

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 32, NO. 2 OCT. 5, 2016

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

BUILDING BERWYN

LGBT candidates on Feb. election slate



CHICAGO GAY PIONEER DIES
 Author, archivist and activist Marie J. Kuda was a critical part of Chicago's LGBT movement for 50 years.
 Photo by Tee Corinne



From left: Jeanine Reardon, Joe Johnston, Marge Paul and Jose Ramirez.
 Photo by Julia McAleer-Forte

BY MATT SIMONETTE

According to businessman Jose Ramirez, who is running to be Berwyn's 2nd Ward alderman, having four openly LGBT candidates on their ticket in the city's primary election next February is "a big deal because it's not a big deal."

Berwyn has a large number of LGBT residents. The city has, over the years, made an aggressive push to get people to move there, and has also made outreach in LGBT communities elsewhere. Ramirez has in fact helped staff a booth at Northalsted Market Days to do just that.

Ramirez said, "When you tell younger people to move to

Turn to page 10



VITO RUSSO
 Bruce Vilanch, Cleve Jones discuss activist and The Celluloid Closet.
 Photo courtesy of Victor Salvo



AIDS RUN & WALK
 Thousands participate in annual event.
 Photo by Tracy Baim



JOSE ANTONIO VARGAS
 Out journalist on #EMERGINGUS and the future.
 Photo by Gerry Salva Cruz

FUN HOME "AN EMOTIONAL POWERHOUSE."
 - Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune

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WHATEVR IT TAKES

Bent Nights reviews shows by Yoko and the Oh No's as well as Atta Boi (led by Jolene Whatevr, pictured, left).

Photo by Vern Hester

STOPPING FOR A 'VISIT'



WCT reviews the production Visiting Edna.
Photo by Michael Brosilow

LIN, GENIUS



Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda visited Hubbard Street Dance Center while his musical launched in Chicago.
Photo by Todd Rosenberg

ALL HANDS ON 'DECK'

Nico Scholly makes waves on the Bravo show Below Deck.

EXPRESS LANE

Nothing Without a Company and The Living Canvas hosted The Express Yourself Gala and Fashion Show.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about John Varvatos, Michelle Rodriguez and the show Finding Prince Charming.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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LGBT candidates on the ballot

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Republican supporters of a Congressional candidate dubbed a "mini-Trump" in Minnesota used a family photo of his Democratic lesbian opponent to draw attention to "her female marriage partner and their 4 teenage sons."

Democratic opponents of a gay Republican candidate for sheriff in Arizona ran an ad that claimed "we can't trust him with our kids."

In Oregon, threats and taunts against incumbent Gov. Kate Brown, a bisexual, have escalated in recent months over her calls for tighter gun controls, prompting an increase in her security detail.

And a story in the conservative Des Moines Register characterized Iowa's openly gay Republican candidate for the state senate as a 50-year-old man "living with his mom" and described his Democratic opponent as having a "muscular campaign organization."

But while anti-LGBT sentiments and tactics might still be in evidence these days, there is much to be appreciated for how matter-of-factly the sexual orientation of most LGBT candidates is being regarded. Many LGBT incumbents face no opposition to reelection. And in the San Francisco Bay Area, there are two races in which the competition is between two openly LGBT candidates.

Even in the South, in conservative and solidly red Kentucky, openly gay Democratic candidate Jim Gray told the Washington Post his being gay hasn't been a problem on the campaign trail.

Gray is the only openly gay person running for a U.S. Senate seat, but there is a record number of LGBT people running for seats in the U.S. House this year: 12. Six are incumbents expected to easily win re-election; six are new comers, only one of whom is said to have a good chance at winning.

Add to that at least 21 openly LGBT people running for state senate seats, 61 running for state house seats, one governor and four other statewide offices, at least 53 local offices and 17 seats on various state and local courts, and the total—170—sets a new high (compared to 152 in 2012 and 164 in 2010).

Here's a look at some of the most high-profile races involving LGBT candidates next month:

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown: Brown, who identifies as bisexual, took office in February 2015, when her predecessor resigned in scandal. She's considered a safe bet to keep that job. A Portland-based polling firm found her eight points ahead of Republican challenger Bud Pierce in early September. Brown was previously secretary of state; Pierce was an oncologist.

But there have been some troubling moments for Brown this year. Earlier this month, pro-gun demonstrators burned an effigy of her, and The Oregonian reports that Brown's security detail has been increased. The paper reported that someone posted a message on Twitter, calling Brown a "sexually confused progressive" and blamed her for the death of a man who joined a group trying to occupy a federal wildlife refuge in the state. Another threatened an "attack" on her house for a ruling by a state labor commissioner who ordered a bakery to pay \$135,000 to a same-sex couple for refusing to sell them a wedding cake. But the Oregonian also noted that a previous governor, Barbara Roberts, received death threats in the 1990s over her pro-choice stance and efforts to protect the spotted owl.

Six new candidates for Congress: In addition to Gray's run for the U.S. Senate in Kentucky, six other new LGBT candidates are running for seats in the U.S. House this year. Most of them are considered long shots, but Angie Craig in Minnesota has the best chance of get-



Openly gay Arizona candidate Daniel Hernandez (above), who once saved the life of U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords. Photo courtesy of Hernandez

ting there. Her race is polling as a "toss-up," according to RealClearPolitics.com.

Craig, a vice president of global human resources for a medical devices manufacturer in St. Paul, left that position to run for Minnesota's 2nd District seat in the U.S. House. Craig's website bio features a photo of her, her wife and their four boys. She's the Democratic Farmer Labor party candidate for a seat opened up by retiring Republican John Kline, and she's running against a former talk-show host, Jason Lewis, whose provocative statements prompted The Atlantic magazine to dub him "Minnesota's mini-Trump."

Among other things, Lewis has characterized the "vast majority of young single women" as caring about only "abortion and gay marriage" and called the idea of allowing transgender students to use the restroom of their gender identity "an abomination." And he's argued that "Gay couples are no more discriminated against than the polygamist, the drug user, or the loan shark." One state GOP official used a photo of Craig's family to solicit attendance to a Lewis fundraiser, noting that Craig is "liberal and this is her family." She and her female marriage partner and their 4 teenage sons.

Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund President Aisha C. Moodie-Mills said the use of Angie Craig's family photo was used "to attack both her and LGBT families" and is "more indicative of the hate her opponent Jason Lewis spreads, than it is of politics for LGBT candidates nationwide."

"LGBT candidates undoubtedly face additional hurdles because of homophobia and transphobia, but fortunately these attacks are less prevalent than in the past," said Moodie-Mills.

Craig has raised almost \$1.5 million for her campaign, according to Federal Elections Commission records. Lewis has raised \$369,000.

Washington state Rep. Brady Walkinshaw, 32, is running for the state's 7th District seat to the U.S. House against another progressive Democrat, state Sen. Pramila Jayapal. Jayapal got twice as many votes as Walkinshaw during the primary, but, as one of the top two vote-getters in the nine-person field, Walkinshaw advanced to the general election. Walkinshaw has also picked up some important endorsements: the Seattle Times and the third top primary vote-getter, openly gay King County Council Chairman Joe McDermott. Walkinshaw's campaign website notes that he lives with his husband on Capitol Hill, a predominantly gay neighborhood.

Oklahoma state Sen. Al McAffrey is making a second run for a U.S. House seat to represent Oklahoma's 5th Congressional district. He won this year's Democratic primary, despite a

Open To Thinking

BY NICK PATRICCA



Dickie V. and Me: Sexual Identity in 1950s America

Dickie V. wanted to see me. I received this message from my mother who had received it from Dickie's mother. I hardly knew Dickie. His family lived on the rich side of the tracks; my family on the poor side.

I crossed the Larimer Avenue Bridge which separated us poor folk on Larimer Avenue in East Liberty, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from the rich folk on Stanton Avenue in Highland Park. I was in my second year at Central Catholic HS; Dickie in his first.

Dickie's mother welcomed me into her fancy home, decorated in Italianesque Baroque furniture and replica art works.

I was 15 years old. I tried to make sense of it all. I suggested he appeal to the bishop. He said he had. I suggested he try another diocese. He would not. I asked Dickie if his nervous breakdown was caused by this rejection. He only cried.

Then, he said, "They think I'm homosexual, they think I'm not a man."

One week later Dickie V. committed suicide. He was 14. He jumped from the low WPA Art-Deco railing of the Larimer Avenue Bridge onto the road far below in the 'holler'.

My mother told me Dickie had committed suicide. In the 1950s, newspapers did not publish such deaths, which were spoken of by adults in whispers over coffee and cigarettes. I didn't know what to say. She added, "I found pictures of naked men under your under wear." I told her they were physique magazines for people who wanted to make muscles and that the men weren't naked, they

"I was 15 years old. I tried to make sense of it all. I suggested he appeal to the bishop. He said he had. I suggested he try another diocese. He would not. I asked Dickie if his nervous breakdown was caused by this rejection. He only cried."

The chairs and couches were covered in plastic—typical of 1950s aspiring Italians. I presented her with a box of exquisite pizzelle waffle cookies which my mom had made—no Italian visited an Italian home without a present—and which I had been tempted to eat on my long walk to Dickie V's home.

Dickie's mom ushered me into a sun-room where Dickie sat in an over-stuffed chaise lounge, an expensive carpet-blanket draped over his legs. Next to him stood a wrought-iron glass-top stand on which were laid a pot of coffee and an array of Neapolitan cakes. The sun poured through the windows, intensifying the suffocation I started to feel as soon as I entered this home.

Dickie tried to make a polite remark then broke into violent sobs. I had no idea what was happening. I waited. Dickie said the doctors said he was having a nervous breakdown. I just listened. I thought nervous breakdowns were strange things that happened to women. He asked me if it was true that I was intending to go into the seminary in my junior year of HS. I said, Yes. He asked had I had the physical examination before being accepted. I said, Yes. Then, he told me that he had failed the physical exam.

Dickie had only one partially descended testicle. You had to have two fully descended testicles to be admitted to the seminary. He started crying again.

I was way out of my depth. I looked carefully at Dickie. He looked like an overweight young boy who had not yet entered into puberty. But, by no means did he seem unusual. There were many chubby Italian boys.

were in posing straps. She said, "I think Dickie was a homosexual." I said I had no idea whether he was or not. Then she said, "I know you're not a homosexual because homosexuals hate their mothers and commit suicide."

She sent me to Dr. DeNinno, our family physician.

DeNinno examined me, gave me a shot of vitamin B, some Royal Canadian Air Force isometric exercise manuals—you don't need to pump iron to make muscles, you can make muscles anywhere—and charged me \$2. He said he would tell my mother there's nothing to worry about.

DeNinno's concluding postscript: "Hide your magazines in better places, especially if you're going to the seminary, and remember, the world isn't ready for you, yet."

Dickie V. wasn't even finished with puberty. Maybe the second testicle would have descended. Maybe not. I don't know whether Dickie V. was gay or straight or asexual or transgender or as I prefer to call myself Q to the 4th power. I don't think he had the slightest idea. I only know that a needlessly cruel system pushed Dickie into a corner from which he could not imagine any escape other than to kill himself.

Dickie V. died before he had a chance to figure things out. I suspect he might have made a good priest.

I learned how to hide my physique mags better. I still have the Royal Canadian Air Force manuals Dr. DeNinno gave me.

I regret that Dickie V. didn't have a Dr. DeNinno on his side.

Nick Patricca is professor emeritus at Loyola University Chicago, president of Chicago Network and playwright emeritus at Victory Gardens Theater.

BALLOT from page 4

recount to challenge his 40-vote margin of victory. But he's got a tough race now against a well-funded one-term incumbent Republican.

In addition to incumbent U.S. Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, there are two new openly gay candidates for Congress in Arizona on Nov. 8—a Republican and a Democrat, running in separate districts.

Former Arizona state Rep. Matt Heinz, an emergency-room doctor at Tucson Medical Center, is running for the state's 2d Congressional district House seat. That seat is currently held by former Air Force Colonel Martha McSally, "the first woman in our nation's history to pilot a fighter plane in combat and command a fighter squadron." Heinz is the Democrat. An independent poll released Sept. 26 shows Republican McSally with a 19-point lead.

In Congressional District 1, openly gay Sheriff Paul Babeu of Pinal County is the Republican, running seven points in the polls behind the Democrat for an open seat. Babeu's campaign seems hobbled by news that he approved of the use of controversial discipline measures against students at a school he ran for at-risk youth in Massachusetts. An attack ad from Democrats focuses on that scandal and says, "We can't trust him with our kids. How can we trust him in Congress." Log Cabin Republicans criticized the ad as exploiting an anti-gay stereotype.

"Attack ads don't get more homophobic than this," said Log Cabin national President Gregory Angelo.

In Connecticut, openly gay Republican Selectman Clay Cope of Sherman is running to unseat an incumbent Democrat. The Texas native and supporter of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is out to unseat Democratic incumbent U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Esty, of the state's 5th Congressional district, who earned a perfect score from the Human Rights Campaign for her voting record.

And in Kentucky, Gray, a Democrat, has tak-

en on Republican incumbent U.S. Sen. Rand Paul. Gray told the Washington Post that his being gay has not been an issue in the campaign, but he's also trailing 12 points behind Paul, according to the most recent poll. And the Kentucky Herald-Leader notes that a significant number of "Business Leaders for Jim Gray" have failed to contribute to his campaign coffers. His campaign has raised \$1.8 million, compared to Senator Paul's \$2.3 million.

Statewide races: old and new

There are some familiar names and some new ones among the 87 known openly LGBT candidates running for statewide offices next month.

In addition to Oregon's Brown, there is Democrat Tina Podlodowski, a longtime lesbian politico, running to become secretary of state in Washington state. Podlodowski left a successful career at Microsoft in 1995 to win a seat on the Seattle City Council. She's up against an incumbent Republican.

Toni Atkins is another well-known lesbian politico. She served as California Assembly Speaker of San Diego but is now running for the seat representing Senate District 39. Because she won more than three times the votes her Republican challenger did in this year's open primary, Atkins is considered likely to win Nov. 8.

Daniel Hernandez made headlines five years ago as the openly gay staffer who helped save the life of U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords following a mass shooting in Tucson, Arizona. A Democrat, he's now running for a state house seat against a Democratic incumbent and a Republican challenger. The top two vote-getters represent the district.

Less well-known is Beth Tuura, a television producer and winner of three Emmys for sports coverage. Tuura, a Democrat, is challenging a Republican incumbent for a House seat representing Orlando, Florida.

And another new name on the horizon is Sam Park, a young attorney born and raised in Georgia to immigrants from Korean. He's making his



IL State Rep. Greg Harris.
Photo by Matt Mills

first bid for elective office, seeking a seat in the state house.

There are at least five openly LGBT candidates for public office in Illinois. Three are Democrats running for re-election state house seats: Kelly Cassidy (District 14), Greg Harris (District 13, and unopposed), and Sam Yingling (District 62). One Republican gay man, Andy Kirchoff, is seeking to challenge an incumbent Democrat for the District 24 seat. And Catherine Schneider is running for a Cook County Circuit Court seat. Schneider edged her opponents in the primary, even though the Chicago Tribune endorsed one of her opponents.

Local races to watch

Fifty-three openly LGBT candidates are vying for local elective office, including two candidates for mayor—incumbent Alex Morse in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and Kriss Worthington in Berkeley, California.

Meanwhile, Berkeley's first openly gay Black City Councilman, Darryl Moore, is fending off a challenge from the LGBT community—Nanci Armstrong-Temple, who Bay Area Reporter says identifies as queer.

Next door, in Oakland, two other LGBT candidates are squaring off for one seat on that city's Council: Oakland mayoral aide Peggy Moore is challenging incumbent Rebecca Ka-

plan for one of the city's at-large seats.

Kimberly Alvarenga is running to be the first lesbian in 16 years to serve on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. And according to the Bay Area Reporter, her election could maintain an important part of LGBT history. Since 1977, when Harvey Milk was first elected to the Board, "there has been at least one LGBT supervisor," notes the paper. But new term limits are jeopardizing that trend. Plus current gay Board member Scott Wiener is running for the state senate. That leaves lesbian union leader, Alvarenga, trying to fill the void. She is up against another union leader.

In Texas, Jenifer Rene Pool made history as the first openly transgender person to win a primary in Texas. She defeated a fellow Democrat and took 78 percent of the vote for a seat on the Harris County Commissioners Court in Houston. She's now running against an incumbent Republican.

Not surprisingly, California has the most openly LGBT candidates (43), followed by Texas and Florida (with nine each), Massachusetts and Georgia (with eight each, and Washington state (with seven). Michigan has four.

"LGBT candidates are running strong races in parts of the country thought unviable just an election cycle or two before," said Victory Fund's Moodie-Mills.


Among the more "unviable" states where LGBT candidates are running this year are the solidly conservative Republican states of West Virginia, Montana, and Wyoming.

Moodie-Mills said candidates in these more difficult environments "can make an outsized impact on equality if elected in November."

"Voters are viewing LGBT candidates holistically—so qualified LGBT candidates with the right message can run competitively and win," she said. "It is rarely easy, but we are making enormous progress, and it upends the narrative that LGBT candidates can only win blue or purple states and districts."



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Marie J. Kuda, Chicago gay pioneer, dies

BY TRACY BAIM

One of Chicago's pioneering lesbian activists, Marie J. Kuda, has died at age 76 after complications from multiple illnesses, including heart disease.

Kuda, born Dec. 8, 1939, was inducted into the first class of Chicago's LGBT Hall of Fame in 1991. She began her activism on gay rights in the mid-1960s and continued to work on LGBT rights in the areas of politics, literature and history for the rest of her life.

Kuda's accomplishments were many, and she was one of only a few Chicagoans who were active in the pre-Stonewall gay-rights movement who used her own name. She and William B. Kelley, who died in 2015, joined forces on many projects. They were critical pillars in the movement's fight against police harassment, institutional discrimination, media bias and cultural erasure.

In an era when academics ignored or consciously edited out LGBTs from their work, Kuda was one of a handful of people across the country who would tour with "slide shows" documenting the contribution of LGBTs, especially lesbians, to world history. During the 1970s and 1980s, as literature and film barely scratched the surface of the work of LGBTs, these touring shows provided a critical lifeline for people trying to find out about their past. She presented to hundreds of groups over the years.

"In the years before we had our own published histories, a bunch of us, like Greg Sprague, Tee Corinne, JEB [Joan E. Biren] and Allan Bérubé, were itinerant storytellers going around with our slide projectors, sharing our history whenever queers were gathered," Kuda had said when asked about those shows.

Kuda was a Renaissance woman, mostly self-taught, so she often felt left behind once the academic world caught up, and people landed well-paid jobs doing the work she had mostly volunteered to do for decades. This was a similar plight faced by many LGBTs who put their hearts and souls into the movement, setting aside traditional career tracks, sacrificing both financially and physically for the movement. She struggled in her later years, and relied on the kindness of friends and strangers for support.

"Marie Kuda was not sweet, but she was kind and loyal," said longtime activist and writer Kathleen Thompson. "She was not an academic, but she was a scholar. She was not a romantic, but she had a gruff sentimentality that softened the edges of her life and those of others. I reconnected with her only recently and I was so looking forward to seeing her again. If I were sitting at a bar with a whiskey in my hand, I'd say, 'They don't make them like Kuda anymore.' And I'd be speaking the truth."

On a personal note, I worked with Kuda since 1984, when I first started as a reporter at GayLife newspaper in Chuck Renslow's office complex in Andersonville. Kuda was a force to be reckoned with, and we often butted heads on stories and her push for perfection in an era of speed. She wrote extensively on a period of gay history from which little original source material existed, and was frustrated by the lack of acknowledgment for her work and her perception that the community did not even care about this history.

Kuda was a key contributor to several of my books on LGBT history, especially *Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community and Gay Press*, *Gay Power*. She was also the reason my *Barbara Gittings: Gay Pioneer* book ever happened, since she introduced me to Gittings' widow, Kay Lahusen, and recommended me for the project.

When the Chicago History Museum was curating its major LGBT exhibit, its officers turned

to the M. Kuda Archives for photos and other materials. As did WTTW for its *Out & Proud* in Chicago documentary, among many others who used her research and archive.

While Kuda always felt more comfortable being part of the "gay" community, as she had friends among both men and women, she was also a fierce and feisty lesbian, through and through, and organized major writers conference specifically for lesbians. She had lasting friendships with icons of the lesbian movement, and she made sure her extensive archives, including correspondence with key lesbian movement figures (Barbara Gittings, Renee Hanover, Pearl Hart, Valerie Taylor, etc.), were carefully collected and donated to the Kinsey Institute.

The five Lesbian Writers Conferences she organized in 1974 to 1978 provided a link to both writers and readers from across the U.S. They were the first-ever gatherings of lesbian writers in this country. She was proud of that accomplishment—a difficult task in that era—and the posters from those events still hang in the homes of women who proudly attended.

Kuda founded *Womanpress* on 1974, part of the burgeoning Women In Print movement nationally. She also wrote about LGBT history in chapters and columns for books and newspapers. She wrote for almost every Chicago LGBT media outlet over the years, especially those published from the 1960s-1990s. These included *Chicago Gay Pride* in 1971, *The Paper* in 1972, the *Chicago Gay Crusader* during its entire run from 1973 to 1976, *Lavender Woman* (1971-1976), *Women in Print Newsletter* starting in 1976, the paper known as *women's news...For a Change* in 1977, *GayLife* (1975-1985), and then later *Gay Chicago*, *Windy City Times* and *Outlines* newspapers.

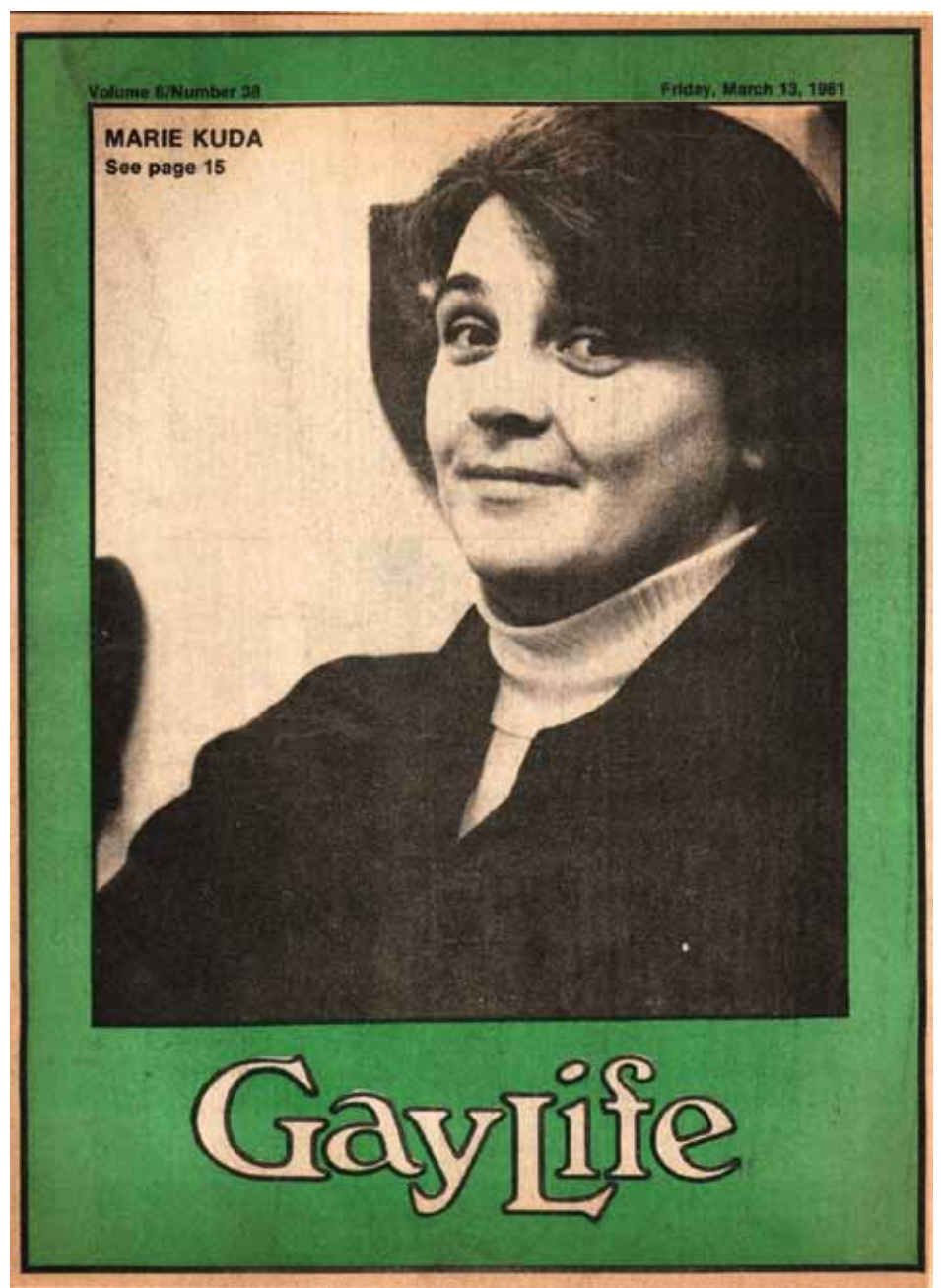
She edited and published works that have been essential reading in lesbian literature and scholarship, including *Two Women: The Poetry of Jeannette Howard Foster and Valerie Taylor*, and *Women Loving Women: A Select and Annotated Bibliography of Women Loving Women in Literature*, the first annotated lesbian bibliography.

"I am remembering her lesbian history slide-shows at Mountain Moving Coffeehouse," said lesbian activist Kathy Munzer. "I also remember her teaching lesbian lit classes at Jane Addams, her pride in producing the first lesbian writers conferences here in Chicago—an extraordinary LGBT historian, archivist and activist—smart, funny, sweet, curmudgeonly, roguish, generous—a brilliant butch and legendary storyteller."

"Marie Kuda was the personification of lesbian activism," said Chicago lesbian pioneer Pat McCombs. "She worked tirelessly for the LGBT community and made numerous contributions. Her strong commitment was exhibited by the work she did and the great sacrifices she made for our community. She will be greatly missed and I will always remember her witty personality and straight forwardness. Always keeping it REAL. RIP Marie."

Kuda was an early member of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the American Library Association, and worked alongside such national activists as Gittings to educate and inform librarians to get "the lies out of libraries" and to make available bibliographies, reviews and programs which enable the acquisition of books accurately reflecting the spectrum of the gay and lesbian lifestyle, according to her Hall of Fame biography. She served for 16 years on that task force, and she was the first open lesbian to write book reviews for the ALA's *Booklist*, contributing more than 200 reviews from 1990 to 1994.

Completely Queer: The Gay and Lesbian Encyclopedia cites Kuda as "a leading chronicler of lesbian and gay life, particularly as it unfolded in the Midwest."



Kuda on the cover of *GayLife* newspaper, March 13, 1981.



Kuda in 2015.

"Although it's been years since I've seen her, I was very fond of Marie," said Philadelphia-based gay pioneer John Cunningham. "I met her through Barbara Gittings. Marie always stood ready to help when the American Library Association convention was in Chicago. When I was co-chair of the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia in the early '80s, Tommi Avicelli Mecca and I worked to bring Marie to Philadelphia to present her slide lectures on lesbian history and literature to a packed house. She knew so much and took great joy in sharing her knowledge with others. I loved her sense of humor and her deep caring for our community."

While literature was her primary continuous interest, and she was reading and commenting (and recommending books to others) up until her last days, she was also a mover and shaker in Chicago politics.

Her political activism started in the mid-1960s with the *Mattachine Midwest* group in

Chicago. She edited and wrote articles for the group's newsletter, including about police harassment. That newsletter, a precursor to later gay media, was a lifeline for so many people experiencing discrimination at the hands of institutions, and family, in the Chicago area.

A few years ago, Kuda told her *Mattachine Midwest* (MM) story to Sukie de la Croix for his *Chicago Whispers* column in *Windy City Times*: "The monthly meetings to put the paper together were held in Valerie Taylor's basement apartment on Surf Street. Various people would come and go dropping off copy and cruising. Bill would type the entire paper and I would help 'set' paper-type for headlines or display and set clip-art for ads received without camera-ready copy. Those were pre-PC days. The *Advocate* was our first national ad. Most of the local advertising was from bars and bookstores (porn) with an occasional birthday or anniversary greeting. The first ads comparable to what is now de rigeur in the back section of any gay paper was *Man-to-Man Computer Dating Service*. At some point in the afternoon Val would whip up a one-pan meal of some kind usually accompanied by garlic bread. ...

"I also volunteered for MM's hot-line. In those paranoid days, callers would get MM's hired answering service who would take their number and then contact whoever was working the hotline that day; and they in turn would return the initial call. Many callers were too frightened to give their numbers and weren't heard from again. Most needing legal or medical referrals persisted. ... As I recall the male membership at the time was about 250 [and a few women]. An average of 40 showed up at membership meetings and upwards of 100 at MM-sponsored social events like the opening of the play *The Boys in the Band* at the then-Studebaker Theatre in the Fine Arts Building—I never saw so many floor-length furs!"

'Change Chat' takes on bisexuality

BY LIZ BAUDLER

A small but mighty group attended the latest Center on Halsted Change Chat on the evening of Sept. 28. Host Andrew Fortman tied this chat's theme, "Bi the Way," to other bi-focused COH programming in September (traditionally the month that celebrates bisexuality), and introduced two local bi community figures.

Adrienne McCue, founder of the BiSocial Network, began a blog discussing her identity back in 2008 after losing her job. The emails she received from bisexuals who felt invisible were McCue's inspiration for the "I am Visible Campaign," which starred actors Paul Fitzgerald and Alan Cumming and scored McCue a 2011 invitation to the White House's LGBT reception.

Often asked "What do you like more?" when it comes to gender, McCue said she doesn't have a type. "I don't like more, I like the person," McCue said. She remembered having an intimate connection with a childhood friend, Gloria, while simultaneously being a huge Rick Springfield fan. Yet McCue didn't realize there was a term for her identity until college.

Marla Depew, a comedian who hosts Just Dickin' Around, a women and queer friendly comedy series, described her attractions in terms of "specific gender" rather than "specific sex," saying she was attracting to the soft masculinity of alpha women and beta men.

Both Depew and McCue found the bi community to be quite inclusive. "It's a little bit of everyone," said McCue, who remembered feeling out of place because of her height and race in women's spaces. Depew felt that when she was in lesbian space as a bisexual, she was "accepted with a caveat."

McCue was irritated by both ongoing identity segregation in the LGBTQ community and the lack of separate bi space. Depew, queer for 10 years before coming out as bi at 28, said she felt shut out from the queer community for dating the man who became her husband. She felt her experience was why bi people, such as actress Cynthia Nixon, choose to stay closeted.

Both women felt that the bi community needed clear labels to communicate their existence and unite the community, and that choosing not to use the term bi was internalized hatred.

Fortman mentioned that in preparing for the bi chat, he was surprised to find a lack of intersectional issues affecting the bi community, suggesting to him that the community was not at a point to form subgroups. He wondered out loud if the community's inclusiveness hindered its visibility. Depew floated a theory that bisexuality is hard to see partly because it's not visible in couple form: any member of a same or different-gendered couple could be bi.

When Fortman asked the women about possible next conversations for the bi movement, Depew discussed the difference between bisexuality's acceptability in men and women. "It's bigger topics we need to talk about now," said McCue, who wants her organization's current focus to be more on community projects such as combating homelessness. In her experience, those with complex identities can feel alien-



Adrienne McCue and Marla Depew. Photo by Liz Baudler

ated from the larger bi population.

"We've been talking about visibility for 20 years," said McCue, who marveled that an audience of Chicago bisexuals hadn't heard of BiNet, the self-proclaimed leading bisexual organization. She also recalled having conversations with GLAAD and feeling that "they didn't know what bi [meant]." McCue felt the solution was increased collaboration across all LGBTQ communities. "A lot of groups don't talk to each other," she said. Depew wanted to see more bi characters in film and TV, and critiqued

Orange Is the New Black for having a protagonist who is bi in practice but not in profession.

Yet at the end of the day, there's more to bisexuality than mere existence. "We focus on invisibility, but there's many things that are amazing," Depew said. Both Depew and McCue joked about having packed resumes and multifaceted careers as another possible aspect to their identity. Depew claimed to be "bi in every way," whether it's her career or her dinner order. "I see more possibilities," Depew said.

"I think it's the wiring," McCue concurred.

Out
RVA

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RVA

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UN official to look into anti-LGBTI abuses

The United Nations expert Vitit Muntarbhorn was given a three-year term on Sept. 30 to investigate abuses against LGBTI people.

Muntarbhorn is an international law professor at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, and has served on several UN committees. The council that appointed him overcame objections by Muslim countries, including Saudi Arabia.

Human Rights Watch welcomed the appointment, saying the UN council "made history."

Hundreds of LGBTI people have been killed and thousands injured in recent years, including various knife attacks, rape, genital mutilation and gay people being thrown from buildings.

Marriage plaintiff Windsor remarries

Eddie Windsor—the marriage-equality plaintiff who successfully challenged the federal Defense of Marriage Act in 2013—recently remarried City Hall in New York.

On Sept. 26, Windsor, 87, wed Judith Kasen, 51, a vice president at Wells Fargo.

Windsor initially arrived before the Supreme Court in her challenge to a federal estate tax bill of more than \$360,000 after the 2009 death of her spouse, Thea Spyer.

Israeli activists talk LGBT rights

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Activist Chen Arieli describes the Aguda, the Israeli LGBT organization that she co-chairs, as sometimes being “like a Jewish mother—all the kids left home and we were angry.”

Those “kids” are actually other organizations that have over the years been born within the Aguda and split off to achieve other, focused goals, such as working on behalf of LGBT youth or HIV/AIDS prevention. Now, Arieli and Co-Chair Imri Kalmann, who both spoke at Temple Sholom Sept. 28, are trying to ensure that they are working alongside those other organizations and competing less over the same resources.

“We need to release the power that comes from the center,” said Arieli. “We need to build platforms for other activists to do their work and give them what they need.”

The Aguda was formed in 1975 and has branches in Tel Aviv, Be'er Sheva, Kiryat Shmona and Eilat.

Many young LGBT Israelis are drawn to Tel Aviv once they grow old enough to leave home, especially if they come from a particularly anti-LGBT environment, Kalmann said. But the city is extremely expensive, so it's difficult for many young people to make ends meet once they arrive. So the Aguda is putting resources behind disseminating a message of equality that spans the entire country, not just its cities.

“We think [the Aguda has] the power to

change not only the LGBT community, but going back and changing the places we came from,” Kalmann added.

Marriage equality has not yet been achieved in Israel, but Arieli and Kalmann explained that the matter was mainly tied up as part of arguments over whether marriage is a civil matter or should be determined by rabbinical courts. Arieli noted that there are about a million Israelis who were unable to be married in their country.

“The system in Israel is religious,” added Kalmann. “Maybe we will have same-sex marriage before we have civil marriage.”

He further noted that the LGBT Israeli community was a “microcosm” of the country as a whole. When asked whether there had been efforts to give LGBT Palestinians a larger role in the work, Kalmann said that the Aguda had made overtures to two queer Palestinian organizations, but those did not want to affiliate with the Aguda since it accepted funding from the Israeli government.

In the meantime, Arieli and Kalmann want to see the Aguda function as a “gateway” organization, one that opens the door for work on causes besides those of the LGBT community.

“We have to stop talking about what we need and start talking about what we can give back,” said Kalmann.

A Wider Bridge, Temple Sholom and Or Chadash sponsored Arieli and Kalmann's talk.



Imri Kalmann and Chen Arieli.
Photo by Matt Simonette



LGBTQs, gun-violence prevention coalition to provide education, action

CHICAGO—In response to the epidemic of shootings in Chicago, and the massacre of mostly LGBTQ, mostly Latino individuals at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Chicago-area LGBTQ, Latinx, community and gun violence prevention organizations are coming together for “Disarm Gun Violence: An LGBTQ Town Hall For Action” Thursday, Oct. 20. The event will focus on education, coalition building and action.

The free program will feature various speakers who are doing the work on anti-gun violence, including through activism, advocacy and electoral politics. LGBTQ activists will address the need to amplify the existing organizational work, and bring new resources to the table for more effective coalitions.

Joy McCormack, founder of Chicago Survivors, an organization that provides crime victims services to families who experience violent loss, is working with Pride Action Tank, Windy City Times and the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition to develop the event.

McCormack will discuss the story of her own family's loss as a result of gun violence in Chicago, and she will be joined by others who have felt personal loss, including John Ziegler, whose friend Mbiganyi Lashani was gunned down this summer.

Other speakers include: Cleopatra Pendleton, whose daughter Hadiya's murder in 2013 garnered national media attention; Channyn Lynn Parker, a trans advocate from Chicago House, discussing the dramatic rise in murders of trans women of color; anti-violence advocate Lisa Gilmore; anti-gun activist Maria Pike; Mark Walsh of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence; Kim L. Hunt, executive director of Pride Action Tank; LGBTQ and Latinx advocate Emmanuel Garcia; Muslim LGBTQ advocate and attorney Nabeela Rasheed; Dawn Valenti from

Chicago Survivors; John Gruber from The Brady Campaign; Kathleen Sances from G-PAC; and Commissioner Mona Noriega of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations.

The event is 6-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20, at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave., Chicago. The program will start at 6:30 p.m.

Main Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition partners for the event are Chicago Survivors, The Brady Campaign, G-PAC, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, Organizing for Action, and People for Safer Society.

LGBTQ and allied community partners include: Affinity Community Services, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, ALMA: Association of Latino/as Motivating Action, Broadway Youth Center of HBH, BUILD (Broader Urban Involvement & Leadership Development), Center on Halsted, Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches, Chicago House, Commission on Human Relations, Dignity Chicago, Equality Illinois, Erie Neighborhood House, Gays Against Guns Chicago, Heartland Alliance, Howard Brown Health, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, La Casa Norte, Lambda Legal, Lighthouse Church of Chicago, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National LGBTQ Task Force, Northbrook United Methodist Church, Northalsted Business Alliance, Or Chadash, Pillars Fund, Pride Action Tank, Puerto Rican Arts Alliance, Temple Sholom's Social Justice, Thresholds, TransTech, United Latino Pride, and Windy City Times.

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1752325601684422/>

Additional information: JThaney@aidsschicago.org or <http://prideactiontank.org/>

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in the LIFE

Hadley Rue

TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
PHOTOS COURTESY OF RUE

- **Age**
37
- **Favorite movie**
Home Alone
- **Neighborhood**
Edgewater
- **Relationship status**
Partnered with Anthony Leonette, a school psychologist
- **Favorite TV show**
Antiques Roadshow
- **Hobbies**
Shopping for antiques and traveling
- **Little-known fact**
"I speak fluent Polish."

There's a quote from the late Thomas J. Watson that Hadley Rue holds near and dear to his heart. Watson, who was the chairman and CEO of IBM, said: "To be successful, you have to have your heart in your business and your business in your heart."

Rue, who previously worked in finance and management, is in his second year of real estate. And, he's been awarded the Rookie of the Year by Chicago Agent Magazine, along with the Five Star Professional Award.



"She was professional and knowledgeable," Rue said. "I hired her to sell my personal property and she did. We became friends and every time we talked, the question was, 'When are you getting your license?'"

"So after being asked plenty of times I decided to get it. And the rest is history."

Rue's grandmother also was a very successful realtor on the Main Line in Philadelphia, "so it is in my blood," he said.



"This is a huge honor and acknowledgement," he said.

The award is for 2016 and he will be listed in the October issue of Chicago Magazine as a Top Agent in the Chicagoland Area. The award, he added, "is a testament to my passion for the business."

Rue said he was surprised and elated to learn of the honor.

"I consider it a major accomplishment," he said. "How many real-estate agents are there in Chicago? [It's about 20,000], so, for me to be recognized and awarded this shows my dedication."

Rue got hooked on real estate through, naturally, a realtor: Barbara O'Connor, who represented the seller on the first property he bought.

Rue's forte in the field is residential real estate, [and] also being able to tell what sound investments are for my clients, regardless if [it] is their primary property or an investment," he said.

Rue said his favorite part about the job is simply meeting new people. "You develop a trusting relationship that turns into a friendship," he said.

Rue said about 65 percent of his clients come from the LGBT community.

Rue also has served on several different boards within the community, including Equality Illinois, GLAAD and the Trevor Project.

BERWYN from cover

Berwyn, they give you a look. I respond by saying, "When you grow up, and you're ready to settle down, have a yard and garage, be part of the school system, and have a family, that's where it's at." I've been with my partner for 25 years, and we just wanted a home that was ours."

Ramirez is running as part of a political action committee calling itself Berwyn United, which includes 3rd Ward Ald. Marge Paul, who is running for city clerk; Jeanine Reardon, a hospital chaplain who is running to replace Paul in the 3rd Ward; and Joey Johnston, who works for a renewable energy company and is running

for a township trustee post. Paul, Reardon and Johnston, like Ramirez, are openly gay.

"We've got people that really reflect the diverse demographic makeup of the city of Berwyn," Paul said.

Sixth Ward Ald. Theodore "Teddy" Polashek, who is currently running for mayor, approached Paul about running for city clerk. "We knew each other but weren't closely acquainted," Paul recalled. "Over time, we developed a mutual respect for the things we were trying to do for our community. About six months ago, we sat down and he let me know that he was planning to run for mayor and asked me to run for city clerk."

Paul called her city clerk candidacy "an important first step in terms of visibility for LGBT residents. I've represented the 3rd Ward for two terms. I handily won the election the first time, and was able to increase that in the second election."

It's the first time Reardon has run for elected office. She said she is looking forward to continuing the work that Paul began in her terms as alderman.

"There are many neighbors whose voices still haven't been heard," Reardon said. "I've enjoyed walking around the neighborhoods and talking to them."

Reardon also explained that she has noticed a perception that "if you 'know somebody' in town you can get anything done. If you don't know anybody, you can't. A lot of things get in the way. That's not the way things should work. We have a pretty high Hispanic population here, for example, but they're not well-represented in city council. Their concerns are not being brought to the table. I'm not sure I'm the best candidate for that. I think Jose Ramirez has a better connection, so I hope I continue to stay connected with him and do right by the whole community."

Johnston is a Berwyn native who moved away but returned about two-and-a-half years ago. He said he's running for trustee because, "I've always wanted to become involved in my community. I grew up with Teddy, and he and I are close friends. He's involved in a lot of stuff and he persuaded me to become involved in a way that was good for the community. ... There's a movement now for Berwyn for change, and here's the perfect opportunity to do."

Each of the candidates makes the argument for more transparency in the municipal government.

"I think it's a city government that's not listening to the new residents, and old residents," Ramirez said. "It's not representing everybody equally. In order to move Berwyn forward, we need an administration in office that are going to represent that. ... New residents want a voice. They want to be heard. What we have now is an administration that kind of does things the old-fashioned way. They don't use Facebook. They don't use Twitter. We need to modernize the administration and representatives of the people of Berwyn."

Ramirez said one step in that direction would be putting recordings of city council meetings online, for example. "That way everyone [in the community] can participate," he added. "Let's face it, everyone in the community has a different life and different hours."

Paul said "there are pressing issues for us, as city council members, that we really need to address. For example, we have an ordinance

requiring council permission for city contracts over \$10,000. Oftentimes, what we see is them constantly having serial contracts under that threshold. We may pay a company \$90,000 a year, but it's with 10 \$9,000 contracts. In the aggregate it's well over \$10,000. They find a loophole. There are other loopholes with the building code, the zoning code and the liquor ordinance. The position of Berwyn United is that you don't get a fair shot in town unless you play by the rules."

"It's not always clear who's connected to what, and who's being served," said Reardon.

Johnston said that Berwyn residents need more choices in leadership too.

"In the last election, a lot of people ran unopposed on the city side and the township side," he added. "It's good now that there is another choice for the people."

Ramirez also said infrastructure is another issue that needs work in Berwyn. "Like all cities, we have a budget crisis," he explained. "We don't have the money to do what we should do, and we're not getting the money from the state. There's an area there called the Depot District. People go by on the train and what do they see? Broken sidewalks, an area that's not kept up. There's a proposal to modernize the Depot District. Unfortunately, when [Bruce] Rauner became the governor, they kind of cut that out, so unfortunately that's at a standstill."

Despite their criticisms of the current state of local government, each candidate praised Berwyn as a welcoming city for the LGBT community. Ramirez noted that many residents were like Johnston—they'd move away when they reached adulthood, but then return at some point.

"A lot of kids can't wait to get the heck out of where they grew up," Ramirez said. "Here we have a population of people who say, 'I grew up in Berwyn and moved out, I did my thing, and when I was ready to settle down, I moved back to Berwyn.'"

The city "has come a long way in terms of accepting diversity and welcoming diversity," Paul said. "It shows the commitment to opening up the city to anyone who wants to move in. We're happy to have them."

The four LGBT candidates are having a T-Dance Fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Krew Rock Lounge, 6319 W. Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn, at 3-7 p.m. Entertainment will be by Ms. Cee Cee LaRouge and tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For more information, visit BerwynUnited.com.

[There is one additional candidate running in the Berwyn election, under the Democratic Citizens of Berwyn (DCOB), and we will report on this in next week's Windy City Times.]

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Jose Antonio Vargas on the forefront of an emerging U.S.

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

As part of Chicago Ideas Week, on Oct. 17 at Chicago's Cadillac Palace Theatre, six people—each renowned as among the most consummate in his or her respective field—will tackle Life's Big Questions.

Stanford's Product Design Executive Director Bill Burnett; author and journalist Sebastian Junger; game publishing giant Electronic Arts co-founder Dave Evans; international lawyer and think tank New America President/CEO Anne-Marie Slaughter; Olympic gold medalist and FIFA Women's World Cup soccer champion Abby Wambach; and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, filmmaker and entrepreneur Jose Antonio Vargas form an appropriately numbered panel for the sixth year of a festival which hosts a worldwide audience of 30,000 in an arena where innovative confrontations of global issues spur active solutions rather than agonized but ineffectual debate.

For the openly-gay, Philippine-born Vargas, the question of What Does it Mean to be an American? has been the cartographer of his life's journey whether as a 12-year-old undocumented immigrant to the United States who reached the highest steeple of what he called the "church" of journalism, his co-founding of the immigration advocacy nonprofit Define American, taking the fight for the DREAM Act to President Obama, the autobiographical film Documented in which Vargas outed his immigrant status, his highly publicized arrest by border patrol agents and, most recently, his creation of the media start-up #EmergingUS which presents America in a way that the news media is unwilling to do—as a country with an increasingly diverse human topography whose survival depends on seeing "each other, fully, humanely and with empathy."

Vargas spoke with Windy City Times by phone about #EmergingUS and the future, not only of the profession in which he was forged but of the country that he has loved deeply enough to explore for the past five years in search of each of the threads that weave us together in a beautiful but delicate fabric.

It is one that, particularly since the fight for 2016's succession of political power began, has



Jose Antonio Vargas.

Photo by Gerry Salva Cruz

shown outward signs of unraveling.

Windy City Times: How does #EmergingUS address the rhetoric in what has become such an increasingly divided country?

Jose Antonio Vargas: Since coming out as undocumented more than five-years-ago, I have done more than 850 events in 48 states and I have visited close to 300 college campuses. The rise of Donald Trump doesn't surprise me one bit. I can't think of another issue as politically toxic and as least understood as immigration. He took [that] issue and rallied people around it saying "you've been suffering, your jobs have been going overseas, here are the people to blame."

If there's one silver lining with what's happening with Donald Trump, it's that he's showing parts of us to ourselves that we don't want to see. There are people out there who don't believe that an emerging U.S. is happening—the country is only going to get more LGBTQ,

more Asian, definitely Browner, definitely Blacker. Women of all backgrounds will break all the barriers they should and must break. So, in some ways, you could make the argument that what's at stake in America is the soul of white, heterosexual men and how much change they can handle.

We are facing an era of unprecedented demographic changes. For the first time in the history of this country, white people are an emerging racial minority. How are we dealing with that? Look at racism in the gay community which is something we don't really talk about that much but it's just as big a problem as racism in the straight community. Far too often, the way identity and marginalized groups are portrayed and reported on in the media is as marginalized minorities. We are all a majority of one. I'm tired of being at the peripheral.

The other thing [#EmergingUS] is going to do a lot of is the intersection of race and LGBT communities. There's not [been] as much in depth coverage of that and I think that's a mistake. The word intersectionality gets used a lot but, outside of academia, I'm not sure people understand what that is. I'm the living embodiment of it—being gay, undocumented and Asian with a Latino name. For me, #EmergingUS is a continuation of the work that I've been doing with Define American. How do we define all the changes that are happening in this country?

WCT: In the UK, the Brexit vote occurred for a lot of the same reasons you described. Are we underestimating Trump's base?

JAV: I've been saying this for more than a year now that we are absolutely underestimating his base. There are many people in my experience who are Donald Trump supporters who would never admit publicly that they are. So I would argue that he has much more support than what we are seeing.

The other thing that this has shown us is how much the political news media in many ways is irrelevant. No matter how many fact checks happen, or if the New York Times writes an indictment of Donald Trump, none of that matters. All of my travels in the past five years lead me to believe that Donald Trump may actually win this presidency. I have been to the America that we don't really get to see. What is at stake is really the question of how we, as a people, define who and what an American is.

WCT: You once described journalism as your "church." What would you say is that state of that church at the moment?

JAV: Our church is in crisis.

One of my favorite quotes about journalism is from the playwright Arthur Miller who said that "A good newspaper is a country talking to itself." I would argue that there's a whole

lot of yelling; that we're not listening to each other. The two challenges in the news industry are technological and demographic. We are still grappling with the technological part and we are missing the demographic part. In this country, 88 percent of the top total overall population growth is going to come mostly from Latinos and Asians and yet, for the most part, we talk about America as if it's only Black and white. It almost seems like newsrooms now are less diverse than when I started in journalism in the late '90s.

It's important for us to hear, read and watch the news from as many different perspectives as possible so that we can actually have context, nuance and perspectives. For example, you can see the way the Black Lives Matter or the trans movements are covered. Look at immigration—the fact that [it] has become the province of reporters who report on it from the perspective of the politicians. Not the human toll. We have bought into Donald Trump's narrative and I don't know why. A few months ago, I was on the Bill O'Reilly show and at some point he says to me on air, "Jose, just so you know, you don't deserve to be here." I started thinking, "What did Bill O'Reilly ever do to deserve to be here?"

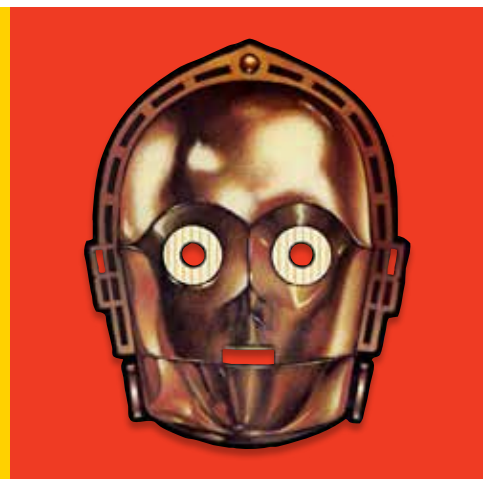
Twenty or 30 years from now, when we look back at the state of journalism when it comes to immigration, we are all going to have to apologize. We keep thinking of immigration as the border, the wall, Mexico when, really, it's us. Thankfully it is now culturally unacceptable in this county to be anti-gay. It is completely acceptable to be anti-immigrant.

WCT: And Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), especially in terms of the way it treats LGBTQ immigrants, does not seem to be regulated.

JAV: ICE is one of the biggest untold stories in investigative journalism. I'm waiting for the team to have the resources to figure out how ICE got to be as big and unregulated and uncontrollable it is. I don't think the American public knows that there's a congressional bed quota that more than 30,000 beds have to be filled every day. Who's paying for that? We are. Tax payers. I also find it really interesting that a lot of Americans believe that immigrants like me should earn out citizenship because it begs the question of what have Americans done to earn their citizenship? What does earning one's citizenship actually mean? It's not about papers. It's not about law. At a time of unprecedented demographic changes, that is the question we must all grapple with.

WCT: LGBTQ immigrants have particular

Turn to page 13



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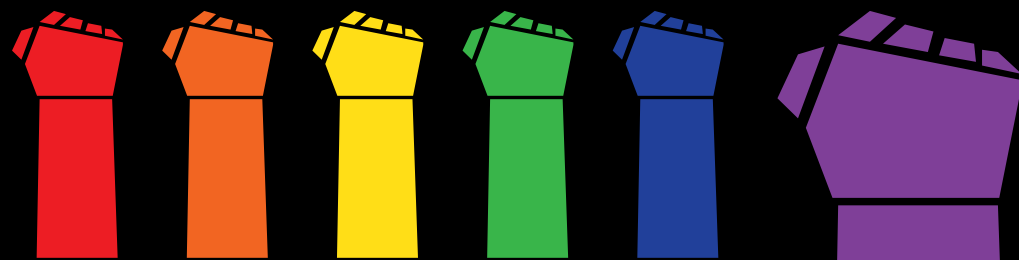
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**Pride Action Tank, the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition
and Windy City Times invite you to:**



DISARM GUN VIOLENCE

An LGBTQ Town Hall For Action

Education / Coalition Building / Action

**Thursday,
October 20**

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Doors open 6 p.m. Free.
Ebenezer Lutheran Church,
1650 W. Foster, Chicago

Speakers include advocates who have been impacted by gun violence, leaders from the anti-gun movement, and LGBTQ community advocates.

In response to the epidemic of shootings in Chicago, and the massacre of mostly LGBTQ, mostly Latino individuals at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Chicago-area LGBTQ, Latino, community and gun violence prevention organizations are coming together for this forum.

Speakers:

Joy McCormack
Kim L. Hunt
Mona Noriega
Emmanuel Garcia
Channyn Lynne Parker
Nabeela Rasheed

Cleopatra Pendleton
Dawn Valenti
John Ziegler
Maria Pike
Lisa Gilmore
Mark Walsh
John Gruber
Kathleen Sances

Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition partners for this event:

Chicago Survivors
The Brady Campaign
G-PAC
Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence
Organizing for Action
People for Safer Society
More coalition partners, partial list below:

ABJ Community Services	Jewish Council on Urban Affairs
All Saints Episcopal—Chicago	Joint Action Committee for Political Affairs
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital	Northwest Suburbs Organizing for America
Community of Congregations	Open Communities
Community Renewal Society	Organizing Catholics for Justice
Faith Community of St. Sabina	Parents for Peace and Justice
Greater Institutional AME Church	Peace & Justice Committee Episcopal Diocese of Chicago
Gun Responsibility Advocates	Peaceful Communities
Increase the Peace Englewood	Purpose Over Pain
	Saving Chicago's Youth

Community partners for this event:

Affinity Community Services	Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
AIDS Foundation of Chicago	Illinois Safe Schools Alliance
ALMA: Association of Latino/as Motivating Action	La Casa Norte
Broadway Youth Center of HBH	Lambda Legal
BUILD (Broader Urban Involvement & Leadership Development)	Lighthouse Church of Chicago
Center on Halsted	National Center for Lesbian Rights
Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus	National LGBTQ Task Force
Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches	Northbrook United Methodist Church
Chicago House	Northalsted Business Alliance
Commission on Human Relations	Or Chadash
Dignity Chicago	Pillars Fund
Equality Illinois	Pride Action Tank
Erie Neighborhood House	Puerto Rican Arts Alliance
Gays Against Guns Chicago	Temple Sholom's Social Justice
Heartland Alliance	Thresholds
Howard Brown Health	TransTech
	United Latino Pride
	Windy City Times

Additional information: JThaney@aidschicago.org or see <http://prideactiontank.org/>

VARGAS from page 11

problems whether it is with asylum, or coming out to officials. What is it going to take for us to see them?

JAV: It is facing the intersection of the issues and how these identities are connected. I am still haunted by this moment but the first Black president who oversaw the largest expansion of LGBTQ rights was having a celebration of the same-sex marriage decision in the East Wing of the White House. A trans immigrant woman Jennicet [Gutierrez] said "what about trans Latinas? Are you going to stop deporting us?" I think the President kicked her out of the room. Jennicet [told] me that most of the gay, white people around her were saying "This is not the time. This is not the place."

WCT: It seems to me #EmergingUS takes on a lot of the major issues we've discussed—telling raw stories of humanity as journalists should do and elevating those stories whether they are of a trans immigrant or a Native American.

JAV: In the past few decades, we, as journalists, have been forced to worship at the altar of objectivity. When I started reporting on HIV/AIDS in Washington DC. I remember an editor of mine, who I really liked, stopping by my desk and saying "Writing about AIDS is not really the way for you as a gay man to get ahead in this newsroom." I remember covering the '08 campaign for The Washington Post, there were two of us—me and this African-American reporter and it was almost like the editors doubted our objectivity. As people who are part of marginalized communities, objectivity belongs to people who don't have to fight for anything. I think of [#EmergingUS] as a necessary intervention, correction and liberation.

Visit Chicago Ideas for tickets to Jose Antonio Vargas and panelists answering Life's Big Questions.

Go to #EmergingUS for more information.

South Side Help Center salutes 20 men of vision

BY VERNON HESTER

In commemoration of National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the South Side Help Center (SSHC) presented its inaugural Men of 20/20 Vision Awards, a salute to 20 gay and same-gender-loving men who lead HIV/AIDS advocacy in the African-American community. The event took place Sept. 27 at The Promontory, 5311 S. Lake Park Ave.

SSHC, which was founded in 1987, originally set a goal of educating the African-American religious community so it could be sensitive to the needs of people dealing with AIDS. The Center has evolved beyond that goal and HIV prevention to include direct-care services and a range of youth and capacity-building programs for minorities at risk. Currently, the SSHC connects HIV+ clients to free medical services through its recent affiliation with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, and is expanding to offer additional services.

SSHC Executive Director Vanessa Smith and SSHC MSM Project Director Charles E. Nelson II presided over the award presentation. The recipients of this year's awards were John Fleming (for his advocacy through his Mad Man Productions), David Ernesto Munar (for his stewardship of the AIDS Foundation and currently as chief executive officer of Howard Brown Health Center), Erik Glenn (executive director of The Black Gay Men's Caucus), Father Mario Balenciago (for his advocacy and outreach work), Shaune Freeman (for his work as clinical coordinator with the CBA), Anthony Galloway (for his work with the AIDS Foundation of Chicago), Art "Chat Daddy" Sims (for his advocacy and work for the com-



From left: Charles Nelson, Anthony Galloway and Vanessa Smith. Photo by Vern Hester

munity as a radio personality) and Daniel David Mendez (for his work at the CORE Center and as CDPH Project Coordinator at The Center On Halsted).

Also receiving awards were Keith Green (in the areas of community advocacy, education and the spoken-word art form), Arick Buckles (of the Illinois Alliance for Sound AIDS policy), Sherman Bryant (co-chair of the Chicago Black Treatment Advocate Network), John Sykes (MSW, LCSWW, psychotherapist), Ben Montgomery (retired congressional administrator), Bruce C. Edwards (Chicago Department of Health and Human Services), Daniel Parker (for his community advocacy), Saul Avina (for his community outreach), Sanford

E. Gaylord (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), Serette B. King (project manager at Howard Brown Health Center), Nelson (of SSHC) and Louis O. Spraggins (communicable disease control investigator, Thresholds).

Award recipients David Ernesto Munar, John Fleming and Art "Chat Daddy" Sims were not in attendance.

For further information regarding services offered by the SSHC, visit SouthSideHelpCenter.org.

See more photos from the event in the online version of this story at www.windycitymediagroup.com.

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Thousands participate in AFC's 15th annual AIDS Run and Walk

Photo by Tracy Baim

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

On the rain-soaked morning of Oct. 1, about 2,500 participants gathered for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's (AFC) 15th annual AIDS Run & Walk outside of Soldier Field.

This year's theme was Band Together. WGN Entertainment Reporter Dean Richards kicked off the opening ceremony ahead of the 5K walk, 5K run and 10K run alongside performances by the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus and Jeff Award-nominee Donica Lynn, and remarks by Hamilton Chicago cast member Joseph Morales (Alexander Hamilton alternate) and entertainer Honey West.

Joy Miles of Fitness Formula Clubs led a warmup stretch session for participants. For the second year in a row, participants were able to pick out a COLORband denoting their status at the event—living with HIV, caretaker or family member of someone with HIV, lost someone to AIDS-related complica-

tions, having a vision for an AIDS-free generation, AIDS healthcare provider, a Super Strider, AFC staff member or volunteer. This was the second year the bands were available to wear. "We're a little disappointed that it's rained but we've been incredibly lucky with the weather in the past," said AFC President and CEO John Peller. "What's amazing is, despite the rain, people are sticking together and completing this event because they made a commitment to their donors and friends and I think that really shows the power of this event as a community-building exercise. "We've raised \$471,531 so far today and most importantly we have 33 Community Direct teams. That's 33 agencies doing work who are directly benefiting from AIDS Run & Walk. For some of the smaller agencies, this critical unrestricted money will be used to help clients with food or transportation or emergency services that they otherwise wouldn't be able to provide."



Participants warm up. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

AFC funnels 90 percent of the money raised at this event to the participating Community Direct teams. Fundraising will be ongoing throughout October.

Performer and activist Delia Kropp hosted the closing ceremony with music provided by DJ Moose.

Part of the NAMES Project Memorial Quilt was set to be on display, but the rain prevented that from happening.

The CORE Center provided free HIV testing and information about HIV/AIDS prevention including PrEP.

Winners in the 10K race included Sheila Murphy in the women's category, Milo Vieland in the gender-neutral category and Jamie Kelly in the male category. The 5K winners were Kimberly McClain in the women's category, Timothy Carbonara in the gender-neutral category and Mark Scheitler in the male category.



AFC president and CEO John Peller. Photo by Tracy Baim



Lakeside Pride Marching Band. Photo by Tracy Baim



Chicago Gay Men's Chorus. Photo by Carrie Maxwell



Left: Hamilton cast member Joseph Morales. Right: WGN's Dean Richards. Photos by Carrie Maxwell



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Photo by Tracy Baim

Evanston synagogue welcomes its first female and lesbian rabbi

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Evanston native Rabbi Rachel Weiss comes to Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation (JRC) as the synagogue's first female and first openly gay rabbi.

"For me, it's been a really profound and wonderful homecoming," said Weiss.

Weiss has been involved with the synagogue long before leading it. JRC is the place she attended Hebrew school, became a bat mitzvah, worked as a religious school teaching assistant, came out—and married her wife, Julia, in 2002.

"Belonging to a reconstructionist synagogue, for us, was about belonging to a Jewish community where our social values combined with our traditional Jewish practices and rituals could be observed fully," Weiss said about her family joining JRC when she was a child. "So, we made our congregation the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation. It is fully egalitarian, feminist, inclusive, diverse in all different kinds of ways and I would say now JRC has grown to be even more diverse."

Weiss recalled seeing many of her peers reject a Judaism that felt too narrow and traditional, lacking in progressive values, as they were developing their own identities. This was not the type of Judaism she knew. She added that she feels privileged to be serving the synagogue she grew up in that is "out about the fact that Judaism does evolve and change and grow over time, just like we do."

"How do we preserve Jewish rituals and practices and texts that are meaningful and interpret them through a lens that also includes and embraces and celebrates our contemporary

lives," Weiss said about what JRC strives to do.

After graduating from Evanston Township High School, Weiss went on to graduate from Grinnell College in Iowa with a B.A. in Spanish with an interdisciplinary concentration in gender and women's studies. Following her degree, Weiss was a social worker for five years in Highwood, Illinois, working with recently immigrated Latino families and advocated for immigrant rights and community services. Then, she attended the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Pennsylvania where she earned a certificate in Congregational Life. She was ordained in 2009.

Her professional background also includes being the rabbi of Congregation Am Haskalah in Pennsylvania, a senior staff and faculty member of Camp JRF and a rabbinic fellow at the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs.

Before coming back to JRC in August 2016, Weiss served as the associate rabbi at New York City's LGBTQ synagogue Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (CBST). There, she directed the Limmud Family Education program, among other duties.

"Many young adult Jews have the experience of growing up and really discovering the world, whether it's through college or through work or through development of their own identity and their own values, and have difficulty reconciling that with traditional Judaism," Weiss explained. "I grew up with a congregation that added the names of the matriarchs to the names of the patriarchs. Then I went on to serve the world's largest LGBTQ synagogue where we said, 'Let's not just name the traditional matriarchs and patriarchs by relationship with marriage, but let's look at how we're inclu-



Rabbi Rachel Weiss.

Photo by Esteban Kuriel

sive of all families. How do we add those who are on the margins, how do we bring to the surface the fact that Judaism can and should and does include all of us in our varying ways of being in the world?"

In 2014, she was named one of the New York Pride Guide's "45 Under 45" for her leadership. Now, in her current position, according to JRC, Weiss holds another significant title beyond her synagogue. She is the only openly gay rabbi, in a senior role, to currently lead a congregation in the Chicagoland area.

"I hope that people see JRC as a synagogue that has a lesbian rabbi who is proud to be who I am and takes inspiration from that to be out about who they are, whether they're gay or lesbian or bisexual or trans or gender queer or straight; that part of the value of Judaism is being created in the image of God, is to own who you are and be out about that," said Weiss. "Because we can't live our full lives in shame. Judaism commands us to live in the image of the Divine and I believe that the Divine is commanding us to be who we are."

Besides all of her rabbinical work, advocacy and being a mother of two, Weiss is a linguist,

an artisan and craftsperson, English/Hebrew calligrapher and a foodie. Being a fan of all things culinary, she bakes and cooks. She even took this passion to an audition for the clergy episode of Food Network's "Chopped."

"I really think America needs to see someone who looks like me—who is a cisgender, lesbian, fem, reconstructionist, kippah-wearing rabbi—is a what a rabbi looks like," said Weiss.

JRC was founded in 1964 and has over 500 families in its congregation. Weiss is adamant about making her congregants comfortable.

"Specifically, for LGBTQ Jews of all ages and all life experiences, we are open and welcome and as a lesbian rabbi who has basically spent the majority of my career, serving the Jewish, queer community, my door is really open," Weiss said.

Weiss said her high holiday sermons and congregational readings this year will have themes of renewal, forgiveness and hope. She added her sermons and readings will also bring various topics into conversation, including LGBTQ rights, transphobia, violence against the trans community of color, the Black Lives Matter movement and Jewish-Muslim dialogue. Congregant voices, she said, need to be heard.

JRC, Weiss said, has an active gender-inclusion task force and, in addition, the congregation is hoping to have a presence in the Chicago Pride parade.

"While we are working to make all of our bathrooms safe spaces, we're also working to create an all-gender bathroom at the synagogue and we have a good number of gender-variant and trans kids within the congregation who are growing up with supportive parents who are using the synagogue as a home base to really show that diversity and to show their kids that whoever they are and whatever gender they identify with now and however they may identify throughout their life, it's supported within their Jewish community as well," said Weiss.

To learn more about Weiss, JRC and its services, visit <https://www.jrc-evanston.org/>.

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viewpoints



**Robin
KELLY**

Recognizing National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly wrote the following piece in recognition of National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (Sept. 27)

Today, on National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, we ponder the significance of HIV and AIDS as an American and international reality. 35 years have passed since our country initially confronted the biological challenges of this epidemic. We still grapple—oftentimes clumsily—with stigma and our social response, while contending with the precarious nature of life in the face of HIV/AIDS. Yet neither stigma nor silence nor apathy have any constructive place in our collective battle to end the HIV epidemic.

We know that HIV in the United States disproportionately affects gay and bisexual men. In the early 1990s, AIDS was the number-one cause of death for men ages 25-44 years, with the greatest burden existing among gay and bisexual men. While we are no longer experiencing such a dire death toll, the HIV disparities are still stark. Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that gay and bisexual men represent over half of people living with HIV in the U.S. Perhaps your favorite uncle, your church deacon, or you are among this group.

Due to the development of antiretroviral therapies, savvy advocacy, well-funded public health campaigns, and greater emphasis on early testing, many gay and bisexual men who are HIV-positive and have access to regular treatment now live long and thriving lives. The transformational pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) enhances the opportunity for people more vulnerable to contracting HIV to lead loving lives in the context of intimate family, friendly and romantic relationships.

Still, the veracity of HIV impacts a certain gay and bisexual community on a deeper, more intersectional level: young, African-American gay and bisexual men bear the greatest brunt of HIV.

Current trends suggest that one in two Black gay and bisexual men will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetime, and in my home state of Illinois, there are 1,800 new HIV infections each year, 50 percent of which are in the Black community. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, nearly 40 percent of new HIV cases in the state are among young people aged 20-29. These reports show that we must continuously intervene with those most vulnerable to provide timely and culturally relevant health discussions, policies and programs.

In the late 1990s, my esteemed forerunners of the Congressional Black Caucus were astute enough to declare a state of HIV emergency within the Black community. In their wake, I again ring the alarm. By consistently raising consciousness within our friend, family, and socio-political circles, I am very hopeful that we may usher in an AIDS-free generation.

There is great opportunity to be a part of this momentous effort. Schools and teachers can host the hard conversations with young people about sex and sexuality. Worship centers and worship leaders can hold transparent youth forums about the importance of complete wellness and wisdom in decision-making. You can personally support community-based centers, like the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, that are repositories of correct and empowering information on HIV. More than anything, you can

become an emotional safe space for anyone who is living with HIV, or who may be vulnerable to the virus.

To people younger and older, opposite-gender-loving or gay or bisexual, there is wisdom, not shame, in being aware of your HIV status and even sharing your status with people whom you trust or wish to encourage with your story. Likewise, there are sure regrets to an individual's or a community's willful ignorance and silence on the issue. Therefore, I implore health care providers to be vigilant to the unique needs of gay and bisexual men living with HIV. I encourage all people—especially gay and bisexual men—to insist that HIV screening is a regular part of the wellness experience. Being aware of your own HIV status and having empathy for the unique health and social challenges that accompany the HIV experience can only engender a healthier, stronger nation. I, too, am sure to get tested regularly.

As chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, I am committed to engaging with local and national HIV/AIDS advocates, such as the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, to learn more about the unique trials of people living with HIV. Moreover, I am so very proud of those tirelessly involved in the frontlines against HIV/AIDS. Whether you are an advocate, researcher, loving partner or parent to someone living with HIV, you are absolutely the force behind this fight. I am all the more enthused to promote equitable access to quality health programs, and to craft thoughtful, well-informed policy interventions that advance the overall health of our nation.

U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly originally wrote this op-ed for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. This viewpoint is being run with the organization's permission.

letters

Making a statement

Equality Florida made a significant policy announcement to formally endorse common-sense gun-violence prevention policies in response to the hate-fueled attack in Orlando this past June. The statement is below.

On June 12, a gunman opened fire at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. Bullets from the shooter's military-style assault weapon struck 102 people, leaving 49 dead, 53 injured, and hundreds traumatized. The LGBTQ and Latinx communities were targeted in a hate-fueled rampage that is now the deadliest modern-day mass shooting and the largest attack on LGBTQ people in America in history.

The Pulse massacre compels us to confront two realities: the systematic dehumanization of LGBTQ people and the far too easy access to weapons of mass slaughter. We must uproot hate and prevent those who seek to do us harm from accessing weapons of mass slaughter. Equality Florida is committed to common sense gun violence prevention measures in combination with our work to move equality forward for LGBTQ people.

We know all too well that discrimination against our community can be lethal—gay-rights icon Harvey Milk was assassinated, Matthew Shepard was beaten to death with a pistol, and not a month goes by when we don't hear of the murder of yet another transgender

woman of color. Beyond the ways in which LGBTQ people have been specifically targeted by hate violence, gun violence is a civil rights issue that disproportionately impacts all marginalized communities, including people of color and immigrant communities. It is incumbent upon us to join forces with our progressive allies to advocate for policies that will keep our families safe.

Equality Florida is committed to addressing the epidemic of violence fueled by the normalization of hatred of LGBTQ people. We demand the following common-sense gun policy reforms:

—Expanding universal background checks to include private gun sales

Access to guns is far too easy—and the Pulse shooting is only the latest in a long list of tragedies. 9 in 10 gun owners support universal background checks on all gun purchases, demonstrating that responsible gun ownership can coincide with preventing dangerous individuals from accessing the tools to kill.

—Restricting access to assault weapons and high capacity magazines

There is simply no legitimate reason for private citizens to have access to military-style assault weapons like the Sig Sauer MCX firearm used to murder 49 people at the Pulse Night Club in Orlando on June 12. These weapons of war do not belong in civilian hands.

More than 20 percent of hate crimes reported nationally in 2014 targeted people based on

their sexual orientation or gender identity, according to the most recent FBI statistics. Hate crimes in general are on the decline, and yet hate crimes against LGBTQ people are rising. Here in Florida, the LGBTQ community was horrified when India Clarke, a Black transgender woman, was shot and killed in Tampa last year by a man described as a "career criminal." As of this writing, 19 transgender people have been killed in 2016 alone, the majority of whom are transgender women of color.

In the same way that Equality Florida has adopted policy positions that promote racial equity and reproductive justice, we now pledge publicly to advocate for common sense gun violence prevention measures to stem the rising tide of violence against our community. LGBTQ people are people of color, we are immigrants, we are women, we are people with disabilities, and the intersections of our identities have always informed our work. Moving forward, Equality Florida -- which will remain focused on uprooting hatred of LGBTQ people and on passing statewide nondiscrimination protections -- will partner with gun safety advocates and other allies in the LGBTQ movement and beyond to combat the epidemic of gun violence.

Equality Florida's Position Paper on Gun Violence Prevention can also be found at EQFL.org/gun_violence_prevention.

Equality Florida

WINDY CITY TIMES

VOL. 32, No. 2, Oct. 5, 2016
The combined forces of Windy City Times, founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper, founded May 1987.

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WEB HOSTING: LoveYourWebsite.com (lead programmer: Martie Marro)

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WCT reviews the production *The City of Conversation*.

Photo by Charles Osgood Photography

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

GayCo at 20

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Gay activist and performer Jim Bennett was amazed when he saw the sketch-comedy show Whitney Houston, We Have a Problem back in 1996 at The Second City's Donny's Skybox Studio. It was the very first production of GayCo, which would go on to become Chicago's oldest and longest-running LGBTQ sketch comedy troupe.

"I was floored and I loved it," said Bennett, adding that, at the time, he was just starting to take improvisation classes with The Second City Training Center. "It was incredible to see this show that's completely done on gay themes and the talent that was in it, and it was really something that I wanted to do."

Bennett joined GayCo in 1999. He stepped away only a few years ago due to his full-time job as Midwest regional director for the Lambda Legal Defense Fund when the battle for marriage equality really started intensifying.

For GayCo's one-night-only 20th-anniversary show titled "GayCo XX: Gay for Play," a number of GayCo alumni like Bennett will be returning. Others include Martin Garcia (Blackish, The Mindy Project), Celeste Pechous (Hot in Cleveland, Workaholics) and Andy Eninger (head of The Second City's writing program).

"It's going back to the material over the past 20 years," Bennett said. "One thing that is interesting is the selection of scenes is based more on the funny rather than the political. Partly because a lot of the political scenes feel dated."

Not to say that GayCo was ever afraid to tackle controversial issues through the years. Bullying, the U.S. Military's former "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and even the Iraq War's Abu Ghraib prison torture scandal provided fodder for GayCo sketches.

GayCo also dealt with issues that initially weren't on the front burner like marriage equality. Bennett pointed out that he wrote GayCo's first sketch about gay marriage long before they were legalized in the state of Massachusetts. The sketch was born out of headaches Bennett and his future husband faced in trying to get a mortgage as a couple who were not legally recognized by either federal or state governments.

"I was always considered 'the political gay' in our group, so for me to have a voice, to be able to bring the issues I care about but to be able to do it with humor was amazing," Bennett said. "With comedy you can slide so much through when people's defenses are down."

GayCo also allowed LGBTQ performers to de-

velop their craft with their defenses down, too. Bennett mentioned that when he took comedy classes at Second City and i.O. in the 1990s, there often was a "frat element" that could intimidate others and push LGBTQ characters into the same old stereotypes. But that's not to say that wasn't friction within GayCo itself, especially when it came to disagreements among members of the LGBTQ community.

"The majority of our humor was found in the differences between lesbians and gays and sort of the odd way that our community is just put together," Bennett said. "It was always a perfect place to mine humor and it would both play out in rehearsals and in the shows themselves. We would have times when the guys would be talking about sex, what people did and what it was like at the Manhole [bar] that night, and if the women shared one story that was about something they did, the guys would go, 'Stop! That's gross.' And we would have huge fights over this double standard and then we would find that hilarious."

The 20th anniversary of GayCo is one for celebration, but also for much reflection and sadness. That's because original GayCo cofounder

and ensemble member Judy Fabjance, passed away from cancer this past August.

Bennett credits Fabjance for playing a major role in the creation of GayCo. But also he stresses that Fabjance being out and open as a lesbian helped to make The Second City far more welcoming to LGBTQ performers through her long affiliation with the organization starting as a starry-eyed fan and later as a much-beloved improvisation instructor.

"Judy grew up at Second City. They knew her since she was a 15-year-old girl hanging around just wanting to meet everyone. So for Second City and certainly for us, they began to understand the issues of what it would like to be LGBT because they knew Judy—they came out with Judy," Bennett said. "For Judy to struggle within Second City and not feel completely welcome, because they knew her so well, they as an organization realized that the LGBT community needs to feel that The Second City is their home and that's where their voice is. We owe a ton of their understanding and their willingness to bring us into the fold because of Judy."

Part of GayCo's 20th-anniversary show will play tribute to Fabjance's life and work by featuring some of her sketches. Bennett said one of Fabjance's strengths was writing relationship material that still holds up today.

"It's going to be very painful to do some of Judy's scenes," Bennett said. "Although I'm very excited that we're doing them."

"GayCo XX: Gay for Play" is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at Second City's UP Comedy Club, 230 W. North Ave. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. General admission tickets are \$20; visit GayCo.com for more information.

Dueling lesbian dramatists

The five finalists of Pride Films and Plays' 2016 LezPlay Contest will have their works performed in staged readings from Friday, Oct. 7, to Sunday, Oct. 9. The LezPlay Contest strives to enhance the visibility and viability of women who write for the stage and screen in which lesbian characters and themes play a pivotal role. For example, this month Pride Films and Plays is producing the world premiere of last year's LezPlay Contest winner, Nancy Nyman and Heather McNama's Resolution.

The 2016 LezPlay Contest features Lena Wilson's Fraying Live Wires Tend to Give Off Sparks at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8. Performances on Saturday, Oct. 8, feature Rae Brinstock's Watch Me Burn at 1 p.m. and Geraldine Inoa's Bold as Love at 7 p.m. Performances on Sunday, Oct. 9, feature Ann L. Gibbs and Judith Allen's To Bury a Stranger at 11 a.m. and Corinne J. Kaweck's The Days are Shorter at 3 p.m. All shows are at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St. Pay-what-you-can admission, though \$10 is the suggested donation. Visit PrideFilmsAndPlays.com for more information.



From left: The late Judy Fabjance, Robin Trevino, Jim Bennett, Mandy Price, Andy Eninger and Kelly Beeman.

Photo courtesy of GayCo

THEATER REVIEW

Man in the Ring

Playwright: Michael Cristofer

At: Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave.

Tickets: \$45-\$65

Runs through: Oct. 16

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Boxing fans recognized the real-life events fictionalized in Oliver Mayer's *Blade to the Heat* right away when it premiered in 1994, but changing social attitudes since then currently permit Michael Cristofer to safely recount the facts in the scandal that forever altered public perceptions of a once-popular pastime.

The career of Emile Griffith, between 1958 and 1963, was the quintessential all-American success story. Under the management of factory owner Howie Albert, the milliner from the Caribbean island of St. Thomas was a six-time world champion, commanding fees more than sufficient to support his mother and six siblings, and if members of the athletic community knew of his excursions to gay dance clubs, they kept quiet. (In 1959, even Liberace found it advisable to maintain a veneer of heterosexuality.) His good fortune ended in 1962, however, during the preliminary "weigh-in" for a match with Benny Paret, who taunted him with homophobic slurs. That night in the ring, Griffith would not only defeat Paret, but would do so with a barrage of blows—many more



Thomas Cox (left) and Kamal Angelo Bolden in *Man in the Ring*.

Photo by Michael Brosilow

than necessary to secure his victory—that would leave his opponent dead, only days later.

The mythology of quasi-gladiatorial combat as spectator sport is rife with chest-beating hyperbole but, for Griffith, whose choice of vocation was always based more in his financial responsibilities than in any innate attraction to its practices, this violence far exceeded the limits of the job he had been hired to do. He would continue to work until the neural damage associated with repeated concussions facilitated his retirement in 1977, but would re-

main forever haunted by the memory of those fatal few seconds when the man who had long declared "I ain't no killer!" succumbed to blind fury.

The playbill for this Court Theatre production lists not only a fight consultant, but a medical one as well. Together, Sam Colonna's and William Harper's abilities ensure that Kamal Angelo Bolden and Allen Gilmore, who play, respectively, the young and old Emile—the former reveling in his youthful vitality, the latter racked by dementia, but finding comfort in the

arms of his life-partner, sensitively portrayed by Gabriel Ruiz—never spill over into generic stereotype, but retain the gravity appropriate to biographical drama viewed as classical tragedy. Enhancing this ambience is a chorus of auxiliary personae providing a live-action soundscape invoking not only the staccato drumming of fists-on-flesh, but the gentle nature of the child as yet unaware of his destiny as the unwitting instrument of what he most fears.

THEATER REVIEW

Hand to God

Playwright: Robert Askins

At: Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: 773-871-3000;

VictoryGardens.org; \$27-\$60

Runs through: Oct. 23

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Hand to God, set in Bible Belt Texas, is a bitterly comic look at loss and Christianity in which a demonically possessed puppet takes over the thoughts and actions of an adolescent puppeteer, Jason (Alex Weisman).

It concerns Jason and his mother, Margery (Janelle Snow), whose father/husband died of a heart attack six months earlier. Reacting

to her unexpected loneliness, Margery has organized a youth puppet ministry at the local church and recruited Jason as a participant along with horny bad boy Timothy (Curtis Edward Jackson) and teenage Jessica (Nina Ganet). All the participants, oddly, are adolescents vs. younger children. Jason creates a Kermit-like frog hand puppet, Tyrone—a scabrous, evil, foul-mouthed fiend who plays easily on Jason's weaknesses, desires and fears. Is Jason himself releasing his inner evil twin? Or is it actual demonic possession? Author Robert Askins lets you decide.

Jason/Tyrone is the star role, and Weisman—already a distinguished actor at just 29—is brilliant, creating for Tyrone a different voice and delivery even as Weisman's own facial and body expressions remain those of Jason attempting to resist Tyrone. But Jason/Tyrone is the antagonist, not the crucial character.

Margery is the hero, once she realizes that Jason, too, is lonely, in shock and needy which she has failed to understand in her own selfish grief. Only then can the battle for Jason's soul begin, with Margery assisted independently by Jessica in a mutual crush with Jason.

Hand to God intentionally amuses and shocks audiences through its blasphemous humor and lurid touches of Grand Guignol, a turn-of-the-last-century French theater troupe that titillated viewers with realistic depictions of beheadings, maiming, torture, impalements and other bloody mayhem. The play is kinda-sorta one part Muppets, one part *The Exorcist* and one part Grand Guignol. For me, the final blood-letting is a step too much, not because of its vividness but because the story seems to be over by then.

Askins also has created a double play. The human play is about grief, loss and the anger of

abandonment when someone dies unexpectedly. The intellectual play is Askins' bitter attack on Christianity. It's something of a shotgun wedding as Jason and Margery's problems are not rooted in religion, nor does religion help solve them. Jason is a good boy, but there's no evidence that he's devout. Askins then adds the overlay of sexual urgency, with teenage Timothy and self-serving Pastor Greg (Eric Slater) making equally inappropriate plays for Margery.

As staged by the expert Gary Griffin and with Joe Shermoly's clever revolving scenic design, *Hand to God* has speed, surprise, fine performances and even absurdity, but I can't help feeling that once you remove the shock value, there's less here than meets the eye.

THEATER REVIEW

The City of Conversation

Written by: Anthony Giardina

Directed by: Marti Lyons

At: Northlight Theatre,

9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

Tickets: Northlight.org; \$15-\$81

Runs through: Oct 23

BY ERIC KARAS

Northlight Theatre presents the Midwest Premiere of Anthony Giardina's political/family drama *The City of Conversation*.

This play starts off in the 1970s as the Carter presidency is slipping into its own malaise and Ronald Reagan is hot on his heels. Socialite and Democratic wife Hester Ferris (Lia D. Mortensen) is throwing a dinner party to convince a conservative right-wing senator (Tim Monsion) to vote for her husband's legislation. Things do not go to Ferris' plans when her son (Greg Matthew Anderson) shows up with his new fiancée (Matti Hawkinson), an ambitious Republican who has turned his head and helped him stand up to his mother.

The interplay from these beginning scenes show the rift between the Democrats and Republicans that will be torn apart by the upcoming years of Reagan's right-wing extrem-

ists and the Democratic reaction. Mortensen is in her element in this role; she is powerful yet incredulous at the things she's hearing in her home. Her command of the stage really brings home this woman's desperation as the evening spins out of her control. The right- and left-wing discussions of race relations are beyond timely.

The second half of this show is in the '80s as Ronald Reagan is trying to get his Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork confirmed. Ferris is working to torpedo the nomination while her son and his wife (now in their own Republican careers) are trying to get him confirmed. Complicating things is the love they all share for Ethan (Tyler Kaplan), Ferris' grandson. (They clue us in that he might be gay because he is obsessed with Disney's *Cinderella* on VHS.)

The meat of the play is probably in this section as it shows how the Democrats are using this nomination to get a victory against Reagan and the "back room" gentlemen's agreement dealing of the past is being destroyed for ultimate partisan separation. (Something we are still seeing the negative effects of). The audience had a hearty laugh at the line about a President always getting their Supreme Court nomination through.

In the third part of the show, President Obama has been elected. Ethan (now played by Greg Matthew Anderson) has grown up to be a gay man with an African-American

partner (Brian Keys) and reunites with Ferris' grandmother. This is probably the weakest of the scenes in the play but it does crescendo to a moving end that did have me wipe away a tear. The line about thinking the battles about race being over by electing Obama is very accurate.

Mortensen really brings life to every part of this play. Greg Matthew Anderson has the tough role of being different in each part of the play, from young idealist to embittered adult to the grown-up grandchild. He's pretty successful at the first two, and I wish he had created more of a character for the final scene but, then again, it's not the best of them.

Hawkinson is really spot-on as the ambitious fiancée who Ferris rightly calls out as an All About Eve character. She isn't a caricature but you truly feel she believes everything she's saying. (I love the Tippi Hedren hairdo she sports at one point.) Monsion is so perfect as the Southern conservative senator that you wish his character would return at least for a moment. The supporting cast is all perfectly cast here.

Marti Lyons' direction keeps things moving and you don't feel like it's too stagy in one set location. For people who are political junkies or love family dramas, this is a really excellent one.

CRITICS' PICKS

Amour, Black Button Eyes Productions at Athenaeum Theatre, through Oct. 8. There are some glaring plot holes in this tale of a mild-mannered clerk who discovers he has the power to walk through walls—but composer Michel LeGrand's score is certainly something to savor in this production. SCM

A Comedical Tragedy for Mister Punch, House Theatre of Chicago at Chopin Theatre, through Oct. 23. Fans of the House's tradition-breaking *Nutcracker* will recognize in this Victorian-styled spectacle a fable of discovering that our parents are human, with all the contradictions inherent therein. MSB

Grizzly Mama, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, through Oct. 15. Don't be fooled by the initial buffoonery—George Brant's satire takes no prisoners in his skewering of both left and right-wing extremism. MSB

Wonderful Town, Goodman Theatre, extended through Oct. 23. I've serious bones to pick with this production, but when might we see this 1950s musical rarity again? The dazzling score by Leonard Bernstein, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, is magnificently played and sung. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

★ ★ ★ 1/2 (OUT OF 4) **“REALLY FUNNY”**

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MOVIES

Bruce Vilanch, Cleve Jones discuss Vito Russo, 'The Celluloid Closet'

BY RICHARD KNIGHT JR.

Any discussion of pivotal figures at the forefront of 20th-century gay activism, gay history and gay culture would be unthinkable without including Vito Russo.

Russo—whose landmark book *The Celluloid Closet*, published in the 1980s and never being out of print since—died in 1990 from the disease he fought so passionately against both publicly and privately. But his legacy continues to influence queer culture and now Russo (along with trans activist Sylvia Rivera) is about to be honored as the latest addition to the Legacy Walk, the historic freestanding museum dedicated to honoring the often unsung heroes of Our People. Russo's bronze memorial plaque, which was vetted by his biographer Michael Schiavi, will be dedicated at a special ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 15, with a pre-reception at the Center on Halsted followed by the dedication of the plaque on Halsted and an after party at Sidetrack.

Two of Russo's close friends—Bruce Vilanch—funnyman and multiple Emmy award winner for the hilarious quips he has put into the mouths of everyone from Bette Midler to Whoopi Goldberg—and Cleve Jones—founder of the Names Project—the AIDS Memorial Quilt and longtime activist, immortalized in the award-winning film *Milk* and soon to be the subject of an ABC miniseries scripted by his close friend Dustin Lance Black based on his forthcoming memoir, *When We Rise*—will be in town for the dedication ceremony. In separate interviews, these two towering figures of Our Community—queer icons themselves—chatted briefly about their dear friend Vito Russo.

Windy City Times: I'd forgotten until I saw Jeffrey Schwarz's documentary *Vito*, which we showed at the Center on Halsted a few months back on Vito's birthday about your close friendship with him. Can you talk about how you first knew him?

Bruce Vilanch: I wish I could remember. [Laughs] It was the '70s and we were all chemically altered and it seems to me that I met him on one of those movie nights in New York. I was living in Chicago, writing for the *Trib* and *Chicago Today*, and I was in New York for something. It's all very cloudy. It might have been with Bette Midler who was living in the village and was kinda the queen of the village in those days [laughs] and I was writing for her and I would come in and plot things we were going to have her do in her stage show.

We used to go to a bar called Marie's Crisis, which was a piano bar where it was guaranteed that when you walked in the door you would hear somebody singing "Rose's Turn." I think that's actually where we met. Bette knew him because he'd been involved in what was called the gay liberation movement. I think she did one of the first rallies in Washington Park and he took many pictures of it.

WCT: There's that astonishing video footage, too. I believe he gets up and Sylvia Rivera, too, along with Bette.

BV: Yes, that's right. A dim memory is forming. So I went back to Chicago but we just kept up. I would see him when I was in New York but mostly just socially and we would talk on the phone a lot.

WCT: The first thing I knew about Vito was what a lot of people knew—the groundbreaking *The Celluloid Closet*. Did he share stuff with you when he was working on it?

BV: Absolutely. I was somebody who he would call and we would talk about old movies and how people had been depicted in movies.

It was hard to see these things—you know, there was no Turner Classic. We actually had to go to revival houses to see these things and you had to dig them up in some cases out of collections and libraries. I was one of those people and we actually did it together. We all had opinions about Franklin Pangborn and Edward Everett Horton—the all-stars from the Golden Age who carried the banner of gayness.

WCT: That sort of hiding in plain sight.

BV: Exactly.

WCT: So many gay people had—and have that same camaraderie over movies which of course, I love. So, in the ensuing years when you both had such enormous successes—did you ever turn to each other and say, "Who would've thought?!"

BV: No; I don't think either of us viewed our successes as being that gigantic because we knew people who had truly gigantic successes—people we had known beforehand and now they couldn't go out. I mean Barry Manilow could not go to Macy's to buy something because there would be a trail of screaming women because he'd become that kind of pop star. We had a bunch of those in our bag. What we had wasn't that—we were well known in our circles. We were not impressed with ourselves in that regard.

WCT: Can you talk about the importance of Vito's legacy from the film aspect?

BV: He identified the role that gay people were playing onscreen which nobody had done before and he pulled it out and categorized it in the way that other people were writing about Black people in the movies and other

Legacy Walk dedication to honor Sylvia Rivera, Vito Russo

Dedicated in 2012, Chicago's Legacy Walk is the world's only outdoor LGBT history museum. This half-mile installation features bronze biographical memorials celebrating the lives of people like Leonard Bernstein, Audre Lorde, Sally Ride, James Baldwin, Jane Addams, Rudolf Nureyev, Frida Kahlo and Alan Turing.

The Legacy Walk's markers serve as an "outdoor classroom" for bullied LGBTQ youth who come for guided tours in order to learn about historically significant positive LGBT role models whose contributions have made an incalculable difference in the world we share.

On Saturday, Oct. 15, they welcome two LGBT iconic activists to the Legacy Walk—transgender icon Sylvia Rivera, from the Stonewall era; and gay film activist/historian Vito Russo, who co-founded both ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) and GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation). Their considerable legacies will soon be added to the 35 stories of achievement that already line the streetscape.

This all-day tribute will feature legendary gay activist Cleve Jones, Chicago transgender spokesperson Myles Brady-Davis, Emmy-winning writer-producer-actor Bruce Vilanch and trans pioneer Judy Bowenwiener, a close personal friend of Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson, from the post-Stonewall era. Bowenwiener will be talking about their involvement as three trans women in New York's Gay Activist Alliance (GAA). She will be joined by Phillip



Bruce Vilanch (left) and Cleve Jones.
PR photos

ethnic groups in the movies and he was legitimizing the portrayal and participation of gay people in the movies. He was the first one to actually do that. It caught on and in addition to doing that he was an activist. It was a very potent combination because he used that thing he did in the cultural world to influence politics as well. He created a study that nobody knew was out there.

WCT: It must be lovely to see that your dear friend is being remembered for his hard work.

BV: It is and it's also important—I don't know exactly what the chronology is—but it seems to be that all of these gay film festivals flow from the closet door that was opened when he wrote his book and the subsequent documentary. His book was about visibility and once it became clear that we had been invisible, a lot of us said, "That's the end of that—now we're going to be as visible as we can be."

Raia, who worked with both Russo and Rivera in GAA in the 1970s. Never have all these people been brought together for a celebration quite like this.

The event will be in three parts:

—1-3 p.m.: Opening Reception and Program, at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Transgender activist Myles Brady-Davis of Howard Brown Health, gay activist Cleve Jones and NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be featured in "Reflecting on the Evolution of Activism across the Decades."

—3-4 p.m.: Legacy Walk Induction Ceremonies at the Northalsted streetscape, featuring the LGBTQ youth from Lyons Township High School.

Sylvia Rivera Bronze Memorial Dedication, 3656 N. Halsted St.: Personal reflections of Judy Bowenwiener and Phillip Raia, Sylvia Rivera's friends

Vito Russo Bronze Memorial Dedication, 3411 N. Halsted St., with personal reflections of Bruce Vilanch, Emmy Award-winning writer-producer-actor

—4-6 p.m.: Celebration Party, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., "Building a New Legacy for the Future of Our Past."

Tickets for this multi-part event are available for \$30, \$50 and \$100, and include light appetizers and variable bar service. There will also be raffle prizes and door prizes. LGBT people from throughout the metropolitan area are expected to turn out to celebrate this unique Chicago cultural institution—built by our community, for our community—in this salute to the contributions of LGBT people.

Tickets are available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/legacy-walk-dedication-v-tickets-27530936773>.

Leading to my favorite line from Mike Nichols, when he said, "It used to be the love that dare not speak its name and now it's the love that won't shut up." And that was directly because of Vito and what he did.

WCT: We're thrilled to have you here in Chicago for this momentous occasion.

BV: I am thrilled—any excuse to be on the streets of Chicago. [Laughs]

WCT: When did your friendship with Vito begin?

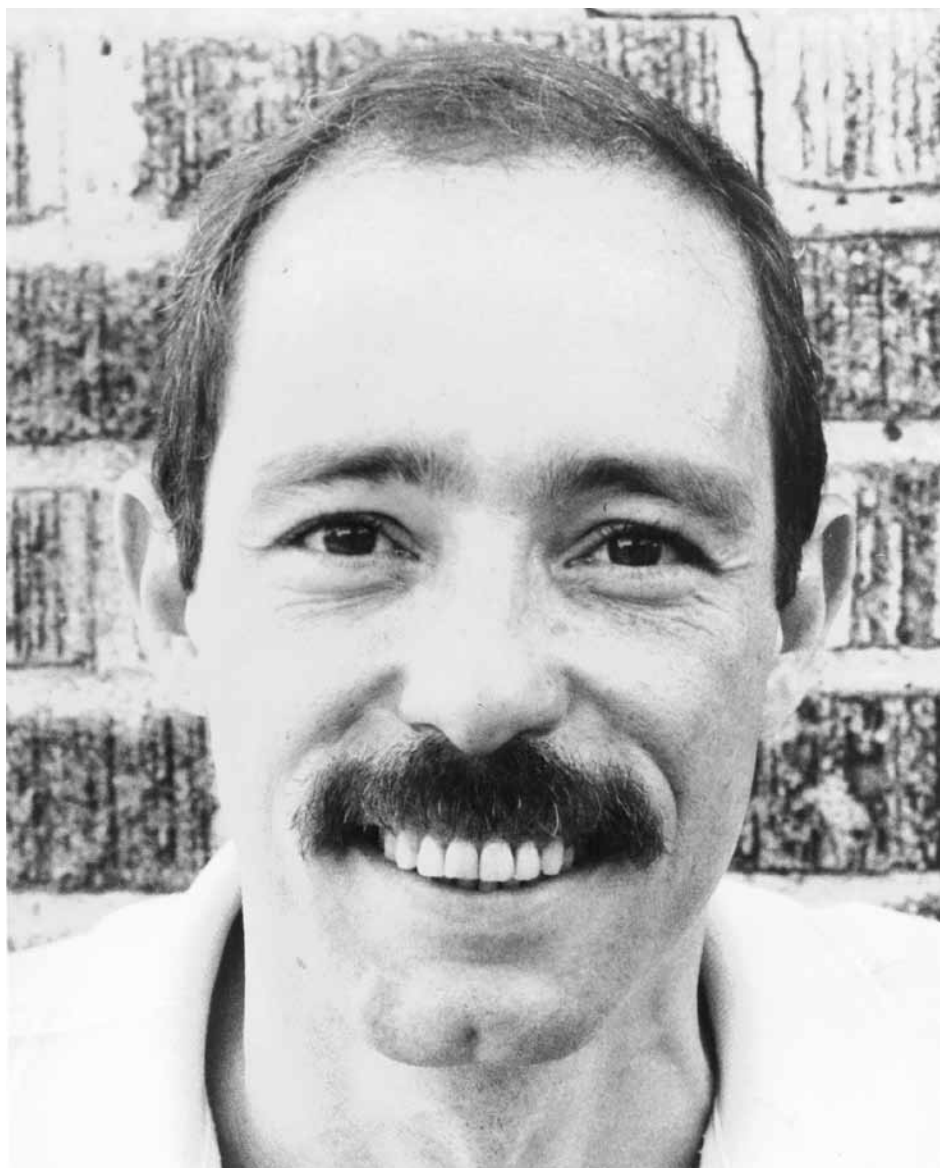
Cleve Jones: It was back in the gay Jurassic when he was developing *The Celluloid Closet*. That began as a series of lectures and he did one of them at the Roxy Cinema in San Francisco and I remember meeting him there. He was also one of the people featured in the documentary *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt* which won the Academy Award for Best Documentary in 1989. My connection with Vito was primarily activism though before I decided to focus on activism I had briefly been a film major so we did have a little bit of a connection there.

I really loved what he did with *The Celluloid Closet*; we connected around AIDS activism and one of the things that I was particularly grateful to him for—you know ACT-UP and The Names Project both started around the same time—and while I think everyone involved in The Names Project supported ACT-UP as well, there were people within ACT-UP who were extremely hostile to the Quilt—who thought it was kitschy; who thought it was passive; who would say stupid things like, "You can't fight AIDS by sitting around making quilts" when we understood that the Quilt was actually a doorway to bring people into activism.

WCT: Of course.

CJ: And Vito from the beginning understood that and one of the great things about Vito was that while he was passionate in his convictions he could listen carefully to people and he was never confrontational just for the sake of being confrontational. He was a very thoughtful man; he reasoned things out.

So, at a time when a lot of the people in ACT-UP were saying really mean and stupid things about the Quilt, he was really working on building bridges and helping people understand that the Quilt was part of our larger struggle and that all of these different strategies were useful. Thinking about Vito is always very poignant for me but I think what people should know about him is that he was extremely intelligent, he was a political radical, he believed in direct action, he believed in the power of popular culture to transform people and wanted us to pay attention to the way the people we now called LGBT were portrayed in the cinema and had just a real love for telling those stories about what at that time was still



Vito Russo.
Photo by Liz Lauren

a kind of hidden queer presence within cinema.
WCT: So, as we come to honor this extraordinary individual whose life touched so many—how do you think Vito would feel about where the movement is now?

CJ: I don't want to speculate too much but I think if Vito were alive today he would be doing what so many of us are doing—which is to try and inform the young people of what life was like when we were young; what life was like for those who came before us; what life was like before the plague, how we struggled, what we won, what we lost and he also loved telling stories. That's something I have in common with Vito. In a way, Vito is still telling those stories and that's part of why I'm so excited about the Legacy Project doing this. Of all of these efforts that are going on around the country to memorialize our history and make it accessible to the generations that

are coming up, the Legacy Project is without question one of the most effective. I'm really proud of Victor [Salvo, founder of the Legacy Project] and all the folks that worked so hard to make this happen. You have to be all in to do something like this.

WCT: And you should know!

CJ: Yes. What else to say about Vito? I had enormous love and respect for him. He is someone I still think of frequently and wish so much that he was here today to see all this that has happened. That is a constant source of sorrow for me that so many of these great heroes didn't live long enough to see the victories of recent years. He would be the first to admonish us that we still had a long way to go but he would also want to celebrate what we have accomplished.

http://legacyprojectchicago.org/Events_and_News_Links.html



SPOTLIGHT

Black Ensemble Theater continues its 40th-anniversary season of "greatest hits" by reviving Jackie Taylor's **I Am Who I Am (The Story of Teddy Pendergrass)**, from the company's 2006-07 season. The musical charts the tragic life of its title soul singer who is best known for numerous 1970s hits like "Turn Off the Lights," "If You Don't Know Me By Now" and "Wake Up Everybody." Daryl D. Brooks directs the revival, which stars RaShawn Thompson and Deverin Deonte as older and younger versions of Pendergrass. **I Am Who I Am (The Story of Teddy Pendergrass)** continues through Sunday, Oct. 30, at the Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center, 4450 N. Clark St. Tickets are \$55-\$65; call 773-769-4451 or visit BlackEnsemble.org.



Caption: RaShawn Thompson stars as Older Teddy Pendergrass in Black Ensemble Theater's revival of Jackie Taylor's **I Am Who I Am (The Story of Teddy Pendergrass)**. Photo courtesy of Black Ensemble Theater

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Gay-bar literary submissions wanted

Story curators/collectors S. Renee Bess and Lee Lynch are asking writers to create pieces of work that explores the role the gay bar's culture has played in their lives or in the lives of LGBTQI people in general.

Works may be either fiction or non-fiction/essay/memoir (but not erotica). It can be prose or poetry, and the work must be original and not previously published. If submissions are accepted for an anthology, writers will be sent contracts and will receive free copies of the collection.

Items from writers of color are especially welcome.

Submissions must be presented in Microsoft Word, in Times New Roman, 12-point font. Send it as an attachment in an email to both Bess at levrb1@aol.com and Lynch at greenhat66@gmail.com. In the subject line, write "Bar Stories, Fiction," "Bar Stories, Non-fiction" or "Bar Stories, Poetry."

The deadline is Jan. 1, 2017, and the word-count limit is 5,000.

Northwestern to run LGBT, AIDS exhibitions

Northwestern University's Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, 40 Arts Circle Dr., Evanston, will run the art exhibition "Keep the Shadow, Ere the Substance Fade: Mourning during the AIDS Crisis" through Dec. 11 at the Katz Gallery.



Eric Avery's *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (1999).
Image courtesy of the artist

During the same dates, it's also running the first major retrospective of artist Tseng Kwong Chi (1950-1990) in "Tseng Kwong Chi: Performing for the Camera."

By juxtaposing objects and artworks related to mourning from the Victorian Era and during the AIDS crisis, "Shadow" examines two analogous cultures of bereavement. The show includes loans from the Leather Archives & Museum and the Museum of contemporary Art as well as the Block Museum collection.

Artists in the exhibition include Eric Avery, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, David Grieger, Robert Mapplethorpe, Richard Mock, Domingo Orejudo, Andres Serrano and Leonard Rifas.

In addition, Block Graduate Fellow C.C. McKee will draw connections between mourning-related objects and artworks from the Victorian Era and during the AIDS crisis in "Keep the Shadow: The Body and Mourning" on Thursday, Oct. 13, 6-8 p.m.

As for Tseng show, the artist—born in Hong Kong, educated in Vancouver and Paris, and later based in New York City—produced photographs that both captured the downtown Manhattan art and club scenes of the 1980s, and reflected the increasingly globalized movement of people across nations and continents. Tseng died at age 39 from complications related to AIDS.

See BlockMuseum.northwestern.edu. RSVP for the Oct. 13 "Shadow" event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/keep-the-shadow-the-body-and-mourning-tickets-26689099816>.

Ear Taxi Festival on Oct. 5-10

The Ear Taxi Festival—a first-of-its-kind celebration of contemporary music in Chicago—will showcase Chicago's contemporary-music scene Oct. 5-10.

Spearheaded by composer Augusta Read Thomas and co-curated by trumpeter Stephen Burns, the festival will feature 300 musicians, 53 world premieres and four installations in its six days of concerts, lectures, marathons, webcasts and artist receptions.

The festival will be Chicago's first large-scale, nationally recognized festival of new music, with plans to present the work of 75 Chicago-based composers, and performances by 39 Chicago-based ensembles and soloists at venues including the Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance, the Chicago Cultural Center, Constellation and Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago.

The event will feature innovative composers and performers in contemporary music, such as Fulcrum Point New Music Project, Third Coast Percussion, Ensemble Dal Niente, Gustavo Leone, Amy Wurtz and Nicole Mitchell.

See EarTaxiFestival.com.

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MERCURY THEATER CHICAGO

AFC's Project Elevate hosts premiere of video vignettes

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

AIDS Foundation of Chicago's (AFC) Project Elevate hosted a red carpet premiere of storyographers video vignettes Sept. 29 at the Hyde Park Art Center.

These personal video vignette stories were produced by six transgender and cisgender young adults ages 13-24. They addressed overcoming abandonment, bullying and sexual abuse as well as promoting self esteem and HIV and STI prevention.

The red-carpet premiere was produced in partnership with the PrEP4Love campaign and featured music by DJ Tess and a dance performance by The HITTAS as well as mocktails and movie style snacks and refreshments.

Approximately 50 people gathered to view The Corridor by Meghan, Good Enough by Jaïne, Love & Acceptance by Beverly, Protecting Karma by Karma, The Guy in the Field by Brandon and The Monster by Rayna.

Meghan's video focused on what it was like to navigate an anti-LGBT high school first as a gay person, and then as a transgender person while Jaïne's video talked about being abandoned by her mom and how she's doing things differently with her own kids.

The remaining videos were produced under the Step Up Get Tested umbrella and zeroed in on the lack of education surrounding HIV prevention and what each of them did to change that for themselves and others.

AFC Vice President of Prevention and Community Partnerships Cynthia Tucker spoke about

AFC's Youth Expert Advisory Board and the work they're doing to educate young people about STI prevention, including these vignettes and social media outreach ahead of the screening.

Poet/singer Storie Deveraux emceed and performed a hip-hop poem that reflected the intentions of the videos being presented.

During the post-screening Q&A with three of the storyographers (Beverly, Jaïne and Meghan) and producers/lead listeners (Marquez Rhyme and Seed Lynn, the panelists spoke about the process of creating these vignettes.

Beverly noted how helpful Lynn was while creating her vignette and Meghan explained that she had to picture herself back in those moments when she was bullied in high school. Jaïne said she used the metaphor of Chicago's lakefront to illustrate her story.

As for future plans of these vignettes, Meghan said she wants to use them within Chicago Public Schools and other school districts to teach students and staff/teachers about the effects of anti-LGBT bullying on LGBT students. They all indicated that the HIV/STI focused videos would be great additions to sex education classes across the board.

When asked how it felt to work on this project, Jaïne said it was the beginning of her healing process while Beverly noted that her chains were finally broken. Meghan explained that the weekend long retreat with the other storyographers helped her gain confidence to tell her story because she knew she wasn't alone. Lynn added that it was a labor of love for him to help the storyographers tell their



From left: Justin Williams, Storie Deveraux, Marquez Rhyme, Jaïne, Beverly, Seed Lynn, Meghan, Brooke Greene and Olivia Blocker. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

stories.

Rhyme spoke about the retreat structure in which they had the storyographers speak more and they (the retreat organizers) spoke less. They said it started with a story circle and grew from there until every storyographer knew what story from their lives they wanted to tell.

When asked what they want to see more of in the media, Meghan said she wants to see transgender characters portrayed in a good light. Beverly explained that she wants the broadcast networks to produce documentaries showcasing positive stories about minority communities including the transgender community.

Another point the panel emphasized is the need for companies to hire transgender people. They said it's vital for businesses bottom line to give transgender people a chance in their workplaces.

As for what's next for everyone, Meghan said she wants to tell more stories and Beverly

noted she's working on a second story about everyday life as a transgender woman.

Also on hand were the storyographer's videographers: Olivia Blocker, Brooke Greene and Justin Williams.

Project Elevate is, according to AFC's website, "a citywide collaboration with AFC, Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Department of Public Health, Planned Parenthood, Lurie Children's Memorial Hospital, Affinity and a host of other community partners. This peer-led project focuses on the input of the Youth Expert Advisory Board, ages 13-24, to shape marketing materials in support of a robust HIV and STI prevention program and increase awareness of access to services. The program is sponsored in partnership with PrEP4Love Campaign and Storyographers."

See AIDSChicago.org/page/our-work/prevention/project-elevate for more information and/or to view the videos.



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Photo of Kamal Angelo Bolden by Joe Mazza.



Above: Kuda's 50th birthday party, held at Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children Dec. 9, 1989. Back row, from left: Susan Korn, Julie Zolot, Mimi Lewin, Kuda, Nancy Fincke, Chris Johnson. Front: Kathy Munzer, Arne Chris Straayer and Joyce Bolinger.



Top right: Longtime couple and gay activists Ed Lazeo and Jim Bradford with Marie Kuda in 1990, at her birthday party.



Bottom right: Marie Kuda, Barbara Gittings and John Cunningham celebrate Gittings' 50th birthday in 1982.

Photo courtesy of Philadelphia Gay News

KUDA from cover

She served on the City of Chicago's Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues, and on the organizing teams of Gerber/Hart Library, the Tavern Guild of Chicago, Chicago Gay Alliance, the Windy City Athletic Association, Chicago Lesbian Liberation, the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the 47th Ward Gay and Lesbian Association, Chicago's Lesbian Agenda and Moby Dykes. She also helped create a lesbian blood drive during the early years of the AIDS epidemic.

As she told de la Croix: "In the early 1970s, Bill Kelley and I often found ourselves in the same venue whether questioning then-Governor Walker on his promise of a gay-rights amendment at a downstate accountability session, testifying in St. Louis at Democratic Platform Committee hearings, calling attention to discrimination in the industry before the Illinois Insurance Board, or he in front of the camera, and I planted in the audience as a questioner (I looked so matronly in my testifying suit) on such early Chicago talk-TV as the Lee Phillip Show. Mattachine was just one of the hats I wore. As I became more involved with lesbian liberation issues and political action I drifted away from MM, but never from the talented and dedicated people I met there.

"In 1979 after five intense months in San Francisco (including the murders of Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk), I returned to Chicago and received the fourth Pearl Hart Memorial Plaque from then Mattachine President John Power—Ms. Hart had died in 1975—it was my first and most treasured recognition from the Chicago gay community.

"Someone has to be first, and MM was the first gay-rights organization to effect REAL change in the status of gays in the Chicago community. Henry Gerber's short-lived Society for Human Rights incorporated in Illinois in 1924 gets the title as first, but MM was the fiery nest that incubated the next 25 years of activism in Chicago."

Israel Wright of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame stated: "We continue to see our gay-rights pioneers reach the end of their lives. In

many ways that is the completion of our life cycles which create spaces for new generations to carry on the work of bringing equality to all of us. Today I say goodbye to a strong warrior princess who leaves an indelible mark for the space she occupied during her years with us. Marie Kuda was a person who was quick to share her vast history of experiences growing up in a changing world from oppression to acceptance. I last saw Marie at a Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame induction ceremony with an audience surrounding her to catch any words of wisdom she shared.

"When I think of those who we depended upon to review the content of our manuscripts and other style of writing, two giants always

came to mind, William Kelley and Marie Kuda. RIP and hope the two of you are keeping things correct."

Kuda's various paid jobs over the years included working for Commerce Clearing House, Harcourt Brace, in bookstores and as a bookkeeper, and as a short-order cook, a house painter, and a graphic artist. She once worked for DePaul University Library and Northeastern Illinois University and Ravenswood Hospital's Mental Health Clinic.

"She was a little kid in many ways," said Shirley Rissmann, who was partnered with Kuda for 24 of the 26 years they were friends. "She amazed everybody and pissed everybody off and they loved her. She was a force."

Jorjet Harper and Judith Markowitz, writing about Kuda in the book *Out and Proud in Chicago*, stated: "The part that Kuda has played in the gay movement cannot be calculated solely according to her awards and achievements; her work conveying positive images of our culture has inspired many others, especially lesbians.

"Over the years her listeners have extended her contributions and her conviction that LGBT history was as important to document as to create. She gave many women the courage to come out. She gave gays and lesbians crucial information they didn't even know they needed about the lives of gays and lesbians of the past and, for some, the tools they sought to make sense of their own lives.

"Kuda talked about the links between historical figures in a way that showed not only that gays and lesbians in the past fully understood who they were, but that many of them were well aware of each other.

"Her inspirational slide shows and lectures covering a wide range of topics on lesbian and gay history, in particular, proved—sometimes to the astonishment of her audiences—that 'we are everywhere' was not just a catchphrase but an actual reality. For the first time, we heard that many of our lesbian foremothers were women of amazing courage, generous heart and breathtaking accomplishment."

Longtime gay businessman and activist Chuck Renslow called Kuda "a pioneer, one of the truly great women of the LGBT movement. I was proud to call her a friend and often called upon her knowledge and talent. I was proud to be inducted into the Hall of Fame with her in 1991, and honored to call her my friend. I really, really liked her."

Kuda graduated from DePaul University.

Survivors include her cousin Harry Nimo, her companion and dearest friend Marilyn Blackman, her longtime friend Shirley Rissmann, and other friends throughout Chicago and the United States.

A memorial service is being planned for Saturday, Oct. 29, at 2 p.m. at Touche bar, 6412 N Clark St., Chicago. Email editor@windycitymediagroup.com for more information.



Mattachine Midwest honors Kuda in 1979, from GayLife newspaper.



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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Leghorn's pro-LGBT move; Identita Golose

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Leghorn sandwich benefits Pride Action Tank

A collaboration between Chicago singer Taylor Bennett and Leghorn Chef Jared Van Camp is a new specialty chicken-and-waffle sandwich.

The spin on Leghorn's classic hot chicken thigh is housed between two of The Winchester's celebrated Belgium-style liege waffles and layered with maple jalapeno butter and smoked bacon—and will benefit Chicago-based LGBTQIA advocacy group Pride Action Tank (PAT).

While the sandwich collab officially debuted at the second annual Taste Talks Chef BBQ Oct. 2, Leghorn will keep the sandwich exclusively on the menu at its Ukrainian Village location, 959 N. Western Ave., for \$8 the two weeks following the event—10% of proceeds from every sandwich sold will directly support the youth homeless work of Chicago-based LGBTQIA advocacy group Pride Ac-

tion Tank. An active supporters of gay rights, Bennett (also a Chicago-native) chose Pride Action Tank because of the group's work helping LGBTQIA and other homeless youth through a collaborative process of inquiry, advocacy and action.

Leghorn Chicken is Element Collective's socially conscious chicken shop in the Ukrainian Village neighborhood. A fast-casual, BYOB concept featuring fried chicken sandwiches by Van Camp, Leghorn supports local and sustainable farmers and artisans and proudly and enthusiastically champions gay rights, with a portion of profits donated to organizations to support the cause.

In the fall of 2014, Leghorn launched Leghorn Cafe, a breakfast-focused, fast-casual shop located in Chicago's River North neighborhood at 600 N. LaSalle St. See LeghornChicken.com.

There is more on Twitter at @leghornchicken, @jaredvancamp and @_TaylorBennett.



Monteverde chef Sarah Grueneberg. Photo by Andrew Davis

Identita Golose hits Chicago

The culinary event known as Identita Golose took place at Chicago's Eataly's La Scuola on Oct. 1-2. The theme was "Don't Waste the Planet."

Windy City Times attended Master Class 1, with Chefs Giancarlo Perbellini (Casa Perbellini, Verona) and Sarah Grueneberg (Monteverde) preparing, respectively, the pasta dishes gnocchi di polenta di storo and cacio whey pepe (a take on cacio e pepe). CBS-2 reporter Vince Gerasole moderated.

Chefs Carlo Cracco (Cracco, Milan) and Michael Tusk (Quince/Cotogna, San Francisco) presided over the second Oct. 1 class. The following day featured a four-course lunch that famed chef Lidia Bastianich hosted; Chefs Carlo Cracco, Michael Tusk, Giancarlo Perbellini, and Eataly Chicago's Rob Wing prepared the items.

For more information, see IdentitaGolose.com.

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October "Man of the Month"



Fri., Oct. 7, 10 p.m.
Charlie's,

3726 N. Broadway

There will be a line dance lesson and lots of two-stepping to country music. In addition, the Men of Charlie's will be raising money for charity and crowning their new Man of the Month.

Sidetrack Saturday Market



Sat., Oct. 8, 1-4 p.m.
Sidetrack,

3349 N. Halsted St.

A wonderful collection of vendors to present produce, juices, pies, cheese, preserves, confections, baked goods and many more wonderful products. There will also be scrumptious ready-to-eat treats and sandwiches perfect for lunch or an afternoon snack.

CrossFit Social Night



Sat., Oct. 8, 1-4 p.m.
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REELING CLOSING PARTY @ PROGRESS, THU. SEPT. 29

Photos by Jerry Nunn



SIDETRACK

Photos by Jed Dulanias



"I recently had hernia surgery. My dick was so big, black and swollen, I had to fight those Kardashians off with a stick!"—**Leslie Jordan**. I bet with these attributes, he'd be fighting the gay boys off with a stick, too.

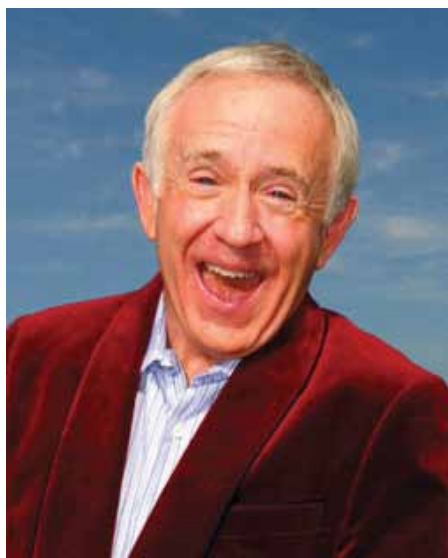
You kids out there may not know this, but gays weren't always on television. These days, every show eventually trots out a gay character—usually a persnickety type often portrayed by **Wilson Cruz**, **Alec Mapa**, **Jai Rodriguez** or **Rex Lee**. If I didn't know them personally, I'd swear they were the same person. The roles they play are so alarmingly similar, surely one of these talented gents could handle them all—and still have time to occasionally fill in for **Rachel Maddow**! Anyway, my point is that in the long history of television, gays are a relatively new addition.

And much of the credit for that visibility must go to **Will & Grace**. This was really the first TV show with gay leading characters that was a hit. Sure, it wasn't perfect, and some of the characters perpetuated some stereotypes. But the show also reflected a number of issues that were going on in the real world. So, who better to help inspire people to vote than Will and Grace and Jack and Karen (with a little help from Rosario)?

The cast reunited to film a mini-episode, and they slipped back into their roles seamlessly—with the exception of Mullally's now-red hair. While it is unlikely that the characters and the apartment would not have changed in the decade since the show went off the air, the episode picks up where the series left off—save for Jack opening the refrigerator and exclaiming, "Why does everything in there look 10 years old?" Although it sounds like they are using a really horrible laugh track, that won't keep me from posting the full video on BillyMasters.com. While the thrust of the episode appears to be pro-Hillary Clinton, it is actually called #VoteHoney. **Debra Messing** clarified that message in a tweet: "No; it was for #VoteHoney. [Jack] wasn't going to vote. Karen was for Trump, W&G were for HRC. Msg was you HAVE to vote. Sitting out is not OK." OK.

Time for our Finding Prince Charming update. And I am shocked—yes, shocked! I went on record saying that **Paul Hollowell**—the guy with the dead ex—would be the winner. WRONG! Paul is history. The die was cast when they were in the gym and Robert saw Paul struggling to do crunches. Robert was surprised—after all, Paul's got a hot body. Then came Paul's confession: "I basically told my trainer, 'I don't do anything with my muscles, so I don't need something functional. I just need something that looks good.'" Truer words were never spoken. But Robert was taken aback—you'd think he'd be used to being taken from the back by now! He felt all along that Paul was very reserved and a perfectionist and would like to see him more relaxed and unguarded. Well, this only makes sense. How could someone with Robert's colorful past (which is documented by numerous videos on our website) be with someone who is perfect? After the fact, Paul posted the following cryptic post online: "I didn't realize that one of the other guys was there for one reason: to win at any cost." Any guesses?

Remember when I told you about the auction of **Truman Capote's** ashes? Well, there's half his



Leslie Jordan has a lot to say.

ashes (hopefully the bottom half). At the time, Julien's Auctions had estimated the ashes from the estate of the late **Joanne Carson** would go for \$4-6K. In a shocking turn of events, the ashes went for \$45,000! The new owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, has pledged to take the ashes with him around the world, which is in line with what Capote asked Carson to do. "He told her he didn't want to sit on a shelf," said Julien.

Someone who I think would make a kick-ass Truman Capote is our very own **Leslie Jordan**. For now, he'll have to settle for appearing on *American Horror Story*. He turned up last week as Cricket, a psychic from New Orleans. Needless to say, he was a welcomed presence, indeed. Alas, he won't be a season regular. Leslie tells me he's only in one more episode. But it's a doozy. "**Lady Gaga** makes me fuck her!" Must See TV, indeed!

I caught up with Leslie at the annual Gay Days Anaheim last weekend, which was a smashing success. It's hard to believe that this tiny little event which started with a couple dozen friends (including moi) going to Disneyland in 1998 has turned into an annual event which attracts thousands of people from around the world. The centerpiece of the festivities was a performance by **Steve Grand** at the Kingdom party. Although he didn't take off his shirt onstage, he showed quite a bit of skin at the Plunge pool party the next day. You can check out pics on our website. And while online, check out *GayDaysAnaheim.com*. Kudos to everyone involved.

Let me get back to Leslie for a moment. I got to see his latest one-man show, *Straight Outta Chattanooga*. The titles of these shows are almost inconsequential since the stories change night to night depending on Leslie's mood. So if you go to see him multiple times, you will NEVER see the same show twice. At this particular sold-out event, he talked about the now-openly gay singer **Ty Herndon**. In details that I dare not share (but Jordan will tell you if you go to his shows), Leslie reveals that Herndon has a 12-inch penis. I'll let you chew on that for a while...

When Ty's more than just a little bit country, it's definitely time to end yet another column. We ran SO long. And I had a great "Ask Billy" question to share with you—which included a celebrity nude. I guess it'll hold till next time. But maybe it will turn up early on *www.BillyMasters.com*—the site with no limits. If you have a question, I'm always here for you. Just send a note to *Billy@BillyMasters.com* and I promise to get back to you before Leslie Jordan is cast in a revival of *Tru*. So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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WEDDINGS

Rody-Sollors

They made it official: Brian Rody and Karsten Sollors had an outdoor wedding Sept. 25 in the Lincoln Park area of Chicago.

Rody and Sollors met in August 2015, on Facebook, and continued talking on Facebook and Skype. Rody wrote to Windy City Times, "I responded to a friend request from him with a note back telling him it was nice to meet him and after looking through some of his pictures I complimented him on his look and photos. Little did I know he would write back and on that 20th day of August I would meet the person that I would want to spend the rest of my life with."

"We met at the airport in Phoenix on Nov. 4,



Left: Karsten Sollors kisses new husband Brian Rody. Right: Sollors (left) and Rody. Photos courtesy of the couple

2015 and started our life adventure together. ... We were instantly connected. I was in love with him from the very beginning and being with him in person was the most natural thing I've ever felt. Our love was so apparent to everyone we would come into contact with on our adventure in Sedona."

Sollors moved to Chicago permanently in February 2016. They were in Hawaii when they announced their engagement. As for the wedding ceremony, Rody added that it included "the pouring of sand from Germany; France; California; Vancouver and Kelowna, Canada; Wisconsin; and Chicago—with the pouring symbolizing the blending of the families and the new family that is created with our marriage."

The reception took place at Gilt Bar.

The couple's wedding link is at <https://youtu.be/YUXzY55oBM>.

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Wed., Oct. 5

Gay Liberation Network organizing meeting Monthly planning meeting of Chicago's multi-issue direct action group that promotes the rights of LG-BTI people. Through demonstrations and advocacy, GLN changes the social and political situation of police brutality, labor, immigration, and more. Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7. 7:00pm Berger Park Cultural Center 6205 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago <http://www.gayliberation.net>

Freeman's: The Best New Writing on Family Critically acclaimed literary journal Freeman's circles a new topic whose definition is constantly challenged by the best of our writers: family. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/book/9780802125262>

Yappie Hour: Women's Singles Night SIT Social and Center on Halsted invite you to mix and mingle with other lesbian- or queer-identified single women at a Doggie Singles Night, welcoming dog lovers and those who admire them! \$20 - Pre-registration is required. 7:30pm - 9:00pm SIT Social: A Dog Lounge, 3920 N Ashland Ave <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=12693> Tickets: <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/YHWomen>

Thursday, Oct. 6

Midwest LGBTQ Health Symposium Howard Brown Health and Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center welcome physicians, nurses, residents, health-care administrators, and all medical professionals to learn more about the LGBTQ community. Through Friday, Oct.

**ALL THAT JAZZ Saturday, Oct. 8**

Lakeside Pride Jazz Orchestra will present the concert "En Fuego."
Photo by Vern Hester

7, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. Up to 13.5 hours of Continued Medical Education credit. Register online. 7:30am Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, 836 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago <http://tinyurl.com/gbtqhealth>

Writers Workshop Series with Nicole Hollander First of two sessions in writing led by celebrated writer and artist Nicole Hollander. Next session Oct. 13 6:30pm Lincoln Belmont Branch Chicago Public Library, 1659 W Melrose St, Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/1122980567791926/>

Reading and Signing of Mercury by Margot Livesey An optometrist in suburban Boston is sure that he and his wife, Viv, who runs the local stables, are both de-

voted to their two children and to each other. Then Mercury—a gorgeous young thoroughbred with a murky past—arrives at Windy Hill, and everything changes. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/book/9780062437501>

New Town Writers' Workshop Participants are asked to bring copies of their work so other writers and listeners can follow along. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago

Friday, Oct. 7

Mujeres Poderosas Art by Sam Kirk explores the roles ancestry, migration, and politics play in developing new generation 5:00pm - 10:00pm Pilsen Outpost, 1958 W 21st St, Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/1677125412614373/>

IVI-IPO Glynn Sudberry Awards IVI-IPO, the Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization. Emcee will be state Rep. Kelly Cassidy. Activist awards to Rev. Kevin Tindell, Marixta Vida. Business award to Tracy Baim of Windy City Times. Joint political award to Former state Rep. Tom Cross, former state Rep. Ron Sandack, and state Rep. Ed Sullivan. Special service award to Rich Whitehead. 6:30pm Lazo's Restaurant, 2009 N. Western, Chicago <http://www.iviiipo.org>

LezPlay Weekend Formal readings of the five finalists in the 2016 LezPlay Contest through Oct 9. Admission is pay-what-you-can. \$10 suggested donation. Reservations not required. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com> Tickets: <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=12840>

Saturday, Oct. 8

Sidetrack Saturday Market Cocktails while you shop local. Vendors to present their products and ready-to-eat treats and sandwiches perfect for lunch. 1:00pm - 4:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago

Gerber/Hart Library and Archives 35th Anniversary Postponed due to construction. New information will be posted here when it is available. 7:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org>

LezPlay Weekend Formal readings of the five finalists in the 2016 LezPlay Contest through Oct 9. Admission is pay-what-you-can. \$10 suggested donation. Reservations not required. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=12840>

Lakeside Pride Jazz Orchestra presents En Fuego: The Great Chicago Fire Smoking-hot firestorm of Latin Jazz in celebration of the resilience of our city on the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire. Steamy firemen dutifully serving cool drinks. 7:00pm Seven Nightclub, 3206 N. Halsted St., lakesidepride.org

Sunday, Oct. 9

Judy and Liza-Once in a Lifetime: The London Palladium Concert-a Tribute Cabaret show is a re-creation of the famed concert presented by the legendary mother-daughter duo of Judy Garland and an 18-year-old Liza Minnelli in 1964 at the London Palladium. 7:00pm Uptown Underground 4707 N. Broadway St., Chicago 773-867-1946 Tickets: http://www.uptownunderground.net/ox_portfolio/judy-garland-liza-minnelli-once-in-a-lifetime-the-london-palladium-concert-a-tribute/

Monday, Oct. 10

Join Men4Choice In support of state level Pro-Choice candidates in Illinois. Performances by spoken-word poets and musical artists exploring women's reproductive rights and how/why those who identify as men should engage as allies. Join email list m4c@men4choice.org. 6:00pm - 8:00pm 111 W Kinzie St.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Part I Before Stonewall: The LGBTQ Experience in the '50s and '60s Series Lecture by Tracy Baim, Publisher and Executive Editor of Windy City Times. Presented by the Lincoln Park Village, Gerber/Hart Library, Howard Brown Health, and Lake View Presbyterian Church, this two-part lecture and discussion will focus on the history of the LGBTQ community before the Stonewall Rebellion on June 28, 1969, which led to the gay liberation movement and modern fight for LGBTQ rights in the U.S. Limited seating. See Oct. 18 for Part II. 3:00pm - 5:00pm, Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St.; 773-248-8700 <http://www.lincolnparkvillage.org>

Affinity Open House Celebrate National Coming Out Day at Affinity's new space. 7:00pm Affinity Community Services, 2850 S. Wabash Ave. #108; Affinity95.org

Rep. Mike Quigley at Chicago Gender Society Monthly meeting. 8 p.m. Stardust Banquet, 5688 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago <http://chicagogender.com>

Wed., Oct. 12

#NOH8 Open Photo Shoot Registration and photos on the 2nd Floor. Single/solo \$40. Couple/group \$25 per person. Come camera-ready in white shirt. 5:00pm W Chicago City Center 172 W Adams; <http://www.noh8campaign.com/event/open-photo-shoot-w-city-center-il>



Jacob Rickert with Seth Daniel in the series Feral.
Photo by Breezy Lucia

Gay series 'Feral' on Dekkoo.com

Like HBO's Looking or Girls, but set in Memphis, Tennessee—that's how creator Morgan Jon Fox characterizes Feral, a Dekkoo.com original TV series that debuts Oct. 6 exclusively on the subscription streaming service dedicated to gay men, according to a press release.

In Feral, Fox (who is also the series writer and director) weaves a tale of survival as a group of gay twentysomethings learn about love, loss and friendship while living in the vibrant, artistic queer community of Memphis.

See Dekkoo.com. The trailer is at Popular-Publicity.com/2016/08/press-rdekkoo-drama-feral-gay-in-bible-belt.html.

Dance collaborations to be held Oct. 8

The Chicago Dancemakers Forum and High Concept Labs have announced the first-ever, city-wide Artist-Presenter Collaborations for Dance symposium, to be held Saturday, Oct. 8, at HCL, 2233 S. Throop St.

This day-long symposium is one of multiple public programs planned by CDF as part of the Regional Dance Development Initiative, a program of the New England Foundation for the

Arts' National Dance Project.

The events will include a morning panel, "Partnerships"; a networking lunch; an "In Residence" live performance and presentation; and an afternoon presentation entitled "Case Studies."

A \$10 suggested donation from each attendee includes lunch. Visit ChicagoDancemakersForum.org or call 773-580-9322 in advance to RSVP. Space is limited and programming is subject to change.

A'ville Arts Weekend Oct. 14-16

More than 30 businesses in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood will unite to showcase the work of more than 90 visual and performance-based artists for the 14th annual Andersonville Arts Weekend on Oct. 14-16.

Just a few of the businesses slated to participate are Foursided, Las Manos Gallery, Notice, Andersonville Galleria, Norcross and Scott, Early to Bed, Milk Handmade and Chicago Mindful Psychotherapy.

For a complete list of Arts Weekend artists, performances and a full schedule of events, visit Andersonville.org/artsweekend or call the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce at 773-728-2995.



Protesters march through Uptown Oct. 3.
Photos by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

GLN founder arrested during protest for homeless rights

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Gay Liberation Network founder Andy Thayer, Northside Action for Justice member Marc Kaplan and Uptown Tent City member Ryne Poelker were arrested at the Uptown offices of 34th ward Ald. James Cappleman Oct. 3. They were charged with criminal trespassing.

Thayer, Poelker and Kaplan had organized a march for homeless rights that evening attended by more than 150 people. The protest culminated at Cappleman's office where the alderman was presented a list of demands foremost of which was to stop the systematic removal of tents from under the viaduct at Wilson and Lake Shore Drive in Uptown.

Cappleman listened to the demands and left his office at 7 p.m. Thayer, Poelker and Kaplan remained inside for two hours demanding that the alderman return and pledge to "put people before profits."

After two hours, at least 12 Chicago Police

Department (CPD) officers arrested the three demonstrators. A crowd of around 30 who had set up tents outside the alderman's office shouted their support as Thayer, Poelker and Kaplan were, one-by-one, handcuffed and led away via the back exit.

See full report and more photos online.



Andy Thayer is arrested at Cappleman's office.

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