on the West Coast threatening a number of minority groups and targeting Johnny specifically. John refused to cancel, saying, "I wasn't gonna let the bastards win." But he wouldn't risk the well-being of his fans. So he was in a separate room and his talk was transmitted via video. As to meeting, greeting and autographing, security arranged limited groups to visit Barrowman in person, and everyone was served—so to speak.

I was fortunate enough to see the incomparable **Billy Stritch** at the Provincetown Jazz Festival. The sold-out show at the Crown & Anchor was a tribute to Mel Tormé. I am consistently overwhelmed by the limitless talent Stritch possesses, and this show was no exception. You should definitely see him if he appears anywhere in your vicinity.

The LGBT for Hillary Gala will take place at Cipriani on Wall Street in NYC on Sept. 9, and that event will feature a performance by **Barbra Streisand**! Tix range from \$1,200 to \$250,000, and the top price includes a meet-and-greet—obviously, not with Barbra, but with **Hillary**!

When I'm trying to decide if I want to be the "yoker" or the "yokee," it's definitely time to end yet another column. PHEW: Between the Olympics and Ptown, I'm exhausted—and running out of lube. But, I'm not so tired that I can't update [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com)—the site that likes its men over easy. Although I didn't have room for an "Ask Billy" question, you can always write to me at [Bill@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Bill@BillyMasters.com), and I promise to get back to you before Barrowman buys a burqa! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.



# Market Days turns 35

Northalsted Market Days—the largest two-day festival in the Midwest took place—took place Aug. 13-14 on Halsted Street between Belmont Avenue and Addison Street.

It was the 35th anniversary of the event, which is hosted by the Northalsted Business Alliance. Among the many acts that performed were Deborah Cox (pictured above), Diana King, Alex Newell, Erika Jayne, Jake Miller and Lez Zeppelin. Superstar Lady Gaga was also there, making an unannounced appearance. And there were, of course, dozens of vendors for the tens of thousands of people who attended.

Among those benefiting from the event's proceeds were the Northalsted Business Alliance (for its neighborhood safety and beautification projects) and The Legacy Project, the world's first outdoor museum, featuring LGBTQ icons throughout history.

Visit [Northalsted.com](http://Northalsted.com).

Photos by Kat Fitzgerald ([www.MysticImagesPhotography.com](http://www.MysticImagesPhotography.com)) and Ed Negron





# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Wed., Aug. 17**

**Limelight: Tiny Revolution - an Evening With Bea Cordelia** Poetry at the intersection of gender, sex, sexuality and the body. \$10 suggested donation. 7:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/limelight>

**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>

**Thursday, Aug. 18**

**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>

**State of LGBT Health Symposium** Key-note lecture by Karen L. Parker, Director, Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office of the National Institutes of Health, followed by a panel discussion with Northwestern faculty. Organized by the Northwestern Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing. Reception to follow in the courtyard. 1:00pm - 4:00pm Northwestern University School of Law, Aspen Hall, 375 E Chicago Ave, Chicago <http://isgmh.northwestern.edu/>

**Nikkei Queer: A Workshop on Making Our Spaces LGBTQ Affirming** Work toward communities safer for LGBTQ



**RUSTIN TIME**  
Wed., Aug. 24

**LGBT civil-rights icon Bayard Rustin will be remembered at his plaque on Halsted Street in Boystown.**  
Photo from Victor Salvo

Japanese-Americans, on recognizing and interrupting homophobia and transphobia and on embracing more expansive notions of sexuality and gender. Presented by Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) Legacy Center. Event, parking free. RSVP to Ryan Yokota 773-275-0097, ext. 222 or [ryokota@jasc-chicago.org](mailto:ryokota@jasc-chicago.org) 6:00pm - 8:30pm Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark St., Chicago <http://www.jasc-chicago.org>

**Cuba Libre: Holiday in Havana** Legal Council for Health Justice (LCHJ) presents cuisine by 90 Miles Cuban Cafe, cocktails by Sidetrack, entertainment by Angel d'Cuba, the Grand Raffle, a huge silent auction and more. Supports

Legal Council's programs. \$75 6:00pm - 9:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago 312-427-8990 Tickets: <http://www.cubalibre.gesture.com>

**Center on Halsted Chats** A chat with Channyn Parker (TransLife Care Coordinator, Chicago House) and Crispin Torres (Community Educator, Lambda Legal). \$5 suggested donation. Inability to pay should not act as a deterrent to attending. 6:30pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=12535>

**Disarm Hate ... One Vote at a Time looks at LGBTQs and gun laws** Panel discussion 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. Gun Violence Prevention PAC hosts. Panel starts 7:30 pm. Donations \$50-\$250 with sliding scale available. RSVP [info@gpacillinois.com](mailto:info@gpacillinois.com) 7:00pm Weinberg/Newton Gallery, 300 W. Superior, Suite 203, Chicago 847-920-4722 <https://www.facebook.com/GaysAgainstGunsCHI/>

**Zumanity's Edie** Drag performer has emceed 4,000 shows as the Mistress of Sensuality in Cirque du Soleil's Zumanity and will perform her high-kickin choreography, high octane original songs and standards in her signature 60s go-go style. 8:00pm Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret 1383 N Milwaukee Ave Chicago Tickets: <http://reservations.davenportspianobar.com>

**Friday, Aug. 19**

**Abbie Hoffman Died For Our Sins XXVIII** Long running non-stop three-day theater festival celebrating the anniversary of the Woodstock Music and Arts Fair of 1969. \$10 2:00pm Den Theater, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago Tickets: <http://maryarchie.com/wordpress/>

**LGBTQ Artists' Gallery Opening:** Ann Blaas & Derrick Woods-Morrow \$5 suggested donation at the door. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St., Chicago, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=11306>

**Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Book Night** Discussion of I've Got a Time Bomb, by Sybil Lamb. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/1018032631625653/>

**Trikone Chicago: Jai Ho: Summer Sutra, A Queer Bollywood Dance Party** Hosting bimonthly Bollywood dance party WITH South Asian dance music, performances. Open to all. \$5 donation toward TriKone Chicago's programs for the South Asian LGBTQI community in Chicago. [salsalam@trikonechicago.org](mailto:salsalam@trikonechicago.org) 10:00pm - 2:00am Big Chicks 5024 N Sheridan Rd., Chicago, 913-317-6515 <http://trikonechicago.org/>

**Saturday, Aug. 20**

**Olympic Gear Party fundraiser** The AFC Sirens will host a special fundraiser to benefit its sponsor, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC). Free. 2:00pm - 5:00pm North End 3733 N Halsted St Chicago

**Dance for Life** Annual benefit dance concert presenting and showcasing the city's unique diversity of talent, dance traditions, and styles by bringing together the talented, world-renowned professional dancers of Chicago, including Giordano Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and The Joffrey Ballet. Funds raised assist The Dancers' Fund and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Tickets start at \$15 and are online, by phone or at the box office. 7:30pm Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University 50 E Congress Pkwy Chicago 312.341.2300 Tickets: <http://AuditoriumTheatre.org>

**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. 21**

**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>

**Center on Halsted's 4th Annual Feel Good Fair** A day's worth of classes led by area organizations, promoting healthy and active lifestyles for LGBTQ and Allied communities. 10:00am - 6:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/FeelGood>

**Monday, Aug. 22**

**Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Annual Boat Cruise** Networking on the Lake. \$100 pre-registered attendees. Network with 150+ prominent guests and enjoy top-shelf open bar and small dinner on the water. 6:30pm - 9:30pm Chicago Elite Yacht Charters at Navy Pier Tickets: <https://glchamber.chambermaster.com/event-registration/register/2864>

**Wed., Aug. 24**

**Remembering Bayard Rustin** Community gathering 5:30pm at the Bayard Rustin bronze memorial on the Legacy Walk will commemorate the 29th anniversary of his passing. This celebration of the gay African-American civil-rights icon followed by the film Brother Outsider at the Center on Halsted and a reception and Q&A. Free event. 6:30pm - 8:30pm 3314 N. Halsted St., Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=12523>



**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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
- Book covers
- Post-its
- Calculator TI 30XA
- Large box of Kleenex disinfecting wipes
- Paper towels

# WERQ! CHICAGO

**Friday, Sept. 16, 2016**

**11 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago**

All members of the community can attend, with a special focus on LGBTQ youth, seniors, and transgender adults. Entry-level to advanced positions available.

Special workshops with experienced professionals!

Snacks and beverages provided to attendees, plus lots of fun give-away prizes and gift cards.

Booths just \$95 for businesses. \$50 for non-profits and schools.

For details on exhibiting, contact: [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com)

Sponsored by:



## CLASSIFIEDS

### ADVERTISE HERE

**ADVERTISE HERE:** Want to advertise your product, service, etc. to thousands of readers? Place an ad in the Windy City Times! We offer affordable rates, convenient service, and as a bonus, your ad runs in our online section for free. **To place an ad, contact Terri at 773-871-7610 ex 101, terri@windycitymediagroup.com, or go to our website <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/placeclassified.php>.**

### BOOKKEEPER AVAILABLE

**QUICKBOOK BOOKKEEPER AVAILABLE.** Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable, Invoicing, Collections, Time Tracking, Bank & Credit card reconciliations, Financial Statements, Journal Entry, Reports for accountants for year-end and Much More! [www.rockstarbooks.webs.com](http://www.rockstarbooks.webs.com)

### CLEANING SERVICES

**CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES:** We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. **Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. [www.ChestnutCleaning.com](http://www.ChestnutCleaning.com) (11/23/16-52)**

### HELP WANTED

**ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRITS WANTED.** Achieve Personal & Financial FREEDOM. Help us help you help others. It's what we do. Earn \$10,000/month while you learn to invest VERY PROFITABLY in Real Estate. **For a brief online overview, call or text your name to 708-292-8778. (8/31/16-4)**

### HOME IMPROVEMENT & PAINTING

**MAKE YOUR HOME LOOK FABULOUS!** We do Bathroom Remodeling, Carpentry, Drywall Repairs, Painting and more. "A+" with BBB. Licensed-Bonded-Insured, One year Warranty. Free Estimates! **Andy OnCall 847-328-3100 [www.andyonecallchicago.com](http://www.andyonecallchicago.com) (12/16/16-56)**

### LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, COUNTY DEPARTMENT, COUNTY DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF Carolyn Jean Kasprovicz and Christina Lynn Zurcher FOR CHANGE OF NAMES TO Carolyn Jean Zurkawicz and Christina Lynn Zurkawicz. PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NO: 2016CONC000836. HEARING DATE: 10-14-2016 at 10:00 AM at 50 W. Washington, Chicago, Cook County in Courtroom #1704 We, Carolyn Jean Kasprovicz and Christina Lynn Zurcher, request the entry of an order by this Honorable Court in compliance with the provisions of 735 ILCS 5/21 - 101 et. seq. for a change of name and in support of this petition and under penalties of perjury as provided by Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure (735 ILCS 5/1-109) state: A. FOR MYSELF:1. My year of birth is: 1965. My place of birth was: Chicago, IL. 3. My current residence address is: 922 W.

Winona St. Unit 3E, Chicago, IL 60640 4. I will have published notice of my intention to apply to this court for a change of name. A copy of that notice will be filed with the Clerk of Court. 5. I am not required to register as a sex offender under the Sex Offender Registration Act (730 ILCS 150/1 et. seq.). 6. I have not been convicted of identity theft.7. I have not been convicted of aggravated identity theft. 8. I have not been convicted or placed on probation for a felony or misdemeanor in the State of Illinois or any other state. 9. I request the Court change my name to: Carolyn Jean Zurkawicz. SIGNATURE Under penalties of perjury as provided is Section I-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure (735 ILCS 5/1-109) I certify that I have read the Petition for Change of Name filed by Carolyn Jean Kasprovicz and state all of the facts contained therein are true. /s/ Carolyn Jean Kasprovicz B. FOR MY SPOUSE. 10. My spouse's current name is Christina Lynn Zurcher; her date of birth is 3/28/75. 11. My spouse's place of birth was Jackson, MI. 12. My spouse's current residential address is 922 W. Winona St. Unit 3E, Chicago, IL 60640. 13. My spouse has lived in Illinois since May 10, 1997. I will have published notice of my intention to apply to this court for a change of name. A copy of that notice will be filed with the Clerk of Court. My spouse is not required to register as a sex offender under the Sex Offender Registration Act (730 ILCS 150/1 et. seq.). 14. My spouse has not been convicted of identity theft. 15. My spouse has not been convicted of aggravated identity theft. 16. My spouse has not been convicted or placed on probation for a felony or misdemeanor in the State of Illinois or any other state. 17. I request the Court change my name to: Christina Lynn Zurkawicz. SIGNATURE Under penalties of perjury as provided is Section I-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure (735 ILCS 5/1-109) I certify that I have read the Petition for Change of Name filed by Christina Lynn Zurcher and state all of the facts contained therein are true. /s/ Christina Lynn Zurcher. (8/31/16-3)

### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

**HELLENISMOS**  
THE ANCIENT GREEK RELIGION



**ORPHISMOS**  
STUDY AND WORSHIP  
[inquire.hellenicgods@gmail.com](mailto:inquire.hellenicgods@gmail.com)  
[www.hellenicgods.org](http://www.hellenicgods.org)



**You Are Loved,  
You Are Welcome,  
You Are Celebrated!**

**Chicago Coalition of  
Welcoming Churches**

*80+ ministries celebrating  
LGBTQ lives*

[www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org](http://www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org)

## REAL ESTATE



### Contemporary and Unique Lakeview Home

Huge garden • Fabulous kitchen  
2br/2.5ba • Sunroom  
Office/den/3rd br • Wine cellar  
2 car garage • Great condition  
\$835K • MLS#09285063  
<http://tinyurl.com/h9jddd>

[suzan.bramson@bairdwarner.com](mailto:suzan.bramson@bairdwarner.com)  
312-933-1444

### HOMES - FOR SALE

**3 LUXURIOUS LEVELS OF LIVING SPACE WILL TRULY AMAZE! 3110 WISCONSIN, BERWYN.** 5 bedrooms/5 baths. Elegant chandeliers, Italian ceramic flooring & marble throughout. 2 room ensuite with fireplace & balcony access. 3rd floor in-law arrangement. 3-car garage. 2 blocks from Metra. <http://tinyurl.com/hqh3z9p> Asking \$440,000. Carolyn Michals, Michals Realty, Inc. 708-447-9950. [www.michalsrealty.com](http://www.michalsrealty.com) (8/17/16-4)

**DESIRABLE OCTAGON FRONT BUNGALOW. 3004 Maple Avenue, Berwyn.** 4 bedroom, 2 - 1/2 baths. Spacious living room, formal dining & newly remodeled kitchen. Hardwood flooring throughout main level. 2nd floor has additional living space & full bath. Basement is fully finished with family room, 2nd kitchen & 1/2 bath. Private yard, detached 2 car garage & sprinkling system. 2 blocks from Metra & Proksa Park. 20 minutes to Chicago's loop. <http://tinyurl.com/zuwujd5> Asking \$369,000. Carolyn Michals, Michals Realty, Inc. 708-447-9950. [www.michalsrealty.com](http://www.michalsrealty.com) (8/24/16-4)

### HOMES - FOR SALE OUT OF TOWN

**INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE.** Beautifully restored 'Bartlett Stucco' 60 minute drive from downtown. Four bedrooms, three luxurious bathrooms, study/office, fireplace, chef's kitchen, three season room with great views. Two lots, beautifully landscaped, short stroll to the beach and to the METRA South Shore train station. **Call Beth Doherty/Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, 773.255.3534. MLS#388808 (8/31/16-4)**

### REALTORS

**CHICAGO'S TOP GAY REALTORS INSTANT FREE ACCESS TO CHICAGO'S TOP GAY REALTORS.** FREE Buyers Representation - FREE Sellers Market Analysis - FREE Relocation Kit any City, USA! **On-line: [WWW.GAYREALESTATE.COM](http://WWW.GAYREALESTATE.COM) or Toll Free 1-888-420-MOVE (6683). No Cost or Obligation (2/28/17-52)**

charm of his era. So, you know, then it's over. He's gone. Nobody cares.

### WCT: And you're okay with that happening to you?

MS: Yeah, I'm fine with that! [Laughs] I seriously feel like you can only speak to your moment, and right now your work should reflect it. Your work has to just be important right now. And in 10 years if it looks obsolete or like you were overdoing it, that's fine, because for that time you were.

**Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. He can proudly say Mariah Carey once called him a "daaahhling." Reach him via his website at [www.chris-azzopardi.com](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com) and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).**

Es is Results.  
Es is Experience.  
Es is Your Real Estate Guru.

**Esmeralda (Es) Román**

Cell/Text: 630.747.7338 | [eroman@koenigrubloff.com](mailto:eroman@koenigrubloff.com)



BH  
HS  
BERKSHIRE  
HATHAWAY  
HomeServices  
KoenigRubloff  
Realty Group



Family Owned & Operated Since 1965

24-Hour Emergency Service

We Service ALL Makes & Models

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Service
- Installation
- Sales

Find us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/AAService](http://www.facebook.com/AAService)

847-729-7889

[www.AAServiceCo.com](http://www.AAServiceCo.com)  
550 Anthony Trail, Northbrook, IL

**BA** ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Robert T. Badesch  
Tina Abramovitch  
Cory Blalock · Nicole McKinnon  
William McSurley · Karen VanderMeer

LGBTQ Family Law · Divorce · Mediation  
Adoption · Paternity · Division of Property  
· Custody · Children's rights  
Child support and enforcement  
· Maintenance · Domestic violence  
Post divorce enforcement and modification  
Grandparents and extended family rights  
Pre-nuptial and post nuptial agreements

Phone: 312-372-1639 [www.bafamilylaw.com](http://www.bafamilylaw.com)  
120 North LaSalle Street · Suite 1030 · Chicago · Illinois 60602

## Family Law

**Donald B. Boyd, Jr.**

- Pre-Marital Agreements •

LGBT Issues • Divorce/Wills/Trusts • Real Estate Closings  
Custody Violation • Child Support

Free Initial Consultation

**708-848-1005**

113 South Marion St., Ste. 100, Oak Park, Ill., 60302

Evening & Weekend  
Appointments Available  
Major Credit Cards Accepted



[www.BoydDivorce.com](http://www.BoydDivorce.com)

### STREEP from page 16

I treasure my life and the fact that it's not on Facebook, and I really love my solitude and privacy—all these old-fashioned concepts. In a job where I'm with hundreds of people all the time and going on these press things, I just really love to get away and not be in the chattering world. That's really important to me. So, I hope I fade into oblivion.

We rode in from the airport and Roy—my hair and makeup guy—pointed out the Will Rogers museum here in LA that's closing and I said, "Why?" He said because nobody knows who he was and nobody cares, and there was no more central figure in his time that could sort of translate the best of the wit and

# CONNEXIONS MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

**THE LYSTER FIRM**  
ATTORNEYS  
CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS  
*Serving the LGBT Community for Over 30 Years*

**TOUGH, EXPERIENCED AND DEDICATED**  
312-855-0875 | 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL  
LysterFirm@aol.com  
24/7 Emergency Phone: 847-309-7777

- State & Federal Courts
- Felonies & Misdemeanors
- Internet & White-Collar Crime
- All Drug Charges
- Sex Offenses
- Weapon & Gun Charges
- All Serious Traffic Offenses
- Drunk Driving
- Orders of Protection
- Expungements

Speak to an experienced attorney within minutes who will fight for you

**Ehrlich Dental**  
General & Cosmetic Dentistry

- Licensed Sedation Dentistry
- Check Out Our Reviews Online

3118 N. Sheffield Ave.  
Chicago, IL  
(773) 935-0300  
[www.EhrlichDental.com](http://www.EhrlichDental.com)

*Serving Lakeview & Beyond!*

Joshua H. Ehrlich, DMD



**BUYING?  
SELLING?  
RELOCATING?**

Chicago and the Nation's  
Top Gay Realtors  
Represent You!

[www.GayRealEstate.com](http://www.GayRealEstate.com)

Find Your Perfect Agent Online:  
[www.GayRealEstate.com](http://www.GayRealEstate.com)

**ANDERSON & BOBACK**  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

- Divorce
- Child Custody
- Adoption
- Cohabitation Agreements
- Domestic Violence
- Spousal and Child Support

Janice L. Boback  
Kimberly J. Anderson

*Proudly serving same-sex couples!*

115 S. LaSalle St., 26th Floor  
312-715-0870  
[www.illinoislawforyou.com](http://www.illinoislawforyou.com)

Ray J. Koenig III and **Clark Hill PLC**

- Probate
- Trusts
- Guardianship
- Estate Planning
- Elder Law

Clark Hill is an entrepreneurial, full service law firm that provides business legal services, government & public affairs, and personal legal services to our clients throughout the country. With offices in Arizona, Delaware, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C. and West Virginia, Clark Hill has more than 300 attorneys and professionals.

312.985.5938 | [rkoenig@clarkhill.com](mailto:rkoenig@clarkhill.com)  
[clarkhill.com](http://clarkhill.com) CLARK HILL

**ACHILLE BENKO & DUVALL**  
BUSINESS SERVICES and CPAs

SERVING: ARTISTS  
PROFESSIONALS  
BUSINESS OWNERS

[www.abd-cpas.com](http://www.abd-cpas.com) • (847) 257-7330

The Law Office of  
**Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, P.C.**

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

- Business Organization
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Closings
- Premarital Agreements

33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60602  
312-263-8800 [RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM](mailto:RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM)

**Dr. Edward J. Fajardo**  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

4633 N. Western Ave., Suite 206  
Chicago, IL 60625  
(312) 623-0502  
[dr.edwardfajardo@gmail.com](mailto:dr.edwardfajardo@gmail.com)

Look for Dr. Edward Fajardo on Facebook

*Specializing in  
Gay-Affirmative Psychotherapy*

**Low Electric & Gas Rates**

**Why Pay More?**

**UtilityDiscount.com**

**1010**

**CUSTOM FRAMING**

Framing Chicago's art since 1991.

1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962

**Susan O'Dell, PhD**  
*Down to earth, change oriented therapy*

I see individuals, couples, children & families for crisis and ongoing work.

I also offer wellness support for persons living with chronic illness, including cancer and HIV-AIDS, their partners and families.

773.262.7010  
1435 W. Rosemont Ave, #1W, Chicago, IL, 60660

**Mr. Porch™**  
*"If it's not a Mr. Porch, it's just another porch."*

Call today for a **FREE on-site inspection!**

Call Mr. Porch at 877-677-6724 or email us at [info@mrporch.com](mailto:info@mrporch.com)

Like us on Facebook at [mrporchbuilder](https://www.facebook.com/mrporchbuilder)

**100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE**

Scan QR Code with smart phone to view more samples of our previous work!

For more information please visit: [www.MrPorch.com](http://www.MrPorch.com)

*Building Porches and Decks in the Chicago Area for Over 15 Years*



# UBER

## Ride together

Get a reliable ride in minutes with the Uber app

Sign up with the code **WINDYCITYTIMES** at [Uber.com/app](https://uber.com/app) for a FREE ride.

First-time riders only. Up to \$20. Expires 12/31/16.