



DAWN OF A NEW DAY
Dawn Valenti—a Chicago survivor's story.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH SPECIAL COVERAGE

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'THE NUTCRACKER'
Christopher Wheeldon puts a spin on the classic.
Photo by Todd Rosenberg

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Noel Spain as Captain Bisexual in the Pride Parade.
Photo courtesy of Friends of Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago. See feature on BQAC inside this issue.

BISEXUAL BATTLES

MAP report shows shocking disparities in the bisexual community

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

On Sept. 27, the national, independent LGBTQ think tank The Movement Advancement Project (MAP), in partnership with 10 U.S. advocacy organizations, released a major new report on the disparities faced by one group within the LGBTQ umbrella.

The report detailed inequalities the group (representing 52 percent of the LGB population) faces including a lack of support from family members and friends, harassment and sometimes violent bullying in school, disproportionately high rates of workplace discrimination, chronic homelessness, difficulty

seeking asylum or navigating the immigration process, life-long mental health and physical issues including relationship problems and isolation, an inordinately high level of risk behavior such as drug and tobacco use, suicide attempts, weight management problems, higher rates of breast cancer, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, cardiovascular disease, problems receiving adequate healthcare as well as a horrifying level of violence whether through intimate partner and domestic abuse, rape or sexual assault.

MAP cited a student in a 2014 Human Rights Campaign

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TRANS VIGIL
Chicago trans woman T.T. Saffore remembered.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

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SYLVIA RIVERA
Iconic trans-rights idol is profiled.
Image courtesy of The Legacy Project

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HURRY, MUST CLOSE OCTOBER 23!

★★★^{1/2} (OUT OF 4)

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'NOBODY' KNOWS

Singer Rachael Yamagata (left) talks about everything from her video for "Nobody" to her lesbian fan base.

Photo by Laura Crosta

A HUNT AND A HAUNT



Lori Gum is a co-founder of the Queer Ghosthunters group at Stonewall Columbus.

Photo courtesy of Stu Maddux

THE KANE EVENT



National Runaway Safeline board member Troy McDonald Kane talks about the organization and the upcoming "Spirit of Youth" festival.

Photo from the Safeline

SPAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Local Finding Prince Charming contestant Sam Provenzano talks about the controversial end to his run on the show.

FALLS WELL THAT ENDS WELL

WCT visited western New York state, taking in Niagara Falls and a revitalized Buffalo.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about author Gloria Naylor, actor John Barrowman and the show American Horror Story.

plus
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First LGBTQ history study released on National Coming Out Day

BY SARAH TOCE

"We exist" and "the importance of being seen" are vetted concepts taking root in the nation's first national study on LGBTQ history.

The study, sponsored by the National Park Foundation, the National Park Service and supported by the Gill Foundation, sheds light on places and events associated with the history of LGBTQ-identified Americans. The release of the theme study coincides with National Coming Out Day Oct. 11, a commemoration first celebrated in 1988 on the anniversary of the first March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

The new National Park Service Theme report "LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History" pulled together experts in LGBTQ studies who

queens of the Stonewall Uprising, from private residences, hotels, bars, and government agencies to hospitals, parks, and community centers. Intertwined in the retelling of America's LGBTQ history are stories of the nation's first female astronaut in space, Sally Ride, and a mass "die-in" on the lawn on the National Institutes of Health during ACT UP's May 21, 1990, "Storm the NIH" demonstration.

Currently there are 10 places recognized by National Park Service programs; some are included in multiple programs because of their historic significance.

Those recognized are: Stonewall, New York City: NR, NHL, NM; the Henry Gerber House, Chicago: NHL; Kameny House, Washington, DC: NR; Cherry Grove Community House and Theatre, Cherry Grove, NY: NR; James Merrill House, Stonington, CT: NR; Carrington House, Cherry



U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell.

Photo courtesy of Department of the Interior

wrote and peer-edited more than 1,200 pages in the 32 chapters of the theme study. Authors and peer reviewers included professors, filmmakers, historians, geographers, archivists and museum curators, researchers, experts in historic preservation, historical archaeologists, journalists and members of the clergy.

Among them were historian and author Dr. Susan Stryker; Aaron Belkin, Palm Center; Faith Cheltenham, BiNet USA; historian and author John D'Emilio; Kwame Holmes, University of Colorado, Boulder; historian Will Roscoe; historian Nathaniel Frank; history professor Marcia M. Gallo; columnist Rev. Irene Monroe; author Timothy Stewart-Winter; Tracy Baim, publisher of Windy City Times; and others.

The 32 chapters chart LGBTQ histories across the United States—from the native mahu of Hawai'i and lhamana of the Zuni, to the drag

Grove, NY: NR; Bayard Rustin Residence, New York City: NR; Julius Bar, New York City: NR; Edificio Comunidad de Orgullo Gay de Puerto Rico, San Juan: NR; and Furies Collective House, Washington, D.C.: NR. (NR = National Register of Historic Places; NHL = National Historic Landmark; NM = National Monument)

"In 2016, the National Park Service is marking our centennial anniversary and the upcoming 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act on October 15 with a renewed commitment to share a more complete history of our nation with the next generation of Americans," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "Through heritage initiatives like the LGBTQ theme study, the National Park Service is commemorating the inspiring stories of minorities and women who have made significant contributions to our nation's



Megan Springate.

Photo from Department of the Interior

history and culture."

Secretary Jewell announced plans for the theme study in 2014 at an event outside the Stonewall Inn in New York City alongside National Park Service leadership and Tim Gill, founder of the Gill Foundation.

"LGBT history is American history and, as we celebrate the Centennial anniversary of the National Park Service, I can think of no better time to advocate for a more accurate and inclusive view of the American experience," said Gill.

"Thanks to the generous support of Tim Gill and the Gill Foundation, this important study was possible," said Will Shafroth, president of the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks. "This work helps expand the scope of the history preserved within our National Park System and honor an America that represents us all."

"The LGBTQ Heritage Initiative is one of four heritage initiatives currently underway by the National Park Service that are working to include histories of those traditionally underrepresented in Park Service programs, including interpretation, and the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmarks program," said Megan Springate, prime consultant to the LGBTQ Theme Study. Springate now works in the National Park Service Cultural Resource Office of Interpretation and Education.

"Each of the 32 chapters were peer-reviewed

by two or more subject-matter experts," Springate said. "They received a draft of each chapter, and provided comments and feedback to myself and to authors regarding the strengths of each chapter, and where more information, clarification, or other improvements could be made. Part of their charge was to ensure diversity within the chapters, including geographic and cultural diversity, so that the theme study did not reflect just one narrative of LGBTQ history."

"For far too long, the struggles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer-identified Americans have been ignored in the traditional narratives of our nation's history," said Jewell. "This theme study is the first of its kind by any national government to identify this part of our shared history, and it will result in an important step forward in reversing the current underrepresentation of stories and places associated to the LGBTQ community in the complex and diverse story of America."

"A common saying is that a rising tide lifts all boats; yet although same-sex marriage is legal across the country and gay and transgender people can serve openly in our military, and that generally there is more acceptance, not all boats are lifted at the same time," Springate shared. "Transgender people face often violent discrimination, and transgender women of color are particularly vulnerable to violence, up to and including murder. Bullying of those perceived to be LGBTQ is part of why LGBTQ youth have such high rates of suicide. Bisexuals are still erased from much of LGBTQ history."

Other areas of study currently underway in National Park Service programs include women's history, Latino/a heritage and Asian-American/Pacific Islander heritage. Theme studies for Native-American and African-American history were previously completed.

The LGBTQ Heritage Initiative marks the first time that a national government anywhere in the world has done a nationwide study of LGBTQ history. Since the LGBTQ Heritage Initiative kicked off in 2014, other nations, including England, have begun similar projects.

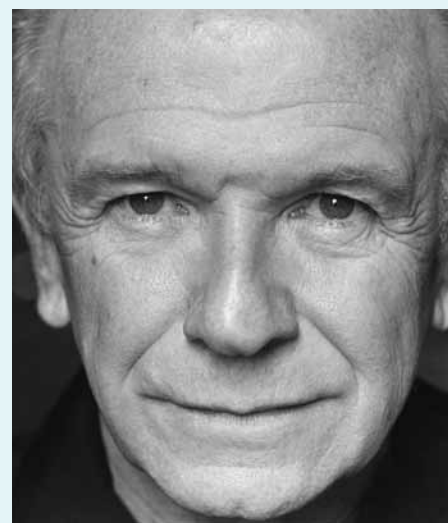
"The theme study makes clear that not only to LGBTQ people exist, but that LGBTQ history also exists, and is deeply intertwined with American history more broadly," Springate emphasized. "The places associated with LGBTQ history likewise exist across the country, and are deserving of consideration, interpretation, and preservation as important historic places."

More about the "LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History" is at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tellingallamericansstories/lgbtqthemestudy.htm>.

LGBT History Month honors ex-president, athletes, actors

Former U.S. President James Buchanan joins cultural icon David Bowie and Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel as a few of the 31 Icons to be celebrated during October's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History Month 2016.

Some of the other honorees include actress Ellen Page, entrepreneur Malcolm Forbes, famed marriage-equality plaintiff James Obergefell, trans advocate/personality Chaz Bono, Israeli gay pioneer/scientist Uzi Even, journalist/commentator Charles Blow,



Terrence McNally.

Photo by Jeffrey Hornstein

long-distance swimmer Diana Nyad, playwright Terrence McNally and poet/activist Essex Hemphill.

Each year 31 LGBT Icons—living or dead, and national and international—are selected for achievements in their fields of endeavor; for their status as a national hero; or for their significant contributions to LGBT civil rights. Equality Forum solicits nominations from the public. Nationally prominent professors Lillian Faderman and Paul Farber, 2016 LGBT History Month Co-chairs, review all nominations and recommend the annual icons.

Equality Forum is currently accepting nominations for LGBT History Month 2017. The deadline to nominate an icon for next year's LGBT History Month is Friday, Dec. 9, 2016.

See EqualityForum.com.

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Vigil honors slain trans women, celebrates Black trans power

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

In an unprecedented display of defiance and frustration, more than 150 people from across the racial and gender spectrum gathered outside Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ in Lake View Oct. 6 to hold a vigil and march for T.T. Saffore, a transgender woman of color who was murdered Sept. 11 in Garfield Park.

Saffore was one of 43 known transgender individuals to be slain in the United States over the past two years and the third transgender woman of color killed on Chicago's West Side since 2012. To date, each of those murders remains unsolved.

Despite being misgendered in initial mainstream media reports and the lackadaisical interest they have shown in her life and the circumstances of her death, a large contingent of press was on hand for the vigil—an irony that did not go unnoticed by the impassioned lineup of speakers.

The demonstration was organized by a coalition of Chicago's Black, trans and gender nonconforming community members and allies who, according to a statement, have unified "not only to mourn the loss of a sister, but to collectively imagine a future for Black trans people free from violence in all its insidious forms."

"We know that the state does not mourn the loss of Black lives," the statement read. "We know the names of Black women lost to violence are held up even less than those of Black men. We know queer, trans and [gender nonconforming] deaths are often hushed by Black communities in addition to being ignored by the state. We accept none of these realities. The epidemic of violence against trans and cis Black women and girls must be treated as an emergency, and a charge for the entire Black community to take up."

Collective members LaSaia Wade and K. Tajhi Claybren read that statement aloud at the onset of the vigil.

They made it clear that "we are not here to showcase our pain—though we will express

it— but instead to make our demands audible to all our Black, trans and queer family members."

Those demands included community-wide education on "Black, trans misogyny, and the unique barriers that keep Black, trans people from living full lives, living wage jobs for Black, trans and [gender-nonconforming] people in all fields of employment, especially in leadership roles within organizations that claim to fight for trans issues, shelters and affordable housing designated specifically for trans youth and elders, in the neighborhoods in which they choose to live, free access to hormones, needles, gender-affirming surgeries, STI testing, and all other basic health needs [and] free access to mental health services—provided by other trans and [gender nonconforming] people—who view us as in need of healing, not fixing."

Organizers also pressed for the decriminalization of sex work, an end to the solitary confinement within the United States prison system (which worldwide human-rights organizations have agreed is an insidious form of mental and physical torture) and the abolition of prisons, the police and the military.

"Without being harassed, without being



Gloria Allen at the vigil.

Photos by Gretchen Rachel Hammond. More photos and video with the online version of this article.

targeted, we wanted to honor somebody that we lost from our community," Wade said. "We spend so much time in our lives and in our community mourning. We are also here to celebrate, to show our power, flex our strength as Black trans and gender nonconforming people, demonstrate what we can do when we get together and actively imagine what the world looks like where we don't have to worry about losing our people. We're here because we want to remember the power we have when we are not afraid of joining together."

Demonstrators called upon the spirits of community ancestors in that unification, names lost but not forgotten—some nationally renowned figures of change, others deeply personal.

"Ain't no power like the power of the people, and the power of the people don't stop," the demonstrators chanted in rhythmic solidarity before poems were read by Claybren and Black writer and musician Vita.

"We have been thrown under the bus," Black trans activist Mama Gloria Allen said. "We have been tarred and feathered, we have had our throats slit and it doesn't make sense. Everybody's beautiful. The Black churches especially teach against homosexuals and transgender women. We need to stand up in the church and speak out. When God made us, he didn't make a mistake."

"Power to the trans community!" activist Miss Africa declared. "We need to come together as one. Things are happening now that should draw the community together closer than ever. As long as we continue to stay separated, how in the world are we going to fight for what we believe in?"

Those words were heeded as the vigil and its message of empowerment took to the streets of Lake View—a neighborhood that, while celebrated by the city as LGBT, is often decried by members of the Black and Latina/o trans and gender nonconforming community as unwelcoming to them.

In an extraordinary scene at the intersection of Halsted and Belmont, the demonstrators took hands and linked arms creating a wide circle blocking traffic on all sides for at least 10 minutes. Efforts by Chicago Police Department officers to move them turned physical in some cases, although no arrests were made.



Demonstrators shut down the intersection of Belmont and Halsted.



Vigil speakers (from left) Gloria Allen, K. Tajhi Claybren, LaSaia Wade, Jazz and Miss Africa.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

PASSAGES

Peter P. Thomas

Peter P. Thomas died at home in Chicago on Sept. 12. He was 80.

Born on Nov. 18, 1935, in Harvey, Illinois, to Peter and Marion Thomas, he was orphaned at age 4 and raised by his Uncle Ray and Aunt "Cookie" in LaGrange, Illinois, and Lebanon, Missouri.

Peter graduated from Stoutland High School,



Peter Thomas.
Facebook photo

near Lebanon, and later attended Drury University, where he studied piano; he also played the violin. Serving in the U.S. Army as a SPE-4, he served in Korea, where he was a member of the Bayonet Chorale, continuing his lifelong love of music. In November 2015, he celebrated both his 80th birthday and his retirement from Labelmaster, in Chicago. He also worked at Embosograph and Pacific Flush Tank.

Peter, a private person, was still outgoing and dedicated to his friends. He was an early member of the leather/Levi's social club Rodeo Riders of Chicago, becoming its doorman in December 1976. Except for three years, he was foreman for the club's 35-year existence. He was deeply involved with MACC (Mid-America Conference of Clubs), becoming its president

in 1986 and holding that office until September 2002. As the organization's official history states: "Peter Thomas was responsible for the preservation of the MACC as a viable organization and its survival." He was given the title Honorary President for Life. Today, Pete's overlay with club colors is on display in the uniform exhibit at the Leather Archives and Museum "as it should be" according to Rob Ridinger, MACC historian and co-founder of Trident Windy City.

Above all, Peter was a gentle man and a gentleman. Always offering his assistance to other L/L clubs, he had a way with people and took the MACC motto—"Brotherhood is not just a word. It's a way of life"—to heart. He will be deeply missed, as will the ubiquitous Cubs baseball cap and that touch of playfulness that endeared him to so many. (He thus had the nickname "Papa Smurf.")

A memorial will be held at Touche, 6412 N. Clark St., on Sunday, Oct. 23, 2-4 p.m.

Activist returns after Israelis intercept boat

Lesbian South African activist Leigh Ann Naidoo is set to land on home soil after Israeli authorities detained her and other female activists who traveled on the Women's Boat to Gaza, which sought to peacefully end the Israeli blockade of Gaza.

Musa Marawu, of the South African embassy in Tel Aviv, told the Mail & Guardian Oct. 6 that the embassy secured Naidoo's return to South Africa after liaising with contacts in the Israeli ministry of foreign affairs.

Israel's navy intercepted a boat full of female activists who were seeking to break the country's decade-long blockade of the Gaza Strip.

In an Oct. 5 statement, the navy said it "redirected" the sailboat in order to prevent a "breach of the lawful maritime blockade" of the Palestinian enclave. The action was completed "in accordance with government directives and after exhausting all diplomatic channels."

Thirteen women—including 1976 Nobel Peace Prize winner Mairead Maguire and Naidoo, a South African Olympian and a Ph.D. candidate at the University of the Witwatersrand—were travelling aboard the Zaytouna-Oliva sailboat in the Mediterranean toward Gaza, which Hamas runs. The boat is part of a coalition of pro-Palestinian boats that sail to Gaza in an attempt to break the blockade.

All 13 women were slated to be released. Naidoo was expected to depart from Tel Aviv and arrive in Johannesburg on Oct. 7.

Rentboy CEO says he promoted prostitution

Jeffrey Hurant, the chief executive officer of the once-popular website Rentboy, pled guilty Oct. 7 to promoting prostitution in a federal case that prompted accusations of anti-gay bias.

Sentencing was set for Feb. 2, 2017. Under a plea deal, Hurant, 51, agreed not to appeal a sentence of two years or less in prison; also, his company cannot appeal a penalty of \$10 million or less. Sentencing guidelines call for a maximum sentence of 21 months.

However, the development—from the arrest and business shutdown to the court process—stirred controversy. Activists questioned why the U.S. Department of Homeland Security would single out the male-escort site Rentboy when similar websites, gay or straight, continue to do business.

Man guilty of rape, murder of teen lesbian couple

In Texas, a San Patricio County jury found David Stickland guilty of capital murder and aggravated sexual assault in connection with a 2012 attack on Mollie Olgin, 19, and Kristene Chapa, then 18.

Following an eight-day trial, Stickland was convicted Sept. 28 of sexually assaulting Olgin and Chapa before shooting them in their heads at a park at Saint Violet Andrews Park in Portland, Texas.

Olgin died from her injuries; however, Chapa survived and began college last year. Chapa, now 22, testified against Stickland, who faces

life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Stickland, 29, received an automatic life sentence since prosecutors did not seek the death penalty.

HRC scorecard of 114th Congress out

Ahead of the Nov. 8 elections that are taking place nationwide, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) released its Congressional Scorecard measuring support for LGBTQ equality in the 114th Congress.

HRC stated that, overall, The scorecard shows continued strong support for LGBTQ equality from Democrats and growing bipartisan support for LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections.

Members of Congress were scored based on their votes and co-sponsorships of pieces of legislation that are key indicators of support for LGBTQ equality.

In Illinois, both senators—Democrat Dick Durbin and Republican Mark Kirk—scored a perfect 100. (Kirk scored 78 with the 113th Congress.) As for U.S. representatives from Illinois, the scores are as follows: Bobby Rush (D), 100; Robin Kelly (D), 100; Daniel Lipinski (D), 57; Luis Gutierrez (D), 100; Mike Quigley (D), 100; Peter Roskam (R), 0; Danny Davis (D), 96; Tammy Duckworth (D), 100; Jan Schakowsky (D), 100; Robert Dold (R), 92; Bill Foster (D), 100; Mike Bost (R), 16; Rodney Davis (R), 32; Randy Hultgren (R), 0; John Shimkus (R), 16; Adam Kinzinger (R), 36; Cheri Bustos (D), 100; and Darin LaHood (R), 0.

Duckworth and Kirk are currently locked in a tight battle for the latter's Senate seat. LaHood won the election to replace embattled Republican Aaron Schock.

Scorecards for Congress are at HRC.org/resources/congressional-scorecard.

Corrections

In last week's article "Change Chat Takes on Bisexuality," there are a few corrections to be made.

Adrienne McCue is the founder of the AJW foundation: Bi Social Network is a project of the AJW Foundation. Additionally, comments she made about GLAAD not understanding bisexuality were in reference to when she met with the organization in 2011. Her opinion has since changed.

The original article stated Marla Depew was "queer for ten years, and then came out as bisexual at age 28." This was a mis-

interpretation of what Depew said and was not her experience, as she came out at 28 as bi/queer. Furthermore, Depew felt this misinterpretation implied that her sexuality was a choice. She identifies as bi/queer, but embraced the term bisexual when she began dating her now-husband.

Both Depew and McCue feel that the bi+ label is an asset to the bisexual community. They think that if someone feels words like queer or pansexual fit their identity best, they should use that label (both labels fall under the bi+ umbrella.)

Windy City Times regrets the errors.



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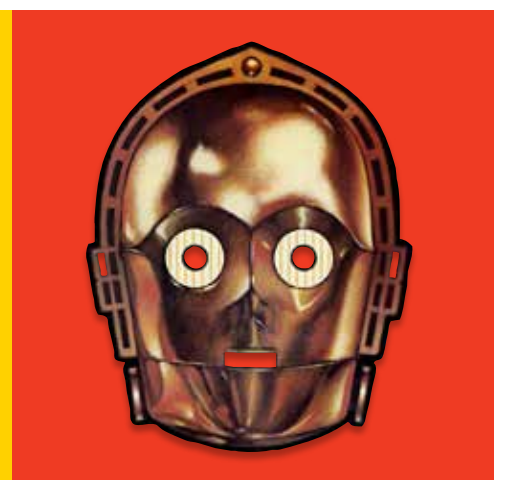
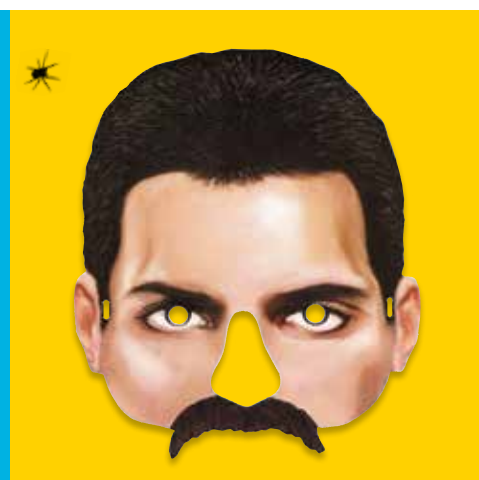


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The White House Office of Public Engagement hosted more than 100 advocates for a community briefing on advancing equality for members of the bisexual community.

BISEXUAL from cover

(HRC) survey who said that “I’ve had people tell me that my life is worthless and that I’m nothing.”

A participant in a Columbia University study, also quoted in the report, said “I’ll never tell anyone. I’ll go to my grave with this.”

The subject of the report was a group whose history has been dated back to ancient civilizations including Greece, Rome, Persia and India. They have included some of history’s most renowned artists, poets, authors, singers, actors, scientists, kings, queens and emperors.

They have been a part of the LGBTQ acronym since the 1990s, yet they are rarely found marching openly within the ranks of a Pride Parade.

In fact, most feel they are invisible and, worse still, are victims of widespread discrimination and uninformed assumptions on the part of gays, lesbians and even transgender community members.

They are bisexual people and, it seems until

very recently, no one has wanted to talk about them.

Heron Greenesmith, Esq., is MAP’s LGBT movement and senior policy analyst. They (preferred pronoun) are also the lead author of the report *Invisible Majority: The Disparities Facing Bisexual People And How to Remedy Them*.

“Last year, a group of bisexual advocates came together in Washington, D.C. for the first-ever briefing on the disparities facing bisexual people,” Greenesmith told Windy City Times. “It was off-the-record but the documents drafted for that briefing created the foundation for this report. We started 18 months ago with those documents, pulled together existing research and fleshed out our recommendations.”

There were five bisexual nonprofits and advocacy organizations who contributed to or will help disseminate the report: BiNet USA, The Bisexual Organizing Project (BOP), The Bisexual Resource Center (BRC), The Bi Queer Alliance Chicago and The Los Angeles Bi Task Force (LABTF).

Bi Queer Alliance Chicago representative Noel Spain told Windy City Times that the group “provided feedback to MAP on earlier drafts of the report.” (See separate story for information on the work of Bi Queer Alliance Chicago.)

Robert Ozn is the chair of LABTF. Identifying as a bisexual, cisgender male, Ozn is currently involved in a polyamorous relationship. His partner is male and Ozn also has a girlfriend—an experience he describes as “incredibly fulfilling.”

A professional musician, Ozn’s single “Je Suis Paris-I Am Orlando” has been a hit in Europe’s dance clubs and currently sits at No. 15 on the British Music Week charts.

He told Windy City Times that his organization has not only publicly supported the MAP report but that they intend to distribute it to advocacy groups such as the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board of West Hollywood, the Los Angeles mayor’s office and LGBT reporters in California.

“Bisexual issues have been, for the most part, ignored by the Southern California LGBT press,” Ozn said. “So we want to reach out to them and make something happen.”

The reason for that is demonstrated in the final and released version of MAP’s narrative. It is shocking.

“Bisexual people are frequently swept into the greater lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) community, their specific disparities made invisible within data about the LGB community as a whole,” it begins. “Bisexual people’s sexuality is often invisible in broader society: bisexual people are often assumed to be gay, lesbian, or heterosexual based on the gender of their partner. Yet, when bisexual people are open about their sexuality, they face increased levels of violence from intimate partners; rejection by community, family, and peers; and skepticism from the people and organizations whom they turn to for help, resources, and services.”

Yet, according to the report, “People who identify as bisexual comprise about half of lesbian, gay and bisexual people in the United States. Of respondents to the [2011] National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 23 [percent] reported identifying as bisexual and another 20 [percent] as queer.”

“Two-thirds of LGB parents are bisexual,” it adds, “Approximately 59 [percent] of bisexual women and 32 [percent] of bisexual men have had children. The majority of bisexual people in relationships are in relationships with people of the opposite sex. 84 percent of bisexual people in a committed relationship are involved with someone of the opposite sex. Another four [percent] of bisexual people have a spouse or partner who is transgender.”

Using the sometimes scant research data currently available, MAP’s report reveals “the extent to which bisexual people face bias from their families, communities (including the LGBT community) and society as a whole.”

It noted that “only 33 [percent] of bisexual people had ever attended a Pride event and only 20 percent said there is a lot of social ac-

ceptance of LGB people where they live.”

It went on to detail how, in educational settings, “29 percent of bisexual youth reported being frequently or often verbally harassed. 24 [percent] of bisexual youth and 32 [percent] of pansexual youth reported frequently or often being excluded by peers for being different.”

MAP cited a 2015 study which noted that, “Bisexual women were 64 [percent] less likely to have graduated high school and 48 [percent] less likely to have ever enrolled in college than ‘completely heterosexual’ respondents; and bisexual men were 45 [percent] less likely to enroll in college than ‘completely heterosexual’ men.”

“Harassment, exclusion and lack of support at school may be compounded for some bisexual youth leading to higher prevalence of risk behaviors, including substance abuse,” the report stated while stressing that “a growing body of research shows that bisexual youth experience unique challenges and barriers that may put them at an increased risk of experiencing homelessness.”

Life for bisexual people is not much better in the workplace, despite a growing number of companies boasting LGBT Employee Resource Groups (ERGs).

“A 2011 study by the Williams Institute found that only six [percent] of bisexual people reported being open about their sexual orientation to all their coworkers, compared to 40 [percent] of lesbian and gay people,” the report noted.

It added that employment discrimination has taken a toll on both the health and well-being of bisexual people and their earning power with a Pew Research Center Study finding that “48 [percent] of bisexual respondents reported an annual family income of less than \$30,000.”

The mental health of bisexual people is markedly poor due to rejection and isolation.

“Data analyzed from the National Epidemiological Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions found that bisexual behavior (defined in the survey as having had sex with ‘both males and females’) conferred the greatest odds of having any mood or anxiety disorder,” MAP asserted. “In the general population, mental health conditions have been found to contribute significantly to suicide, although many other individual, interpersonal, community, and societal factors clearly increase suicide risk. In a 2010 study in Canada, bisexual men were six times more likely than heterosexual men to report seriously considering suicide at some point in their lives.”

An equally disturbing aspect of MAP’s report concerned the levels of violence experienced by bisexual people. It cited 2013 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) figures which found that 61[percent] of bisexual women and 37 [percent] of bisexual men reported experiencing rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime.”

“The same study found that 46 [percent] of bisexual women had been raped,” it continued. “Forty-seven [percent] of bisexual men



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and 75 [percent] of bisexual women reported experiencing any sexual violence other than rape from any perpetrator across their lifetime. Bisexual women survivors reported feeling isolated from LGBTQ people and from the broader community and often did not disclose their bisexual identity when accessing services for intimate partner violence."

"Bisexual people face bias on many fronts," MAP asserted, "from friends and family; from service providers and employers; from heterosexual people; but also, often from gay and lesbian people. This bias, when combined with the interpersonal and legal discrimination that constitute minority stress, creates unique and specific negative outcomes for bisexual people."

It raises the question of why bisexual individuals are either targeted or ignored completely, in particular, by members of the broader LGT umbrella.

"Politically and socially, we are 30 years behind the lesbian and gay community," Ozon said. "The disappointing fact of life is that they are not sharing their influence with us. As recently as three weeks ago, the West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board turned down, by a vote, an opportunity to recommend to the city council that bisexuals have representation in the advisory board structure."

Ozon added that the advisory board also refused representation of any kind.

"For that kind of discrimination to be going on in 2016 is shocking to me," he stated.

"We have data pointing to disparities but we don't have a lot of research into the origins of the bias and discrimination against bisexual people," Greenesmith said. "There is some speculation by some researchers that myths and stereotypes lead to that bias—myths about cheating, stereotypes about confusion."

Red Schulte is a Chicago community organizer and queer-identified woman who is openly bisexual.

"When I was very young, I thought it was a normal way of being," they said. "In elementary school, I remember playground or sleepover interactions with friends and feeling the same way about them and being intrigued by personalities. In fifth or sixth grade, I would comment about liking a girl as a boyfriend and that was not OK with teachers and peers. I made the fatal mistake of saying something very innocent and honest and I was shut down quickly."

"At middle school age, I had a lot of interests," Schulte added. "People were constantly finding my notebook which had lists of people who I liked in it. Those lists were populated by the names of boys and girls. It was just a given for me. Of course the notebook got passed around the classroom and I got made fun of."

Schulte, who grew up in a small Texas town, recalled that 'Dyke' was hurled against them as an epithet quite frequently.

"It wasn't until later in college that I felt a kindred love for that term because I found a feminist community and a group of people who were taking it back," they said. "I've since gone through multiple expressions of gender performativity—more femme or more butch presentations."

Schulte said they didn't know about the term bisexual until around the sixth grade.

"It was the early '90s, the era of Jerry Springer and Maury Povich, who were parading people on these shows to be ridiculed," they recalled. "I have a sense that's where people were getting conceptions of difference. But I remember rooting for the people on these shows and getting very upset at the questions being asked from the audience. The word bisexual was bandied about in school in a curious sense. It was a new word for me but I remember it making sense and being like 'that's me. I like both people!'"

Schulte recalled dating as a struggle.

"People don't accept or believe that your sexual orientation and desires are valid, legitimate or even real," they said. "There have been plenty of people both in the queer community and outside of it who have been like 'Just make up your mind. Just decide. Pick one. You're only



Christina Kahrl.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond



Alan (left) and Miriam Insley Churchill.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

half way out of the closet.' These are actual things that have been said to me and others that I know."

Schulte is currently in a serious relationship with a queer-identified cisgender male.

"When we are outside together on a date, we present as straight to people who want to perceive us as such," Schulte said. "When we got to queer community events, there's some who are 'looking' at us. Even though our identities, desires, orientations and loved experiences are queer, people don't like how 'straight' we look."

Miriam and Alan Insley Churchill are a cisgender, queer, polyamorous couple living in Chicago. They have been together for over four years and were married on the day of the 2016 Pride Parade. Alan is a senior software engineer and Miriam is a student and aspiring novelist. Each prefer they, them and their pronouns.

Introduced by a family friend of Alan's, the couple were friends at first during which time Miriam was dating a transgender woman named Sarah and Alan was going through a divorce.

"I am bi but I find I am much more attracted to people who are attracted to me," Alan noted. "My sexuality is tied to my emotional feelings. I fantasized about men and women all my life. I find women's bodies very attractive. I also find large shoulders attractive. I went to Catholic School and kept failing until I

switched to public school. During my first marriage, sex became torturous. There was some depression and I stopped being able to work well. I had a plan to kill myself. You find that you can't escape yourself. The hurt is inside and there is no running away from how you feel."

Instead, Alan found a therapist and began to research their sexual identity.

"My body felt fluid to me and my sexuality would change based on how my body felt," they explained. "So if my body felt more feminine, I was attracted to men. When it felt more masculine, I was attracted to women."

Alan added that they didn't see a place where they could come out.

"There was no one I could ever come to and say 'look that this that I've discovered about myself' because nobody cares," they said. "I talked to my dad about it and he was fine. My kids were already upset about the divorce. My being bi gave them another reason to be angry. My friends who are straight are a little less friendly. You can tell they are uncomfortable with it."

Miriam remembered a crush on their music teacher when they were 13.

"I told two of my friends in junior high," they

Turn to page 15



DEAR CHICAGO,

It's pretty safe to say that there's something very cool about the Windy City and the winds of change.

I officially came out a few years ago, because the world needed to know who I really am. Aside from being incredibly open, I'm also home to some of the best food, drinks, art, history, adventure, and humble-bragging you'll ever experience.

And remember, I'm less than a 2 hour flight away. So come see me soon!

Love,
RVA

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Scott Lennon runs for Berwyn aldermanic post

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Scott Lennon, who's running to be the alderman for Berwyn's 1st Ward, says that when he moved there 15 years ago, he and his partner "didn't know a soul."

"We started going out to restaurants, bars and events, and we really just started meeting a lot of people," Lennon recalled. "Once I started doing that, I kind of started getting involved. I got involved with the development corporation and the chamber of commerce. Then we started doing the marketing for the city at Northalsted Market Days."

For the last several years, the city has aggressively promoted itself at the August festival; Lennon was one of the founders of that effort. He is an ally of Berwyn's current mayor, Robert J. Lovero, and has been the vice-president of board of directors of the Berwyn Development Corporation for nine years. He's also one of five openly gay residents in the running for the February city primaries.

"I think that's great," Lennon said of the other candidates, who are running on a rival ticket. "It's great in all aspects; I don't fear it. We're all part of the family, but we have different views."

He said that Berwyn has built a great deal of momentum in attracting new residents and businesses and thinks that his election would contribute to its continuation.

"We need to keep this thing going," Lennon explained. "I was afraid that if I didn't run, somebody else might get in there who doesn't really have the same passion that's increased our neighborhood."



Scott Lennon.

Photo courtesy of Lennon

Lennon said that much of the 1st Ward's infrastructure needs improvement.

"We've got 100-year-old sewers and 50-year-old streets, and sidewalks that need repair," he said. "For the last several years, we've been working on receiving grants and securing money so we can improve and redevelop that infra-

Early voting info

Early voting for the Nov. 8 general election has started.

Through Oct. 23, early voting is taking place in Chicago only on the lower level of 69 W. Washington St. On Oct. 24-Nov. 5, 51 sites will be open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Voters don't need a reason or excuse to use early voting; however, voters do need to present government-issued photo identification.

Ballots cast in early voting are final. After casting ballots in early voting, voters may not return to amend, change or undo a ballot for any reason. It is a felony to vote more than once—or to attempt to vote more than once—in the same election.

To view a list of sites, visit ChicagoElections.com/en/early-voting.html.

Grace-period voting, registration

Grace-period (in-person) voter registration is taking place Oct. 12-Nov. 8.

This is for those who miss the Oct. 11 deadline to register by mail or the Oct. 23 deadline to register online. Voters must come in person and need at least two forms of identification, at least one of which shows the address of their new/updated registration. It is open to those who need to change address or name.

Those who need to register or update their registration on Election Day must register at their home precinct for ballots to count. (See ChicagoElections.com/en/your-voter-information.html to determine the precinct.)

structure. I want to see that continue."

Berwyn had a 10-percent increase in residents in 2015, according to Lennon. As a gay man, he added, "I have never felt so comfortable living with the residents of a community and I do with the residents of this community. There's no fear. When you walk down the street, we know who's who. People know when there is a gay couple living here or there. Part of it may be the time we're in today, but with us embracing that, I truly think it's really created a safe environment not only for the LGBT community but all of us in general. To have an administration, mayor and aldermen supporting this is key."

This acceptance is something he hopes can continue under his watch should he be elected alderman.

"This is not something I planned on doing 10 years ago," Lennon recalled. "But I've also prepared myself with all that I've been through, with committees on the city. People that run for office have to understand that you're giving up your life and you have to be everywhere, and you really have to be at every meeting and smile. ... It's a lot of work and it takes a lot of time to prepare, so I want to make sure that whoever gets elected learns and that we learn together, and that we can have a positive impact at the end of the day for our town."



Motorola Mobility donates phones to youth experiencing homelessness

Motorola Mobility, a Lenovo Company, and the Motorola Mobility Foundation made a donation Oct. 5 of nearly 400 phones to help youth experiencing homelessness.

The phones will be used by several LGBTQ- friendly shelters and drop-ins across the city. In particular, the phones will allow individuals to scan and store personal and/or official documents in the cloud, bolstering work being done by the Chicago Youth Storage Initiative (CYSI) to provide storage of valuables for teens going through homelessness in Chicago.

Motorola Mobility Foundation representatives delivered some of the phones to Howard Brown Health's Broadway Youth Center (BYC) 5 through a connection organized by Pride Action Tank and Windy City Times. Chicago Youth Storage Initiative is helping to distribute hundreds of phones to pre-identified partners in addition to BYC, including The Night Ministry, Teen Living Program, La Casa Norte and Center on Halsted.

The Motorola reps stated: "Thank you to the leaders of Broadway Youth Center, Chicago Youth Storage Initiative, Pride Action Tank, Windy City Times for their incredible work to help our city's homeless and LGBTQ youth."

PICTURED, back row, from left: Megan Wickman of CYSI, and BYC staffers Kylon Hooks, Mayadet Patitucci-Cruz, Myah Brown, Amy Miller, Dominique McKinney and Jessica Thomas. Front: Tracy Baim from Pride Action Tank and Windy City Times, Megan Wagner of Motorola, Latonya Maley of BYC and Monica Hauser of Motorola. Photo by Hal Baim

THE BRAD LIPPITZ GROUP presents October Featured Properties



2212 N BURLING

Totally renovated, classic light-filled home on double lot in Lincoln Park exemplifies timeless design and offers the best of city living. Includes a fantastic coach house, a 4-car garage and beautiful yard. **\$4,995,000**



2920 N COMMONWEALTH #9A

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



750 W HUTCHINSON

Architecturally magnificent George Maher city estate set on nearly 6 lots, a half block from the lake. No other city house offers such grand entertaining spaces, both inside and out, with the warmth, light, layout and privacy conducive to modern family living. **\$4,595,000**



3150 N LAKE SHORE #24F

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



545 W ALDINE #3F

Wonderful bright south-facing 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in one of East Lakeview's most highly coveted boutique elevator buildings. Attached heated deeded garage space included! **\$489,000**



444 W ROSLYN #1A

Elegantly finished with fabulous designer finishes throughout, this 2 bedroom, 2 bath residence was renovated by the highly-acclaimed Belgravia Group. **\$459,000**

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



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



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
All Saints Episcopal—
Chicago
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
Community of
Congregations
Community Renewal
Society
Faith Community of St.
Sabina
Greater Institutional AME
Church
Gun Responsibility
Advocates
Increase the Peace
Englewood

Jewish Council on Urban
Affairs
Joint Action Committee for
Political Affairs
Northwest Suburbs
Organizing for America
Open Communities
Organizing Catholics for
Justice
Parents for Peace and
Justice
Peace & Justice Committee
Episcopal Diocese of
Chicago
Peaceful Communities
Purpose Over Pain
Saving Chicago's Youth

Community partners for this event:

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 Shalom's Social Justice
Thresholds
TransTech
United Latino Pride
Windy City Times

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

Election 2016

US PRESIDENT

IVI – Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization
HRC – Human Rights Campaign
PP – Planned Parenthood Illinois Action
PF – Pridefund to End Gun Violence
CNOW – Chicago NOW PAC

To see Hillary Clinton’s responses to a survey given by Gay Men’s Health Crisis, see <http://gmhc.org/files/editor/file/GMHC-PresReport-2016-A.pdf>

	IVI	HRC	PP	PF	CNOW
Hillary Clinton (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Donald J. Trump (R)					
Gary Johnson (L)					
Jill Stein (G)					

IL STATE COMPTROLLER

WCT – Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race
PPAC – Personal PAC
EI – Equality Illinois PAC
GPAC – Gun Violence Prevention PAC
PP – Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

	WCT	PPAC	EI	GPAC	PP
Susana Mendoza (D)		Y	Y	Y	Y
Leslie Geissler Munger (R)					
Claire Ball (L)					
Tim Curtin (G)					

COOK COUNTY RACES

WCT – Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race. So for example if there were 20 questions in a race, and we state 18/20, that means they got 18 of 20 answers correct.
IVI – Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization
PPAC – Personal PAC
CNOW – Chicago NOW PAC
EI – Equality Illinois PAC
RC – Reclaim Chicago
GPAC – Gun Violence Prevention PAC
PP – Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	CNOW	EI	RC	GPAC	PP
COOK COUNTY CLERK								
Dorothy A. Brown (D)	17/18	Y	Y					
Diane S. Shapiro (R)	14/18							
RECORDER OF DEEDS								
Karen Yarbrough (D)			Y					
STATE’S ATTORNEY								
Kim Foxx (D)	22/24	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Christopher E. K. Pfannkuche (R)								
COOK CO. BOARD OF REVIEW-2ND DIST. COMMISSIONER								
Michael Cabonargi (D)			Y					
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT								
VOTE FOR THREE SIX-YEAR AND ONE TWO-YEAR TERMS								
Josina Morita (D)	16/18	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Barbara McGowan (D)	15/18	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Mariyana T. Spyropoulos (D)	16/18	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Karen Roothaan (G)								
George Milkowski (G)								
Michael Smith (G)								
Herb Schumann (2-yr.) (R)								
Martin J. Durkan (2-yr.) (D)			Y					
Christopher Anthony (2-yr.) (G)								

US SENATE

WCT – Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race
HRC – Human Rights Campaign 114th Congress, ratings are a percentage of total 100% based on HRC tracking of how candidates voted in the 114th Congress
PP – The Planned Parenthood Action Fund compiles a scorecard to educate and inform citizens about members of Congress’ record of support for women’s health.
CNOW – Chicago NOW PAC

	WCT	HRC	PP	CNOW
Tammy Duckworth (D)	28/30	100	100	Y
Mark Steven Kirk (R)		100	80	
Kenton McMillen (L)				
Scott Summers (G)				

US CONGRESS RACES

WCT – Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race
IVI – Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization
HRC – Human Rights Campaign 114th Congress, ratings are a percentage of total 100% based on HRC tracking of how candidates voted in the 114th Congress
PP – Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

	WCT	IVI	HRC	PP
1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Bobby L. Rush (D)			100	Y
August (O’Neill) Deuser (R)				
2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Robin Kelly (D)			100	Y
John F. Morrow (R)				
3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Daniel William Lipinski (D)			57	
4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Luis V. Gutierrez (D)	30/30		100	Y
5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Mike Quigley (D)	30/30		100	Y
Vince Kolber (R)				
Rob Sherman (G)				
6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Amanda Howland (D)				Y
Peter J. Roskam (R)			0	
7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Danny K. Davis (D)	30/30	Y	96	Y
Jeffrey A. Leef (R)				
8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Raja Krishnamoorthi (D)	29/30	Y		Y
Peter “Pete” Dicianni (R)				
9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Janice D. Schakowsky (D)	30/30	Y	100	Y
Joan McCarthy Lasonde (R)				
10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Brad Schneider (D)	28/30			
Robert Dold (R)			92	
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Bill Foster (D)	29/30		100	Y
Tonia Khouri (R)				
12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Charles “C.J.” Baricevic (D)				
Michael Bost (R)			16	
Paula Bradshaw (G)				
13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Mark D. Wicklund (D)				
Rodney Davis (R)			32	
David M. Gill (I)				
14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Jim Walz (D)				
Randall M. “Randy” Hultgren (R)			0	
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
John M. Shimkus (R)			16	
16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Adam Kinzinger (R)			36	
17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Cheri Bustos (D)			100	Y
Patrick Harlan (R)				
18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Junius Rodriguez (D)				
Darin LaHood (R)			0	

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RACES

WCT – Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race
IVI – Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization
PPAC – Personal PAC
EI – Equality Illinois PAC
RC – Reclaim Chicago
CNOW – Chicago NOW PAC
GPAC – Gun Violence Prevention PAC
PP – Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	RC	CNOW	GPAC	PP
1ST SENATE DISTRICT								
Antonio “Tony” Munoz (D)			Y					Y

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	RC	CNOW	GPAC	PP
2ND SENATE DISTRICT								
Omar Aquino (D)			Y		Y		Y	Y
4TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Kimberly A. Lightford (D)			Y					Y
5TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Patricia Van Pelt (D)			Y				Y	Y
7TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Heather A. Steans (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y
8TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Ira I. Silverstein (D)			Y					Y
10TH SENATE DISTRICT								
John G. Mulroe (D)			Y					Y
11TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Martin A. Sandoval (D)			Y					Y
13TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Kwame Raoul (D)			Y					Y
14TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Emil Jones III (D)			Y	Y				Y
16TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Jacqueline “Jacqui” Collins (D)			Y					
17TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Donne E. Trotter (D)			Y					Y
19TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Michael E. Hastings (D)			Y					Y
20TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Iris Y. Martinez (D)			Y					Y
22ND SENATE DISTRICT								
Cristina Castro (D)	20/23		Y	Y			Y	Y
Tracy Smodilla (R)								
23RD SENATE DISTRICT								
Thomas E. Cullerton (D)			Y	Y				Y
Seth Lewis (R)								
25TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Corinne M. Pierog (D)	21/23		Y	Y			Y	Y
Jim Oberweis (R)								
26TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Kelly Mazeski (D)			Y	Y				
Dan McConchie (R)								
28TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Laura Murphy (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y
Mel Thillens (R)								
29TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Julie A. Morrison (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y
Benjamin Salzberg (R)								
31ST SENATE DISTRICT								
Melinda Bush (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y
Michael Amrozowicz (R)								
34TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Steve Stadelman (D)			Y					Y
38TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Christine Benson (D)			Y				Y	
Sue Rezin (R)								
40TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Toi W. Hutchinson (D)			Y	Y				Y
41ST SENATE DISTRICT								
Christine Radogno (R)								
43RD SENATE DISTRICT								
Pat McGuire (D)			Y					Y
44TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Bill Brady (R)								
46TH SENATE DISTRICT								
David Koehler (D)			Y					Y
47TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Jil Tracy (R)								
49TH SENATE DISTRICT								
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant (D)								Y
Michelle Smith (R)								
52ND SENATE DISTRICT								
Scott M. Bennett (D)			Y	Y				Y
Michael P. Madigan (R)								

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	RC	CNOW	GPAC	PP		WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	RC	CNOW	GPAC	PP		WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	RC	CNOW	GPAC	PP	
58TH SENATE DISTRICT Sheila Simon (D) Paul Schimpf (R)			Y	Y				Y		27TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Monique D. Davis (D)			Y			Y	Y		66TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Nancy A. Zettler (D) Allen Skillicorn (R)			Y	Y			Y	
1ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Daniel J. Burke (D)			Y					Y		28TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert “Bob” Rita (D)			Y				Y		67TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Litesa E. Wallace (D)			Y	Y			Y	
2ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Theresa Mah (D)			Y		Y		Y	Y		29TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Thaddeus Jones (D)			Y			Y	Y		68TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Tricia Sweeney (D) John M. Cabello (R)			Y				Y	
3RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Luis Arroyo (D)			Y					Y		30TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT William “Will” Davis (D)			Y				Y		69TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Angelique A. Bodine (D) Joe Sosnowski (R)			Y			Y	Y	
4TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Cynthia Soto (D)	19/23		Y				Y	Y		33RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (D)			Y				Y		71ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mike Smiddy (D) Tony M. McCombie (R)			Y	Y			Y	
5TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Juliana Stratton (D)	22/23		Y		Y		Y	Y		35TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Frances Ann Hurley (D) Victor Horne (R)			Y				Y		72ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael W. Halpin (D) Brandi McGuire (R)			Y	Y			Y	
6TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sonya Marie Harper (D)			Y				Y	Y		38TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Al Riley (D)	20/23		Y	Y			Y		75TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Martha J. Shugart (D) David Allen Welter (R)			Y					
7TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emanuel “Chris” Welch (D)	21/23		Y				Y	Y		39TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Will Guzzardi (D)			Y	Y	Y		Y	Y				Y					
9TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Arthur Turner (D)			Y				Y	Y		40TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jaime M. Andrade, Jr. (D)	22/23		Y			Y	Y		77TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kathleen Willis (D) Anthony Airdo (R)			Y				Y	
10TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Melissa Conyears (D) Mark Spognardi (R)			Y							42ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kathleen V. Carrier (D) Jeanne M. Ives (R)			Y	Y		Y		78TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Camille Lilly (D)			Y					Y	
11TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Ann M. Williams (D) Gary Mandell (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y		43RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anna Moeller (D)			Y	Y		Y	Y	80TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anthony DeLuca (D)			Y						
12TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sara Feigenholtz (D) Gene Witt (R)	23/23	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		44TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Fred Crespo (D) Kathy Dolan Baumer (R)			Y				Y	81ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Greg Hose (D) David S. Olsen (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	
13TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Gregory Harris (D)	22/23		Y	Y				Y		45TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Cynthia Borbas (D) Christine Jennifer Winger (R)			Y	Y		Y	Y	83RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Linda Chapa LaVia (D)			Y					Y	
14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kelly M. Cassidy (D) Arthur Noah Siegel (I)	23/23	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		46TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Deb Conroy (D) Heidi Holan (R)			Y	Y		Y	Y	84TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Stephanie A. Kifowit (D) Mike Strick (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	
15TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT John C. D’Amico (D) Jonathan Edelman (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y		48TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Steve Swanson (D) Peter Breen (R)				Y		Y	Y	85TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emily McAsey (D)			Y					Y	
16TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lou Lang (D)	23/23		Y	Y			Y	Y		50TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Valerie L. Burd (D) Keith R. Wheeler (R)					Y			86TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lawrence “Larry” Walsh, Jr. (D)			Y						
17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Laura Fine (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y						Y		Y		92ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jehan Gordon-Booth (D)			Y					Y	
18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robyn Gabel (D) Jessica Tucker (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		55TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Martin J. Moylan (D) Dan Gott (R)			Y	Y		Y	Y	93RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT John Curtis (D) Norine K. Hammond (R)	17/23								
19TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert Martwick (D)			Y					Y		56TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michelle Mussman (D) Jillian Rose Bernas (R)			Y	Y		Y	Y	94TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Bobby Pritchett (D) Randy E. Frese (R)				Y				Y	
20TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Merry Marwig (D) Michael P. McAuliffe (R)	18/23		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		57TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elaine Nekritz (D)			Y			Y	Y	98TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Natalie A. Manley (D)			Y				Y	Y	
21ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Silvana Tabares (D)			Y					Y		58TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Scott Drury (D) Martin (Marty) Blumenthal (R)			Y	Y		Y	Y	103RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Carol Ammons (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y	
22ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Madigan (D)			Y	Y			Y			59TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Carol Sente (D) Dawn Abernathy (R)			Y	Y		Y		110TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Dennis F. Malak (D) Reginald “Reggie” Phillips (R)	8/23			Y					
23RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Zalewski (D)			Y					Y		61ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Nick Ciko (D) Sheri Jesiel (R)			Y			Y		112TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Katie Stuart (D) Dwight Kay (R)			Y	Y				Y	
24TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elizabeth “Lisa” Hernandez (D) Andy Kirchoff (R)			Y							62ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sam Yingling (D) Rod Drobinski (R)			Y	Y		Y		113TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jay Hoffman (D) Katherine L. Ruocco (R)				Y					
25TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Barbara Flynn Currie (D)			Y				Y	Y																			
26TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Christian L. Mitchell (D)			Y	Y	Y		Y	Y																			

Particular races for which there were no data have been deleted for space. For a full list of candidates, see our downloadable charts at WindyCityTimes.com.

Windy City Times does not endorse candidates. Rather, we list their answers to our questionnaire as well as the ratings of legal organizations so that readers can make informed choices when they vote.

LAGBAC – Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago
PRB – Puerto Rican Bar Association of Illinois
WBAI – Women’s Bar Association of Illinois
CNOW – Chicago NOW PAC

Key to Ratings:

Q – Qualified
NQ – Not Qualified
WQ – Well Qualified
HQ – Highly Qualified
HR – Highly Recommended
R – Recommended
NR – Not Recommended
NE – Not Evaluated
(D) – Democrat
(R) – Republican

	WCT	PPAC	IVI	AAB	BWL	CCL	CCB	HL	ISB	LAG	PRB	WB	CNOW
App. Ct-1st Dist. (Epstein vacancy)													
Eileen O'Neill Burke (D)				R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	HR	R	R	
App. Ct-1st Dist. (Quinn vacancy)													
Bertina E. Lampkin (D)				R	R	WQ	R	HQ	HQ	HR	HR	R	
App. Ct-5th Dist. (Stewart vacancy)													
Brad K. Bleyer (D)													
John B. Barberis, Jr. (R)													
App. Ct-5th Dist. (Wexstten vacancy)													
Jo Beth Weber (D)													
James R. "Randy" Moore (R)													
Cook Circuit Court (Biebel, Jr. vacancy)													
John Fitzgerald Lyke, Jr. (D)				R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court (Elrod vacancy)													
Rossana Patricia Fernandez (D)	10/28	Y		R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court (Hogan vacancy)													
Alison C. Conlon (D)	26/28	Y	Y	R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	HR	R	R	Y
Cook Circuit Court (Howlett, Jr. vacancy)													
Aleksandra "Alex" Gillespie (D)	26/28	Y		R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Y
Cook Circuit Court (Johnson vacancy)													
Carolyn J. Gallagher (D)	25/28			R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Y
Cook Circuit Court (Karnezis vacancy)													
Mary Kathleen McHugh (D)				R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court (Love vacancy)													
Brendan A. O'Brien (D)				R	R	WQ	R	Q	Q	NR	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court (O'Brien vacancy)													
Maureen O'Donoghue Hannon (D)				R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court (Palmer vacancy)													
Susana L. Ortiz (D)				R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court (Ruscitti Grussel vacancy)													
Daniel J. Duffy (D)	28/28			R	R	NQ	NE	NQ	Q	R	R	NR	
Cook Circuit Court (Walsh vacancy)													
Patrick Joseph Powers (D)	27/28			R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-1st Sub (Brim vacancy)													
Jesse Outlaw (D)				R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-1st Sub (Hopkins vacancy)													
Rhonda Crawford (D)				NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub (Savage vacancy)													
D. Renee Jackson (D)				NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
Cook Circuit Court-4th Sub (Kunkle vacancy)													
Edward J. King (D)				R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-5th Sub (Eadie-Daniels vacancy)													
Leonard Murray (D)			Y	R	R	Q	HR	Q	HQ	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-5th Sub (Stuart vacancy)													
Freddrenna M. Lyle (D)				R	R	Q	HR	Q	Q	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-5th Sub (Williams vacancy)													
Daryl Jones (D)				R	R	Q	R	Q	NQ	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-6th Sub (Ponce De Leon vacancy)													
Eulalia "Evie" DeLaRosa (D)			Y	R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-6th Sub (Santiago vacancy)													
Richard C. Cooke (D)				R	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-6th Sub (A' vacancy)													
Anna Loftus (D)		Y	Y	R	R	Q	R	Q	Q				

Cook Circuit
Sophia H. Hall
Irwin J. Solganick
Alexander Patrick White
Vincent Michael Gaughan
Robert W. Bertucci
Deborah Mary Dooling
Timothy C. Evans
Cheryl D. Ingram
Raymond L. Jagielski
Bertina E. Lampkin
William Maki
Sharon Marie Sullivan
James Patrick McCarthy
Arnette R. Hubbard
Nicholas R. Ford
Charles Patrick Burns
Denise Kathleen Filan
John Patrick Kirby
Diane Joan Larsen
Daniel Joseph Lynch
Kathleen Mary Pantle
Kevin Michael Sheehan
John D. Turner, Jr.
LeRoy K. Martin, Jr.
Paula Marie Daleo
Laurence J. Dunford
Robert Balanoff
Jeanne R. Cleveland Bernstein
Kathleen Marie Burke
Kay Marie Hanlon
Thomas J. Kelley
Claire Elizabeth McWilliams
Mary Lane Mikva
Patrick T. Murphy
Timothy Patrick Murphy
Jim Ryan
Edward "Ed" Washington, II
Thaddeus L. Wilson
John C. Griffin
Daniel James Pierce
Allen F. Murphy
William H. Hooks
Thomas V. Lyons
Raymond W. Mitchell
Edward Harmening
Daniel Malone
Geary W. Kull
John P. Callahan, Jr.
Steven James Bernstein
Bonita Coleman
Ann Finley Collins
Daniel J. Gallagher
Sharon O. Johnson
Linzey D. Jones
Terry MacCarthy
Sandra G. Ramos
Susan Kennedy Sullivan

National Gay Media Association member papers endorse Clinton for president

In an unprecedented move, all 12 of the country's longest-serving and most award-winning LGBT newspapers are each separately endorsing Democratic Hillary Clinton for president of the United States.

The 12 are members of the National Gay Media Association, a trade association of the nation's major-market legacy LGBT newspapers. NGMA members have a combined circulation in print and online of more than one million readers per week.

The members of NGMA who are each endorsing

Clinton in their own pages are: Bay Area Reporter (San Francisco), Washington Blade, Philadelphia Gay News, Dallas Voice, Windy City Times (Chicago), Between the Lines (Detroit), Bay Windows (Boston), Georgia Voice, SFGN (Ft. Lauderdale), Watermark (Orlando and Tampa Bay), Gay City News (New York), and The Pride LA.

This is an unprecedented joint announcement from the newspapers, because several do not engage in political endorsements: 31-year-old Windy City Times has endorsed just once in

16 years, and the Dallas Voice has never endorsed for any race in 32 years.

"This race for president is showing this country a clear choice of moving backward or moving forward on LGBTQ and other human rights," said NGMA spokesperson Tracy Baim, publisher of Windy City Times. "We know that the LGBTQ community is made up of diverse political voices. But the homophobia, transphobia, racism, anti-immigrant and sexist nature of Republican candidate Donald Trump means that we can't sit on the sidelines this election season."

"Hillary Clinton has spent her career fighting for social justice," Baim said. "While she came late to some LGBTQ issues, so did most mainstream politicians. In this presidential race, there is a clear choice to keep this country

moving forward in the footsteps of President Barack Obama, the most pro-LGBTQ president in U.S. history. That choice is Hillary Clinton."

In an op-ed for NGMA member paper the Philadelphia Gay News, Hillary Clinton talked about how, as president, she would advance the historic pro-LGBTQ equality agenda she and her runningmate Tim Kaine have embraced. She is the first major-party candidate for president to write an op-ed for an LGBTQ publication. "If I'm fortunate enough to be elected president, I'll protect the progress we've fought so hard to achieve—and I'll keep fighting until every American can live free from discrimination and prejudice," she wrote.

See www.nationalgaymediaassociation.com/.

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said. "One of them told the whole school. I was out to the local high school before I even went there because people in junior high told them I was gay. So I was labelled that way even though I started to discover an attraction for men."

Miriam added that their first kiss with a man was as electric as it was confusing.

"I felt like it compromised my identity and my politics," they said. "I spent a whole bunch of years wondering 'am I gay or am I bi?' I wasn't trying to find a label, I was trying to find out how I was going to be happy with a future partner. When I got to college, I heard the term 'queer' and I liked that a lot better. My sexuality is fluid, I'm not always 50 percent attracted to men or women. I go with queer because it's not heteronormative."

Miriam has suffered from severe depression for as long as they can remember.

"I think my identity maybe magnified it because I grew up in a small town," they said. "But it was mostly chemical. I didn't tell anybody about my identity. It's hard to come out because there is a bisexual invisibility. When I'm with Alan, people assume that I'm straight. When I go to the Pride Parade, people assume all kinds of things."

Like Schulte, Miriam found that misconceptions about bisexual people made dating a challenge.

"When I was dating Sarah, she was afraid I was going to cheat on her with a man," they said. "On the flip side of that, you have men who want to date you because they think they are going to get a ménage à trois and that you will do anything because you are bisexual. That labels you in a lot of bad ways. It's very isolating because lesbians don't want to date you and a lot of the bi-chicks who do already have men as their primary partners. When I was single, that mattered a lot because there weren't many women to date. Now that I am with Alan, it's complicated to explain on dates that I am married but free to have a relationship even though I'm not going to leave my husband."

When, during the course of the couple's relationship, Alan went on a date with a man named Frank, Miriam admitted to a little jealousy.

"I always say that loving other people doesn't diminish the love I have for Miriam," Alan said. "It's not like it's a bucket of water that's measurable. Though I don't like to see Miriam hurt."

"But jealousy is a petty emotion that I need to get over and I recognize that," Miriam said. "That's how a poly relationship works. It evolves."

Trans and bisexual

The MAP report noted "some evidence that more transgender people identify as bisexual than non-transgender people."

Christina Kahrl, major league baseball writer for ESPN, is a renowned figure in trans activism both in Chicago and nationwide. Her sexual orientation is bisexual. She has been happily married to a lesbian woman for two-and-a-half years.

"I think that the message that a trans person is worthy of love, can be loved and can love is, I hate to say, a relatively recent development as a publically consumed message," Kahrl noted. "For so long, trans people were fetishized or seen as sexual objects. The idea that we are real people with real emotional lives and a rich need for the same experiences as every-

body else has been difficult enough. I think it is doubled because bisexuality adds another layer."

"There's almost like a double-closeting effect," she added. "It's difficult to be out as bisexual when you have so much judgment about bisexual people, not just from the heterosexual community, but from the gay and lesbian com-

munity. If a woman is bisexual, lesbians look at her like she is less legitimate. If a man says that he is bisexual, cis heteronormativity and gay men say that, 'You're really just gay and you're just trying to waffle.' You can't win for losing on both counts because everybody looks

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BISEXUAL Queer Alliance Chicago brings awareness, community

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago (BQAC) is backing the "B" in LGBT as they provide a community for people who identify as bisexual and queer.

In October 2010, Brother Michael Oboza and Ed Negron founded BQAC. The group's mission, according to its website is to "educate, empower, and provide resources for bisexual and queer persons."

"We aim to do this by directly educating the bisexual and queer communities along with the general public, creating awareness of bisexual and queer issues, amassing and disseminating resources and information, and through charitable acts to the bisexual and queer community," the website reads.

BQAC President Noel Spain remembered coming as bisexual and wanting to explore Chicago's LGBTQ community, years ago. However, when he looked around, he felt like his bisexual identity was not fully represented. As a result, he started looking for resources, groups to join and other bisexual people. This led to him going on Meetup.com and creating a Chicago bisexual queer community in 2008.

Spain said Oboza and Negron joined that group and went on to take the group's purpose further, forming BQAC. The Meetup group currently serves as an arm of BQAC; a tool that allows for people to get involved and form a community.

"It's really important that we can be found and you can find community because there's so many people out there that simply can't find bi community and then they end up sort of questioning their own identity, especially

when it's often not taken seriously as an identity," said Spain. "That's one of the things that we are trying to combat and overcome and legitimize bisexuality as an equal sexual identity right next to gay and straight and lesbian and get a seat at the table."



Br. Michael Oboza and Noel Spain. Photo by Friends of BQAC

In 2014, BQAC became a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. People can use the Meetup group as a platform to find out about local activities. BQAC also regularly holds events, such as bi discussion groups and bi movie nights, at Center on Halsted. On its website, BQAC also offers various bi resources.

"We're really building community and providing resources, even if those resources are

other people who identify as bi, or queer or bi plus, somewhere in the spectrum, some non-binary sexuality," said Spain. "Being able to go to the Center and go to a discussion group and meet other people that identify as yourself can be a really powerful experience and something we want to make sure is offered up in Chicago."

Spain said another piece of BQAC's mission is to grow more leaders to continue furthering the overall mission. His personal mission to symbolically empower people, he added, can be seen in Chicago's Pride Parade when he is in character as Captain Bisexual. Donning the costume, which has a bi-flag as the cape, he marches with a flag that reads "bisexual justice." The term, he explained, means fairness and the role is meant to be a beacon for people to come out, feel safe, feel validated and build community.

"People don't feel safe coming out as bi, especially, maybe in these very large communities it could be even more difficult since there's such a large and well-established gay community and lesbian community and even trans community that people feel, essentially, crowded out or de-legitimized and sometimes that's reinforced by what you hear," Spain said. "Even just the language, the script that people use. All the time people are talking about pop-culture and people in Hollywood and they go 'is he gay or is he gay?' It's never said, 'maybe they're bi.' It's just not part of the script and that's the script that we're trying to change."

Spain emphasizes that people have difficulty saying the word "bisexual." He explained, the "B" in LGBT is skipped over and there is a sense that it is not accepted. The bisexual community, he added, underperforms every other sexual orientation, specifically in the matter of various health outcomes, and not finding community plays a part.

"It's really important to be able to create community for people and educate people," said Spain. "Survey after survey finds that the bisexual cohort is actually the largest cohort within the LGBT umbrella, as far as the number of people who identify as bi, but it seems paradoxical because you can't find one."

"There's a lot more growth to be had and ideas around sexuality that we need to push forward and bisexuality is key among them, and creating space for bisexual identity as an equal identity right along-side gay [and] straight."

For more information on BQAC, visit: <http://bqachicago.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/BQACChicago>.

To visit the Meetup group, visit: <https://www.meetup.com/chicago-bisexual-queer-meetup/>.

MIDWEST LGBTQ HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

Trans military officer recounts life

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Day two of the Midwest LGBTQ Health Symposium, held at Advocate Illinois Medical Center in Lake View Oct. 7, began in dramatic fashion when keynote speaker and trans advocate U.S. Army Ret. SSG Shane Ortega took the stage of the Olsen Auditorium and brought a packed and initially restless audience to stunned silence as he recounted his life and Transgender Health: Through the Military Lens.

Ortega completed three tours of duty—the first two in the gender of his birth, the third as his authentic self. He served in more than 400 combat missions and, today, continues to fight for the more than 700,000 transgender veterans who, owing to then Department of Defense policy on transgender service, were forced to choose between living as themselves or serving their country.

Ortega recounted his childhood days—ones of neglect and starvation received at the hands of his mother's intimate partners.

"I was locked in a closet for days on end by one of my mother's lovers," he said. "This person was also a drug dealer and an addict and would often have me transport drugs."

During one of the transactions, a buyer beat Ortega into unconsciousness. "I woke up in a closet," he said. "I have no idea how long I was actually there."

"At age 13, I tried hanging myself," he recalled. "The sheet that I used ripped. My life pretty much didn't change. As a teenager, I rotated in and out of the juvenile detention center over a six-month period."

"The story of my upbringing might seem enormous but it is in no way unusual and, to be quite honest, I am very grateful that it is not the amount of suffering I have [seen] in other friends who are transgender, especially trans people of color," Ortega added. "Survivability or recovery is extremely limited for people in my community."

A legally emancipated teenager, Ortega was taking care of himself. He finished high school and enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 17.

He volunteered for two tours in Iraq. The first was in Fallujah in 2005.

"My squad consisted of 13 people," he said. "Only six of us came back."

His second tour, again with a small squad, was in Basra to support marines trying to take the city back.

"In both these tours, I served as a female embedded with infantry units," he said. "In country, we didn't have separation of facilities, so everything I did was in the company of men. Because of these experiences, I later got to create space for women in the United States military."

Ortega was eventually recruited as a machine-gun instructor at the U.S. Marines School of Infantry, where he trained more than 1,200 Marines in primary marksmanship and machine gun tactics.

He became an explosive ordinances disposal technician for the U.S. Army and then a flight engineer for Special Ops working on Chinook helicopters—a role he achieved on the merits of his physical fitness and exceptional aptitude.

By 2008, Ortega was already working with the advocacy group OutServe—SLDN providing online support to LGBT military members then still working under the shadow of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT).

"I realized very quickly that there were non-represented transgender service members," he said. "So I created a chatroom called OutServe Trans. By the end of 2009, I was getting substantial membership requests. By 2010, I had almost 500 people in that chatroom."



Shane Ortega.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

When he volunteered for a deployment in Afghanistan, Ortega had been on hormones for two years which he received, like a lot of service members, from the internet.

"It was highly apparent that I was taking testosterone," he said. "There were physical changes."

In 2013, Ortega participated in the 21-day selection course for Green Berets. "I was pulled aside and asked directly by a psychologist if I was transgender or a homosexual," he said. "The course has a 65-percent wash-out rate. Only 35 were selected. I was not one of them. Even though I was operating at an elite level, there were still biases that prevented transgender service members from ascending in their careers."

The same year, Ortega created the military LGBT support group SPARTA.

He noted that, at first, army physicians were supportive of his transition. But one day in August 2015, which he remembers as "the most terrible that I have ever experienced in my military career," he returned from a flight physical and was told that he was probably not only out of a job but facing jail time.

"I was informed that I had been flagged because of the testosterone in my system," he said.

A panel of three army officers in Alabama, with whom he never had communications, were to decide Ortega's fate. He was facing multiple administrative actions including dishonorable discharge.

He approached the ACLU and began to read up on military justice. "We wrote a petition in two weeks," Ortega said. "I began personally lobbying 22 different congressmen and senators. I wrote to President Obama"

He and ACLU attorney Joshua Block began writing to each of the service branches. One-by-one they responded with a statement that they were going to address the issue of open transgender service.

Meanwhile, the veteran of three tours of duty and Special Ops who was performing on a tier that would have made him eligible to serve in the elite Delta Force unit was relegated to a desk job and ordered to wear female uniforms in public spaces.

"Ultimately, I decided I didn't want to continue my military service," Ortega said. "Trans people suffer a lot and the only reason that we are such shining representations is that we are fundamentally built on the foundation of suffering."

Suffering was also addressed by Pride Action Tank (PAT) Executive Director Kim Hunt, in particular how it is felt by LGBTQ victims of violence.

Her workshop, "Chicago + Orlando: Thoughtfully Responding to Intersections, Violence & LGBTQ Communities" took an interactive look at the different kinds of violence faced by the LGBTQ community and the journey PAT and other Chicago LGBTQ organizations have taken since the June 12 massacre at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

"There's been violence against the LGBTQ community forever, but [Orlando] has been an inflection point in the LGBTQ movement," Hunt said.

That inflection was captured in a letter penned July 8 by Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Executive Director Owen Daniel-McCarter which Hunt shared with workshop attendees.

"How can we actively work to address systemic violence in and around our school communities?" Daniel McCarter wrote. "With a trauma-informed lens, how can we respond to violence without co-opting movements, without increasing police presence and without responding with more punitive measures?"

Other workshops included a statistical look at the near future of HIV Prevention and Treatment hosted by Northwestern University professors Richard D'Aquila, MD who focused upon the results achieved from Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and future applications of the preventative treatment.

Director of the Institute for LGBTQ Health Equality Julia Applegate, MA, took an in-depth with "Providing Culturally Competent Care to the Lesbian Community."

MIDWEST LGBTQ HEALTH SYMPOSIUM Symposium tracks progress in LGBT healthcare

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Speaking at the second annual MLHS Midwest LGBTQ Health Symposium Oct. 6, transgender activist Joanne Keatley opened by recounting her memories of living as a trans person in the 1970s.

It was a difficult time, she remembered, and required difficult choices.

While I'm not proud of a lot of the things that I did over those 10 years, I'm very proud of the fact that I survived those 10 years," Keatley said.

She now lives in California, but spent many years in Chicago. She acknowledged the city did provide some dark memories as well as good ones; years ago, she was attacked with a crowbar. "The smile that I was born with was taken from me on the streets of Chicago," she recalled.

But those difficult years compelled Keatley towards a life of activism. She went on to found the Center of Excellence for Transgender Health in 2007 at the University of California at San Francisco. It's dedicated to helping transgender and non-binary individuals access culturally competent health services. The Center established protocols in 2011 for trans primary health care; those were revived just this year.

Numerous factors can complicate a visit to the doctor by a transgender individual. Doctors sometimes conflate trans persons with gay men. Trans patients are sometimes denied service or faced with embarrassing questions. Electronic medical records often don't have the means by which to indicate a person's gender identity.

Furthermore, few researchers have been able to get a solid answer about how many trans people there are in the United States. Keatley

said she frequently cites a study from Massachusetts estimating the number at about 0.5 percent.

"That's not an insignificant number of people," she said. "The answer is that we need to do more meeting the needs of these people."

Keatley also discussed #TransEmpowered, an online campaign she worked on aimed at giving trans women a voice to share their own narratives about HIV.

Other sessions at the symposium, which was hosted by Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center and Howard Brown Health, addressed myriad issues in LGBT health.

Michael McFadden, a social worker at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center in New York City, discussed addressing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with adolescent and adolescent clients.

"It's an exciting time to work with folks, but, at least for me, it can be terrifying," McFadden said.

Individuals in their teens and twenties frequently have specific needs that are often not acknowledged by the medical community. Most are trying to find a fine line to navigate between dependence on their family and a burgeoning independent identity. They are often highly peer-dependent and egocentric as well.

Among the barriers in discussing the PrEP intervention with clients in that age cohort are their own level of knowledge about PrEP; perceived costs; complexity of navigating the healthcare system, and competing circumstances from the patient's other life factors.

"This is tricky stuff to talk about," McFadden said. "We're not necessarily trained to speak about sex with people of that age."

Lisa Kuhns, research assistant professor and associate director of the Center for Gender, Sexuality and HIV Prevention at Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital addressed initiatives that would encourage HIV-positive youth to adhere to their medication regimen.

"Forty percent of HIV-positive youth worldwide have suboptimal adherence, with North America being the worst," Kuhns said.

Among the factors impeding adherence are substance use, depression and anxiety and HIV-related stigma. Kuhns addressed efforts to overcome those with impacted clients through motivational interviews, adherence counseling and regular reminders with text messages.

Michael Newcomb, assistant professor of medical social sciences at Northwestern University further addressed the impact of interpersonal relationships on young LGBT's lives, describing how family support is the best predictor of good health.

"Other types of support do not compensate for that," Newcomb said. But he added that that support is often difficult to come by since parents usually do not share the LGBT minority status. Newcomb also addressed the impact of romantic relationships on young LGBT's lives.

Dr. Maya Green, site medical director of Howard Brown Health's 63rd Street clinic, addressed disparities in lesbian health. She pointed out that lesbians have a higher frequency of obesity, stroke and loss of function than their straight counterparts. As such its important for providers to not be afraid to ask about a woman about her sexual orientation and her sexual practices.

"It's important to approach our screenings based on the person in front of us," said Green.

She said, in a survey, about a third of lesbians feared that such disclosure will negatively impact their medical experience, while 30 percent of lesbians had experienced such negativity.

"We need to be upset about this and we need to make empower women to make changes in their lives," added Michelle Evers, a nurse practitioner at Howard Brown Health.

The morning keynote was introduced by Howard Brown Health Aging Services Education Director Cecilia Hardacker, Howard Brown Health President and CEO David Munar and Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center President Susan Nordstrom Lopez. Keatley was presented with the first annual Excellence in Health Award.

BISEXUAL from page 15

at you and says ‘you’re not with us, you must not be one of us,’ or ‘you really should be one of us and you’re just lying to yourself’ both of which are condescending, ignorant and frustrating to have to deal with.”

Kahrl asserted that such misinformed ideology also has an effect on the partners of bisexual people.

“There are some lesbians who look at my wife as something other than a lesbian because she is married to a bisexual trans woman,” she said. “No. She’s still a lesbian. Being bisexual doesn’t mean that we don’t believe in committed relationships and can’t live happily ever after the same as everybody else. It just means there are people within the cisgender,

transgender, gay and lesbian communities who are finding ways to invalidate those kind of relationships because they don’t fit within their norms and their easy, pre-printed box of what relationships are supposed to look like.”

Kahrl recalled pushback from within the transgender community.

“Some folks try to label any trans woman in a relationship with a cisgender woman as being cisgender and heteronormative—men having sex with women,” she said. “It’s despicable and stupid but there are those people who feel that, if you are a transgender woman and you are not with men, then somehow you are less trans. Some trans people want to legitimize themselves and delegitimize other trans people because they are different in some way.”

“Obviously now I have a broader conception and acceptance of difference and gender spec-

Olson noted that the motivations for reducing prison population include the costs associated with those facilities, especially staff and correctional officer salaries. He said that there is broad political support for reducing the prison population since views of drug laws shifting toward less punitive measures among certain groups as well as the disparate impact of incarceration on minorities and the relatively high recidivism rates due to a lack of rehabilitation programs. Olson explained that despite what one hears on the news, the crime rate is the lowest it’s been in 40 years.

In terms of prison population numbers, Olson said the “war on drugs”, record violent crime rates in Illinois from 1988 to 1992 and the 1998 truth-in-sentencing laws concerning specific violent crimes caused the prison population to rise.

Olson explained that while the adult prison population has risen since the mid-’80s the juvenile prison population has gone down due to people wanting to help kids in trouble. He noted that aside from more white people being convicted of DUI’s for all other crimes the majority of convictions are among the Black and Hispanic populations.

“The question is what can be done to reduce the prison population,” said Olson.

There are six themes that Olson touched on that would reduce the prison population including focusing prison resources on violent/high risk individuals, undoing the “war on drugs,” closing the prison door for certain offenders, increasing community capacity through justice reinvestment/incentive models, improve parole policy and practice, improving prison based programming across the board and shortening the length of stay for most prisoners.

Olson explained that two-thirds of those in Illinois prisons for murder convictions were 25 years old or younger when they committed their crimes and almost 60 percent will be in prison beyond their 60th birthday—adding that caring for those elderly inmates is double the cost of the average inmate. He noted that recidivism rates of inmates who are older than 50 are very low.

Closing prisons is a bone of contention for most elected officials because, in a number of cases, prisons employ a lot of people, said Olson.

Howard Gelb (Chicago House employment program career services manager) and Ashley Brazil’s (Chicago House employment program career specialist) session was entitled “Employment Services and Returning Citizens.”

Emcee Sanford Gaylord (regional resource consultant, HIV/AIDS Regional Resource Network Program, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region V) said, “If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu” when it comes to the issues discussed at this conference.

Cynthia Tucker (AFC director of prevention and community partnerships) and Jennifer Epstein (Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago programs deputy director) closed out the conference with a call for attendees to spread the word about what they learned throughout the day.

trum exploration,” Schulte said. “As alienated humans we struggle with love, trust and acceptance because we’re not taught our own self-worth so why should we be interested in others? Why can’t we just love and accept a person as they present themselves or in the plural too, for folks in polyamorous situations, why can’t we just trust?”

“We’re not trying to hurt each other,” Alan said. “But feelings are feelings and it’s hard to know what generates them. Exploring them is super healthy. That’s what it has meant to me from the beginning and it still does. It’s just accepting how you feel, regardless of its source.”

“I feel like people don’t choose to discriminate. They’re not setting out and saying ‘we hate bi people’ but they’re being cautious with their emotions, they feel more emotionally threatened by bisexuals,” Miriam added. “Also, in some circles, there’s a very gay or lesbian culture and they want you to fit into it.”

Not ‘this’ or ‘that’

“I think a key element here is that bisexual people simply are,” Kahrl said. “There’s a component within communities of identity that’s about creating an identity and fulfilling it. Bi people are just reacting or responding to their own sexuality not some broadly generated understanding of what it means to be gay, lesbian or trans. We are not ‘this’ or ‘that.’ We are an ‘and.’ We don’t need to fill any good-to-go boxes. We just want to live our own lives and wind up in relationships with the people that we love same as everybody else.”

Following the 18th annual Bisexual Awareness Day Sept. 23, the White House Office of Public Engagement hosted “over 100 advocates for a community briefing on advancing equality

for members of the bisexual community.”

In a statement on the White House blog, Outreach & Recruitment Director for the Presidential Personnel Office Raffi Freedman-Gurspan noted that, “The community briefing [featured] discussions on the steps that community leaders and Administration officials have taken together to support bisexual Americans. It [also underlined] the challenges ahead in the community, specifically related to disproportionate risks of mental and physical health struggles, poverty, addiction, and violence—and the need for fully inclusive federal non-discrimination protections.”

The MAP report offered a series of recommendations including anti-bullying legislation, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education curricula and support of school Gay Straight Alliances (GSAs), passage of the Equality Act “explicitly prohibiting employment discrimination on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity,” federal expansion of research and data collection, cultural competency guidance for state and local departments of mental health and federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grantees “including organizational grantees and individual mental health professionals, working with LGBT, and specifically bisexual, youth and adults” and “federal Department of Justice and Department of Health and Human Services guidance on cultural competence to grantees and service providers who serve bisexual survivors of violence.”

“This report should serve as a clarion call to policymakers and service providers across the country,” MAP concluded. “In order to fully serve the LGBT community, we must also fully serve the bisexual community.”

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; Maria Pike, Gun Sense & Peace activist whose son Ricky Pike was gunned down in 2012; 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; anti-violence advocate Lisa Gilmore; Dawn Valenti from Chi-

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

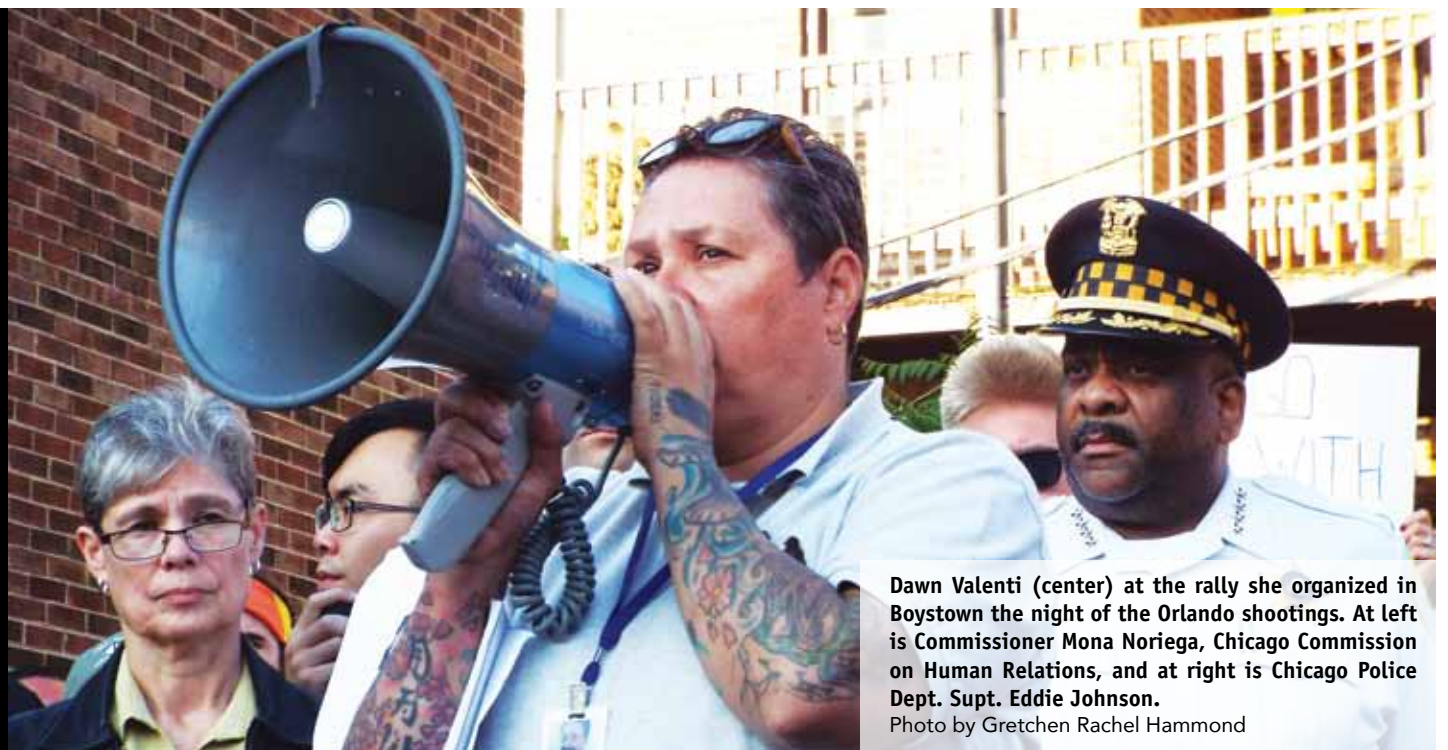
The event is 6-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20, at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave., Chicago. The program will start at 6:30 p.m.

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 Shalom’s Social Justice, Thresholds, TransTech, United Latino Pride and Windy City Times.

Additional information: JThaney@aidschicago.org or <http://prideactiontank.org/projects/gun-violence-town-hall/>.

Dawn Valenti: A Chicago survivor's story



Dawn Valenti (center) at the rally she organized in Boystown the night of the Orlando shootings. At left is Commissioner Mona Noriega, Chicago Commission on Human Relations, and at right is Chicago Police Dept. Supt. Eddie Johnson.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

When trans woman of color T.T. Saffore was found murdered on Chicago's West Side Sept. 11, her grieving family and friends seemingly had nowhere to turn. Like anyone who has lost a loved one to violence, they were in a state of shock.

Clouding their ability to express their devastating grief were questions about what to do next. According to a friend of Saffore, Chicago Police Department investigators did not reach out to the family for at least a week. Why not? Why did this happen? Who was responsible? Where did they have to go to identify and retrieve the body of their loved one in order to give her a decent burial?

There was a completely unknown system into which the family had suddenly and uncer-

emoniously been thrown and had to navigate. Where to start? Why was no one listening to them?

Into their lives came Dawn Valenti, a crisis responder with Chicago Survivors.

The nonprofit, which operates on the upper floor offices of a South Side church, was founded in 2010 by Joy McCormack in the aftermath of her son Frankie's murder.

According to its website, Chicago Survivors "staff meet families at the worst moment of their lives and—day by day—accompany them through the unfamiliar systems, unwanted experiences, and unwelcome feelings so that no one has to face them alone."

From the crime scene, to the hospital, to helping communicate with CPD and the medical examiner's office to coordinating with the funeral home and "wherever needed," the Chi-

cago Survivors crisis response team is there for the family like an unexpected but essential friend offering not only the time needed to grieve, but they also listen patiently and sympathetically as the emotions contained within that grief finds its myriad of voices.

With almost 600 homicides reported in Chicago since January, this year Chicago Survivors staff has been stretched to the extreme. Their office and cell phones are always ringing and not even a brief interview with Windy City Times can pass without an urgent call. But they take it in their stride no matter what the hour of the day or night. They each know how invaluable their work is.

Valenti has been a part of Chicago Survivors since its very beginning as a program of Chicago Citizens for Change. She also was the organizer of Chicago's first vigil in response to the murders of 49 people at an LGBT club, The Pulse, in Orlando. That vigil brought together the LGBTQ community and families in Chicago who had lost their children to gun violence.

On first appearances, Valenti is an imposing figure.

"I like tattoos, I ride a motorcycle," she said. "But I tell people all the time 'don't judge the book by its cover. If you want to get to know me, open me up and read me.'"

Inside those pages is an extraordinary life born into horrific violence and abuse, in what is now the Roscoe Village neighborhood of Chicago, but shaped in determination, spiritual and self-belief and her unwavering love for people.

Valenti has accumulated certifications which include life coaching, psychological first aid and as a domestic violence and sexual assault advocate. She also has the kind of experience for the job no one would want on their resume but which would eventually chart the course of her life both professionally and as the most openhanded of defenders.

"I come from a home where my mother was battered and I was sexually abused probably as early as five years old," she said. "My mom's boyfriend and the father of my three younger siblings was an alcoholic and all-around bad guy. He abused me. My older sister has been on drugs all her life. She used to sleep with a knife under her pillow and, to this day, she still does. He destroyed our family. Whenever he was there, it was uncomfortable and I would leave the house. There were times when I didn't want to be there at all so, at about 11 years old, I started running away. No matter where I ran, my mom always found me, but I didn't want to be at home. It didn't feel safe."

Valenti grew up in the '70s, when domestic violence was as much of a reality as it is today—but completely unaddressed.

"My mom's boyfriend would beat the crap out of her," she said. "She'd call the police and he would come back a few weeks later. For me it was normal. What happened to me dampened

the relationship with the woman who gave birth to me. I call her that because I don't have a mother. She always treated me differently. When I was 21, I told my mom what happened to me, she just dropped me off and wanted to be alone. She was always there for me when I was in trouble but, when I was an adult and changed my life, she was not there for me. The last time I talked with her was Mother's Day three years ago and that conversation didn't go very well. She told me I wasn't her daughter anymore and she never wanted to see me again."

"I didn't have a father," she added. "And I didn't have somebody who was supposed to be in my corner. I learned last year from my aunt that my mom used to blame me. She used to say, 'How do I know she didn't want it?' Here I am today 51 years old and I don't have either parent. So I'm out here on my own and it's very hurtful but I can't let that destroy me. I feel like God has a plan for me."

It was the only time in the interview that Valenti's plain-speaking demeanor began to waver into tears, but then she instinctually took control.

Valenti had no childhood role models. No one believed in her.

"I didn't have nobody to tap me on the shoulder and say 'hey little girl, what's going on? Why are you doing these things?'" She recalled. "So now, I am very passionate when people tell me things are happening with their daughters, sons, nieces or nephews. I understand that. I heard somebody say on a panel one time that 'crazy wasn't born crazy. Something happened to crazy when crazy was a baby to make crazy, crazy.' Something happens in the home that drives people to the streets. When you understand that, you have a choice to change your life."

Valenti credits being a lesbian as key to changing hers.

"I was a gang member," she said. "I was 17 and hanging out on a corner at Lawrence and Clark and there was a building across the street with two people I am still friends with today. I knew they were gay. One of them came up to me and was like 'hey, you like girls don't you?' I was like 'no!' But we became friends and I started meeting different people. Once I realized it was OK to be a lesbian and that there were women [like] me, I liked that better than gangbanging so, little-by-little, I left that life."

Valenti's first partner was a woman 10 years her senior who had four kids.

"I got a job at Osco Drug and worked my way up from a clerk to store supervisor and then liquor manager," she said. "I was there for 13 years. But I didn't feel like it was where I wanted be."

She got into truck driving and delivery for the Chicago-based Jays Foods and went on to become an independent contractor for the

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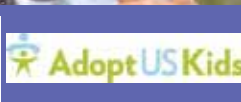
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"I had my own truck, I had a route, I was making the most money I ever made in my life and I didn't have to answer to anybody," she recalled. "Then they came along and said, 'Now you've gotta buy your own route.' Mine was \$66,000."

Valenti left the company. She and other employees filed a class-action lawsuit against it.

"I lived off the lawsuit," she said. "But I had this 16-foot box truck that I was trying to sell. The alternator went out. So I had it parked next to the Jewel on Ashland and Clark. One day, I get there and the truck is gone. Somebody who had the same kind of truck was moving equipment and he wiped my whole truck out. But it worked out for me because the insurance paid way more than what I was asking for it so I was able to do the kind of work I'm doing today full-time. I believe it was God's way of kicking me in the backside and pushing me out there."

She began domestic violence training at Chicago Battered Metropolitan Women's Network. There, Valenti met representatives from Rape Victims Advocates (RVA) and started working on their courses.

"When I took the domestic violence training, I didn't feel like I needed it," she said. "But one thing that never crossed my mind was women with disabilities in abusive relationships. My teacher was a woman in a wheelchair who had polio. She had been in an abusive relationship for two years and she said 'my husband used to hit me wherever he felt like, mostly in my face. He would pick me up out of my chair, put me in the bathroom on the floor and lock me in there for hours at a time.' So some of this stuff I thought I knew, I didn't know at all."

In 2009, Valenti met McCormack and her partner, Siu Moy, at a fundraiser for their son. At the time, Valenti had her own nonprofit United For A Cause which worked with women and children suffering from domestic violence.

"They said they were alone and I was like, 'No you're not,'" Valenti said. "So we became friends. When Joy lost her son, she looked for help and couldn't find anybody. She looked in the yellow pages. There was nobody to help her with her grief and what she was feeling.

The one person she did find said 'what do you need?' She didn't know what she needed."

When the trial of her son's killers concluded, McCormack decided to create an organization dedicated to ensuring that nobody would have to walk the same journey alone. Each of the founders had jobs for at least a year before Chicago Survivors had enough funding for some paid positions. McCormack is not on staff, but she is chair of the board. It became a calling because the need was so great.

"How do you deal with the hospital when security is telling you to leave and they won't let you see your loved one?" Valenti said. "Or you get to the medical examiner's office and it's open between this time and this time and only two of you can go in for identification. It's stuff that nobody knows because you don't expect to bury your child. There's a lot of protocols and procedures in this city that people

ed. "It is something I experienced on my own. I have a connection to the streets. So when I am visiting with family who has lost a child to violence, I feel like they would rather talk to me than talk to somebody in a suit with a briefcase."

The day before she met with Windy City Times, Valenti was with the mother of Deme-trius Griffin, Jr. His body was found in a pile of trash in a burning garage in the West Side neighborhood of Austin Sept. 17. He was just 15.

"His mother was waiting on the medical examiner's office to call her because they had to wait on the dental records. She kept telling me 'I know it's my son. But we can talk about it because I feel you in my heart.'" Valenti recalled. "I think that's because I'm real and I'm passionate about what I do."

Yet no matter how horrific the story or how

ever look down on my daughter."

"She was 18," Valenti added. "She had just finished [training] as a pharmacy tech. She was standing on the corner with some friends. Somebody firing at the guys on the corner shot and killed her. But that casket was upright. When I left, I got two blocks away and just broke down because I'm mad at a society that would do something like this to [a woman's] daughter and then she has to bury her but not want anybody to look down on her."

The murder rate in Chicago is such that, looking at a weekend shooting report in its local media has become akin to reading the posted names of casualties of war—just a name and maybe a short sentence about their age and where they lived.

"Years ago, when you heard about the shootings, the media used to list them as 'The first or the second Chicago public student' but I was like 'these kids have names,'" Valenti said. "You hear things like 'gang-related' but we've been working with the CPD to make them understand that, when they label things as 'gang-related,' it affects life insurance and crime victims' compensation. Even today I was meeting with a family who were upset because a media outlet had said that their son was a convicted felon and a gang member. They said he wasn't."

As for the mainstream media and the society it serves, Valenti wants to know where the outrage is over the senseless and endless killing.

"Does society have to hear about a family who was waiting two days for dental records because their 15-year-old-son was burnt to death?" she said. "When do we stop pointing fingers? I've heard that [victims] were calling for help and nobody came. Why? If I hear you calling for help, I'm going to stop. I'm going to help you."

That is Valenti's life now and it is one that she finally calls home.

For more information about Chicago Survivors, visit <http://www.chicagosurvivors.org>.

Valenti will be among the presenters at the Oct. 20 anti-gun violence event put together by anti-gun organizations, Latinx groups and the LGBTQ community. Details elsewhere this issue.

"I have a connection to the streets. So when I am visiting with family who has lost a child to violence, I feel like they would rather talk to me than talk to somebody in a suit with a briefcase."

— Dawn Valenti

don't know. If their loved one is pronounced dead on the street, [the body] is taken to the medical examiner's office but you have to wait for the autopsy to be done."

At first, Chicago Survivors found their families through word-of-mouth.

"We would get calls from people who knew people or even the media sometimes," Valenti said. "Joy worked very hard on this. She wanted to see it happen. There were no groups like ours that are structured and doing the things we do."

The organization currently has 12 staff members including four crisis responders.

"I don't have a degree in pain," Valenti add-

harrowing the grief, she does not cry in front of family members.

"I don't, I don't, I don't," she repeated emphatically. "Because I have to be their strength. I can't break down. But there's times when I leave the family and I'm in my car down the street and I break down or I go home and I just shut it down. To hear a woman say 'I thought giving birth was the worst thing I had to do' after she walks out of the medical examiner's office identifying her son is hard for me. I walked into a funeral home one time and saw a casket standing upright. Never seen that before. Didn't understand why until the parents came in and I heard the mom say 'nobody will

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viewpoints



**Tracy
BAIM**

For president: Hillary Clinton

The editorial board of Windy City Times is endorsing Hillary Rodham Clinton for president of the United States.

For the past 16 years of the 31 years we have been publishing, Windy City Times has only endorsed once for any political office, and that was Barack Obama for president in 2012.

Just as in 2012, this country is divided and at a pivot point in history. There are some who want it to go back to an imagined “good old days” of racial segregation and failed trickle-down economics. They want to rewrite the last eight years of Obama as a failure, when most of the objective analysis shows that Obama and his team pulled us from the brink of depression and into a slow climb back. They want to blame Obama for the racism and division that they themselves have encouraged.

The right-wing elements of the GOP have created their own mess, and their Frankenstein experiment has spawned Donald Trump. They have no one to blame but themselves.

But this endorsement of Clinton is not just about her opponent, perhaps the worst candi-

date for president of the United States, ever. Those who have paid attention and who are not blinded by xenophobia, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and the like know that Trump is a narcissist with no empathy and no real plan to improve this country. He is the true emperor with no clothes, just hate seeping out of his every pore.

He is unfit to be dog catcher, much less president—and that is not to demean dog catchers.

This endorsement is also not ignoring the main third-party candidates, Gary Johnson and Jill Stein. We understand there is great passion for these two, even if most of that passion is built from the hatred of the Dem and GOP nominees. But Johnson and Stein can't run this country, even if they had a running start. They have no real qualifications, experience or judgment to lead our domestic and international agenda. They, too, are unqualified.

No, this endorsement is about the Democratic candidate herself. She does not receive this rare endorsement as a default selection for president. She is among the most qualified candidates for U.S. president in history. She comes in ready to lead. In the eight years since she first ran, she has gained even more knowledge of international politics as secretary of state, building on her years in the Senate, as first lady, and her decades as an advocate for women and children.

Don't take just our word for it, of course. Dozens of major newspapers across the country, ones that rarely if ever back a Democrat, are endorsing Clinton this year. This is an unprecedented race in an era of vast change. Change impacting the economy, the environment, the

political landscape, and social justice movements at home and abroad.

Just because Clinton is qualified to do this job does not mean she has not made mistakes. There is no one that makes it to that level of public service and achievement, living in the spotlight for five decades, without some baggage. Elizabeth Warren shines so brightly because she has only recently entered the electoral arena. If she served longer, she would likely have made some compromises. Even Bernie Sanders made compromises on guns because of his electoral base, and his own political career had many years of non-participation. Clinton never stopped. She has had far more time in the spotlight—and as a woman that has meant an even tougher road. Perhaps not everyone would make the same mistakes as Clinton, and her lapse in judgment about emails, speeches and the appearances of conflict at the Clinton Foundation are troubling, but these things do not disqualify her to be U.S. president.

For the LGBTQ community, there is not even a close second in this race for president. Clinton will continue the policies of Obama, the most pro-LGBTQ president in history by a landslide. And, she has promised to expand on those gains in areas of transgender violence, working to end HIV/AIDS, for equality and more. She will not be perfect, but she is the perfect choice.

This is the Windy City Times endorsement for president of the United States. For Chicago, our community and for our nation, Clinton is the one to do the job.



**Hillary
CLINTON**

Clinton addresses LGBT equality

Philadelphia Gay News (PGN) reached out to the Democratic and Republican candidates for president, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, to discuss LGBT issues in advance of next month's election. Clinton provided PGN this exclusive op-ed detailing her LGBT-rights record and her goals for future LGBT-equality efforts. The offer remains open for Trump.

More than half a century ago, at Independence Hall, participants at the first Annual Reminder march picketed, chanted and sang. They did this to show their fellow Philadelphians that the LGBT community lacked fundamental civil rights.

In the decades since those protests, our country has come a long way. Marriage equality is the law of the land. This year, the last state law prohibiting same-sex couples from adopting was finally struck down. And President Obama signed an executive order protecting federal workers from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. We should celebrate that progress.

But the simple truth is that even now, in 2016, there are still too many states in America where LGBT people can be fired or evicted from their home because of who they are or who they love. Pennsylvania is one of them. Here, you can get married on Sunday and fired on Monday, just for being gay or transgender.

That goes against everything we stand for as a country.

We need to act on the federal level to take on

discrimination in all its forms. That's what I'll do as President—with your help.

But first, we have to win this election. Donald Trump must not be elected president. He would rip away so much of the progress we've made. He would appoint Supreme Court justices who would overturn marriage equality and rescind many of President Obama's executive orders—including those protecting LGBT people.

It's not just Trump's policies that reveal the kind of president he would be. So does his choice of running mate. Mike Pence is one of the most anti-LGBT public officials in America. As governor of Indiana, Pence supported a bill that legalized discrimination against LGBT people. As a member of Congress, he voted against expanding the definition of hate crimes to include sexual orientation and gender identity. He opposed the repeal of “Don't Ask, Don't Tell,” saying doing so would be “social experimentation.” And he's said that homosexuality would bring about “societal collapse.”

That's why the stakes in this election are so high.

If I'm fortunate enough to be elected president, I'll protect the progress we've fought so hard to achieve—and I'll keep fighting until every American can live free from discrimination and prejudice.

That means working to pass the Equality Act. It would finally provide LGBT people full federal nondiscrimination protections in housing, employment and so much more. I know that differences of opinion on LGBT equality still exist in the hearts of some Americans, but they should not exist under our laws. As president, I'll be your partner in bringing about the vision of the inclusive nation that advocates, activists and allies have been seeking for decades.

I also believe we must address the ongoing issue of violence against the LGBT community. LGBT people are now more likely than any other group to be the target of a hate crime. America saw the effects of hate in Orlando, with the attack on the Pulse nightclub—the deadliest

mass shooting by a single person in our history. The danger is compounded for LGBT people of color, who face intersectional pressures and dangers, particularly transgender people of color. Last year, more than 20 transgender women were killed in America. Recently, three were murdered right here in Philadelphia.

We need to stop the violence and save LGBT lives. We need to collect more data around gender identity and sexual orientation in hate crimes, so we can stop them in a smarter, more effective way. And we need to finally pass common-sense reforms to address the gun violence epidemic. Along with the vast majority of Americans, I believe that we can protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners while still making sure that guns don't fall into the wrong hands.

Finally, we need to continue our fight to achieve our goal of an AIDS-free generation. HIV and AIDS still disproportionately impact gay and bisexual men, communities of color, transgender people and young people. We need to increase research, expand the use of effective prevention medications like PrEP, cap out-of-pocket drug costs and reform outdated HIV-criminalization laws.

Like many, I've lost friends and loved ones to AIDS. We owe it to them—the people we love and miss, and the people whose names we'll never know—to continue this fight.

As First Lady and Senator, I fought to significantly expand funding for AIDS research. As Secretary of State, I changed the rules so that State Department employees in same-sex relationships were treated the same as their colleagues and so that transgender Americans could obtain passports that reflected their true gender identity. So these fights aren't new to me.

And as president, I'll keep fighting for LGBT rights, because—as I told the world in one of the most important speeches I gave as Secretary—they are human rights. And I won't quit until all our laws reflect that basic reality.

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WCT reviews the production Red Velvet.

Photo by Dean La Prairie

DANCIN' FEATS

Wheeldon preparing to unveil new 'Nutcracker'

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

In a few months, Christopher Wheeldon will be sunning on the beach with husband Ross Rayburn for Christmas in Acapulco.

Meanwhile, in what's likely to be a typically frigid Chicago winter, audiences will pack into the Auditorium Theatre for the highly anticipated premiere of his latest ballet: an original Nutcracker for the Joffrey Ballet. From now to then, there is much to be done.

During a two-week stint in Chicago, squeezed between a five-minute lunch break and an afternoon rehearsal, Wheeldon sat down with Windy City Times at Joffrey Tower to discuss the new production, though he's saving some of the magic for the premiere. Much remains a mystery about the costumes, sets, technical elements, and some of the plot, although it's likely to be as magical from the nosebleeds at the Auditorium Theatre as it is from the first row.

But why Nutcracker? Nutcracker is the cash cow of ballet. It doesn't necessarily have to be new or innovative or different to be successful. People love it because ... it's Nutcracker. Wheeldon has promised to deliver all the things Nutcracker purists care about: the tree will grow, there will be mice and soldiers and snow, and plenty of indulgent variations in the second act. In part, Wheeldon owes his preservation of these elements to Tchaikovsky's score, which dictates many of the ballet's original elements. "It's a great score, it's a wonderful story. I think it's a story that has room to breathe... but it's all there," said Wheeldon, whose Tony-winning American in Paris placed him on a short list of prestigious concert dance choreographers who have successfully crossed over to Broadway. "I'm really interested in making theatrical events. Of all the classical ballets, it's the one that you can really push the spectacle," he said.

And he means to, recruiting an all-star cast of Broadway collaborators including Tony-nominated set and costume designer Julian Crouch; Obie and Drama Desk Award-winning puppeteer Basil Twist; five-time Tony-winning lighting designer Natasha Katz and Tony-winning projection designer Ben Percy. "This Nutcracker is a way of looking at the technologically inventive side of theater now," said Wheeldon. "We're making a production that couldn't have

been made 30 years ago."

Caldecott Medal Award-winning author Brian Selznick is in charge of the libretto. When the author/illustrator of children's books and pre-teen novels was first approached as a collaborator, he admitted he was an outsider. "I had heard of Christopher Wheeldon," said Selznick in a press conference in Chicago last April. "I had seen some ballets. I know the Nutcracker because I'm alive and human, but other than that I can't say I have any knowledge of this world."

This Nutcracker's connection to Selznick is the ballet's new inspiration: a change of setting from a stuffy Victorian living room to the

fairgrounds of the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Selznick collects World's Fair memorabilia, and his husband, Dr. David Serlin, is a scholar on the topic. Selznick took a self-imposed weekend crash course on Nutcracker before meeting with Wheeldon and knew immediately that the things that are beloved about the Nutcracker and the World's Fair would perfectly complement each other, giving a little sense to an otherwise illogical ballet. "The second act is dances from all around the world," said Selznick, "and the World's Fair is filled with pavilions from all around the world. And suddenly, we have a reason to go all around the world!"

"It's the setting and the fairly radical treatment of Marie ... that's the biggest innovation in this version," said Wheeldon. "In a nutshell, what we would like for this Nutcracker to celebrate, more than most, is the idea of Christmas going beyond just being about presents and candy, and to focus more on family and community." To that end, the central character Marie is from a working class family, whose matriarch is a sculptor working and living on the fair grounds. The opulent living room of most Nutcrackers' party scenes is replaced by a shanty that becomes warm and magical through

the creativity and heart of Marie's family and the Polish immigrant community in which she lives. Think Nutcracker, meets Christmas Carol, meets Devil in the White City, sans the serial murderer.

The richer context lends audiences to a deeper dialogue than can usually be had about Nutcracker, if they want it. If not, the spectacle and magic alone are enough will likely be enough to outdo most—if not all—rival productions. Perhaps most importantly, Wheeldon's Nutcracker is a Nutcracker set in Chicago, for Chicago. "I don't think I would have been interested in doing it anywhere else," he said.

Christopher Wheeldon's Nutcracker opens Saturday, Dec. 10, running for 27 performances through Friday, Dec. 30. Prior to the premiere, Joffrey fans can catch a reprise of Krzysztof Pastor's Romeo & Juliet Oct. 13-23 at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy.

Tickets for both productions are on sale at Joffrey.org, by telephone at 312-386-8905, or in person at the Auditorium Theatre box office or Joffrey's official box off in the lobby of Joffrey Tower, 10 E. Randolph St.



Christopher Wheeldon in a rehearsal for The Nutcracker.

Photo by Todd Rosenberg

THEATER REVIEW

Skooby Don't

Playwright: David Cerda

At: Hell in a Handbag Productions
at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.

Tickets: 800-838-3006 or

HandbagProductions.org;

\$28-\$30; \$42 VIP

Runs through: Nov. 4

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Zoinks! Could it be that Hell in a Handbag Productions has kowtowed to the pressures of political correctness with *Skooby Don't*?

It can often feel that way in David Cerda's world-premiere and adults-only spoof of the famed Hanna-Barbera cartoon. (I won't say which one since Handbag Productions, the Chicago connoisseur of campy drag theater, doesn't need any trademark lawsuits).

What's probably steered Cerda's script to be a tad more sensitive and sometimes overly preachy is his decision to incorporate transgender celebrities Chaz Bono (Caitlin Boho) and Caitlyn Jenner (Chazie Bly) as characters in the show. Along with Kris Jenner (Cerda) and Cher (Ed Jones), this quartet of "special guest stars" meet with that famed gang of mystery-solving teenagers and their talking dog to uncover the identity of a monster (Jamie Smith).

Now Cerda's spoofing of the cartoon characters isn't entirely fresh. Many comedians and even the live-action movies made in the 2000s have already suggested that ascot-sporting



From left:
Caitlin Jackson,
Elizabeth Lesinski,
Josh Kemper,
Will Kazda and
Christopher Wilson.
Photo by
Rick Aguilar
Studios

Fredd (Will Kazda) is gay, that the ever-hungry Scaggy (Josh Kemper) and Scooby (Christopher Wilson) are pot heads, and that the brainy Velva (Caitlin Jackson) is a lesbian. (In *Skooby Don't*, she insists that she is gender-fluid.)

The main conflict within the gang is between Velva and Daffy (Elizabeth Lesinski), who is upset that her character has aged and is no longer waif-thin. This leads to lots of bickering and speeches about body-image issues that then parlay into identity and acceptance statements with Chaz and Caitlyn.

Where Cerda does wade into riskier humor is with the notion that Scooby might actually be

a man in a dog suit with a decades-old fetish for "puppy play." Cerda also has fun playing up how the Jenners are unashamed publicity junkies while also dredging up Cher's infomercial days by featuring Rachel Hadlock as beauty spokeswoman Lori Davis.

But with so much else going on along with the basic mystery to solve, the *Skooby Don't* script becomes overstuffed and often repetitive as arguments and identity statements re-emerge repeatedly. These get in the way of punchier jokes and more visual gags that would have made the show more free-wheeling and irreverent.

As for pluses with *Skooby Don't*, director Derek Van Barham's production looks great with wonderfully funny costumes by Kate Setzer Kamphausen. There's also great character work all around, especially by Jones and his hilarious Cher vocal inflections. Wilson as Scooby and Kemper as Scaggy also sound amazingly like their cartoon counterparts.

Perhaps Cerda is treading more carefully in finding a way to be outrageous while also being earnest to a heightened awareness of gender identities within *Skooby Don't*. It's a noble effort, but the mix and balance aren't quite right.

THEATER REVIEW

Red Velvet

Playwright: Lolita Chakrabarti

At: Raven Theatre,

6157 N. Clark St.

Tickets: \$46

Runs through: Nov. 27

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The conventions of the biographical play have remained largely unchanged since their inception: a single individual with an exceptional idea stands by his/her convictions against adversity, authority and assorted naysayers. In the movies, our hero typically emerges triumphant, but in plays, not always so.

The hero of Lolita Chakrabarti's meticulously

researched biodrama is Ira Aldridge, an African-American actor whose career, from 1825 to 1867, spanned all of Europe in a repertoire dominated—but not restricted to—Shakespearean classics. Our narrative begins with Aldridge at the end of his career, on what would be his final tour, where an upstart journalist seeking an interview spurs the headliner's recollections of his sensational debut in the role of Othello the Moor at London's Covent Garden in 1833. The innovative practice of gender-accurate casting would have been enough to shock English audiences protective of their national scribe, without the outrage generated by hearing their Bard's lofty language uttered by a former slave in the accents of a former British colony, in addition to the emotion-driven physicality of the controversial "domestic" act-

ing style favored by Aldridge. Even as audiences flocked to see this curiosity, critics censured his performance in terms unspeakable today.

If Chakrabarti structures her play along generic lines—did I mention the scene where Aldridge makes his initial entrance and everybody but a lone abolitionist stares in dumbstruck astonishment?—it is only to facilitate our comprehension of a text locating its central events firmly within the context of its age, name-checking such benchmarks as the legal status of slavery, changing fashions in popular entertainment, superstars of the era like William Macready and Joseph Grimaldi—in order to ensure our awareness of the risk associated with the characters' decisions in the social environment occasioning the turmoil arising therefrom.

Even the most efficiently articulated history lesson risks miring down in academic minutiae. However, under the direction of Michael Menendian, the cast of this Raven Theatre production—in particular, Brandon Greenhouse's Aldridge, who moves from operatic grandiloquence to heartbreaking intimacy with a charismatic grace and elegance—wrap themselves seamlessly into their personae with unswerving commitment to generate an urgency. This propels the action at a vigorous pace commanding our attention from the first moments of the two-hour running time right up to the poignant denouement when the aged idol dons white-face in preparation for playing Lear, who will, later that night, speak to us from the stage of bitterness and betrayal.

THEATER REVIEW

The Room

Playwright: Harold Pinter

At: A Red Orchid Theatre,
1531 N. Wells St.

Tickets: \$30-\$35

Runs through: Nov. 13

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

One of the reasons that actors love Harold Pinter is the almost limitless opportunities for individual interpretation offered by his enigmatic texts. The atmosphere of impending disaster arising from intense emotional agitation devoid of expository signposts occurring within everyday environments is what made Pinter's reputation in 1957, when this brief—running barely over an hour—one-act exercise in shivery menace premiered in an England still recovering from wartime devastation.

Rose and Bert Hudd live in a one-room apartment—not unusual during the housing shortage that would linger for decades. On this wintry morning, homebody Rose speculates on the identity of neighboring tenants and frets over being left alone by her husband's going out for a drive. Her solitary day is interrupted by building manager Mr. Kidd checking the utilities in the run-down property, a cheerful couple (introducing themselves as



Anish
Jethmalani
in *The Room*.
Photo by
Michael
Brosilow

Mr. and Mrs. Sands) house-hunting under the impression that the Hudds' unit is vacant, and a stranger named Riley, who entreats Rose to "come home." When Bert returns to discover Riley in his home, he proceeds to savagely beat the visitor, who is—just coincidentally—blind, scarred, mixed-race, cross-dressed and probably homeless.

In 1957, Pinter's script described Riley as a

"blind negro," leading audiences to wonder if Rose and/or Bert were "passing" for white, a subtext later giving way to Riley as a harbinger of ethnic diversity in a hitherto racially segregated neighborhood. These possibilities might have been sufficiently unnerving for their time, but what scares us nowadays? Disease, maybe—incurable, uncontrollable, physically disfiguring, mentally debilitating contagions transforming their victims into social pariahs. Viewed thusly, Pinter's cryptic scenario becomes a modern version of Poe's *Mask of the Red Death*, the intrusive spouses who calmly scatter feathers and steal food representing scavenger ravens, and Riley's arrival signal the end of the Hudds' self-imposed quarantine, presenting them with a glimpse of their future.

That's one interpretation, anyway. (Did I mention that the exit music in Heath Hays' sound design is the saccharine mid-20th-century ballad, "Que Sera, Sera?") You might have another. The always formidable Kirsten Fitzgerald exhibits unswerving serenity under pressure, surrounded by Anish Jethmalani's rabbit-janitor, Dano Duran and Mierka Gärten's audacious ghouls, HB Ward's truculent Bert and JoJo Brown's visually shocking Riley, but Red Orchid director Dado has instructed her cast to give nothing away. Look for this play to generate an abundance of coffee-fueled post-show debates extending over weeks—just like Pinter planned it.

CRITICS' PICKS



Hand to God, Victory Gardens Theater, extended through Oct. 30. Get ready to laugh and be shocked by Alex Weisman's outstanding performance of a Texas youth who falls under the thrall of a demonic, foul-mouthed hand puppet. Robert Askins' acclaimed Broadway comedy is a mix of *The Muppets* meets *The Exorcist*. SCM

Life Sucks, Lookingglass Theatre, through Nov. 6. Is too much love a good thing? The spirit is warm, autumnal and hilariously sad in this Americanized, modernized take on Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. It's Chekhov lite, but lovingly written and brilliantly played in rich comic style. JA

Man in the Ring, Court Theatre, through Oct. 16. In 1962, superstar boxer Emile Griffith was cheered by fans for beating—even killing—men as spectator sport, but couldn't admit that he also loved men, but now his story can finally be told. MSB

Naperville, Theater Wit, through Oct. 16. It's not a suburb, this little town to our southwest, but a full-service community with caffeine depots dispensing fortification and fellowship to courageous people facing uncertain futures just like those of their pioneer forebearers. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

The Last Wife

Playwright: Kate Hennig
 At. TimeLine (sic) Theatre,
 615 W. Wellington Ave.
 Tickets: 773-281-8463;
 TimelineTheatre.com; \$22-\$51
 Runs through: Dec. 18

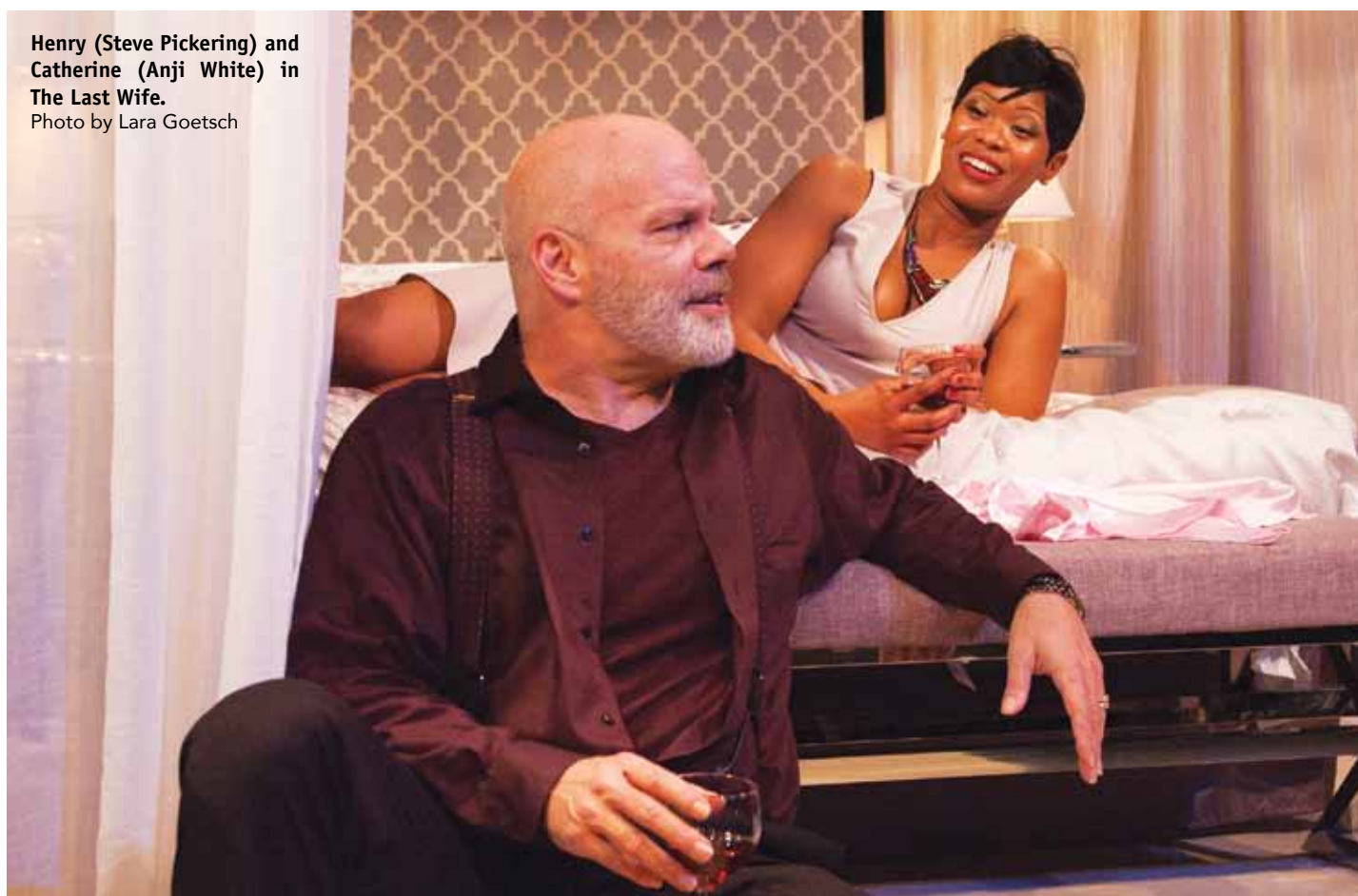
BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

"Divorced, beheaded, died; divorced, beheaded, survived" has helped generations of students recall the six wives of Henry VIII, the last of whom, Catherine Parr, lived on when Henry died in early 1547. This 2015 play vividly portrays Queen Catherine and Henry, an absolute monarch of unparalleled power in English history, who grew increasingly dangerous, fickle and paranoid as he was beset by illness and age. As Henry himself observes in this smart play, "I am capricious. That makes me a fascist, not a liberal."

Such modern political terminology defines the gimmick of this play: Sixteenth-century situations and people (Henry reigned 1509-1547) are presented in modern dress, speaking modern English. Henry (Steve Pickering of bulldog build projecting power and nuanced pugnacity) is an arbitrary, all-powerful, dictatorial executive—Vladimir Putin comes to mind—as cagey as he is ruthless, who is capable of vulgar charm but also of violent whim. His opposite number, Catherine (statuesque Anji White, projecting steely elegance, arrogance and allure), is fully his equal in intellect and ability, but without official office through which to exhibit her qualities, let alone display leadership.

Indeed, the disenfranchisement of women through most of history is one of the play's chief points (with a handful of exceptions from Hatshepsut to Catherine the Great, Margaret Thatcher to, maybe, Hillary Clinton). The Last Wife is not the first play, by any means, to demonstrate how women exercise power behind-the-scenes through brains, influence,

Henry (Steve Pickering) and Catherine (Anji White) in *The Last Wife*.
 Photo by Lara Goetsch



sexuality, alliance, spirituality, whatever. Henry's last years were especially precarious and dangerous, and this play successfully portrays the tightrope even Henry's queen had to walk to survive, let alone thrive.

The play minimizes the complex religious politics in that era when England had recently split from the Church of Rome, politics which brought Catherine within hours of execution. However, it does successfully portray Catherine's intervention on behalf of Henry's daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, who probably never

would have been queens of England without Catherine. In effect, she was a mother to them and to Henry's only legitimate son, the future Edward VI.

Within this historic complexity, playwright Kate Hennig makes Henry and Catherine fully fleshed-out, complicated human beings. For example, in a modern understanding, Catherine is sexually hesitant with Henry because she was scarred by an earlier rape. Supporting characters are two-dimensional—Henry's children and Catherine's erstwhile lover (and

hubby after Henry)—even if nicely played by, respectively, Paola Sanchez Abreu (Mary), Peyton Shaffer (Elizabeth), Matthew Abraham (Edward) and Nate Santana (Thomas Seymour). The Last Wife belongs to Catherine and Henry alone, and White and Pickering deliver vigorous performances under skilled, sure-handed veteran director Nick Bowling.

Regina Garcia's stylish alley-style scenic design and Victor Deiorio's effective sound/music meet Timeline's usual high production standards.

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NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Madrid St. Angelo makes mark in 'Julius Caesar'

BY JERRY NUNN

Actor Madrid St. Angelo is bringing Shakespeare back and this time as the title character Julius Caesar. He has a background of working with a variety of Chicago theaters such as Goodman, Steppenwolf and Victory Gardens. Television credits include appearances on ER, Boss and Chicago Fire. He is a member of Actors' Equity Association, Screen Actors Guild, Guild of Italian American Actors and Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors.

His current project, Julius Caesar, is a political drama where Rome's government officials set out to stop the man from becoming king. Writers Theatre is spotlighting diversity in this production by casting a variety of ethnicities and a transgender actor is playing Caesar's adoptive son.

Windy City Times talked to the openly gay actor and AIDS activist while in tech rehearsals.

Windy City Times: Did you study theater in school?

Madrid St. Angelo: I graduated from The Neighborhood Playhouse in the late '80s. I was one of the last classes that got to study with Sanford Meisner. I was lucky.

WCT: How did you wind up in Chicago?

MSA: I was born in north New Jersey. I grew up there and New York. It was my playground. I eventually got a scholarship for a program with

LGBT youth under 30. It was training to be a political activist that took me out of New York to San Francisco.

Through [AIDS-rights organization] ACT UP, I was eventually involved in protests that brought me to Chicago. It was part of a personal journey that I was willing to take in order to fuel my experiences to bring to my work as an actor and writer.

WCT: Where have you worked in Chicago theater?

MSA: I worked at Steppenwolf as an understudy and a director. I directed a Jose Rivera play a couple of years ago at the Steppenwolf Garage called Old Century. I worked at the Goodman as an understudy and part of their Latino Theater Festival each summer. I have also worked with Victory Gardens, UrbanTheater Company, and Silk Road Rising.

Bailiwick produced a play I wrote in the early '90s about a politically incorrect drag queen at the height of the AIDS epidemic who has lost quite a few friends. She puts an ad in the Village Voice and puts together a club of the hottest HIV-positive men around. In a series of meetings she forces them to confront their disease, and forces them to chart a path for self empowerment. It was called The Club and David Zak produced and directed it. It was remounted after that. David called me recently and told me to do something with it for televi-

sion. I would like to do that.

WCT: How does your ethnicity affect the way you are cast?

MSA: It is interesting because I am half-Italian and half-Spanish. My family married in with Native Americans in the past.

I have been cast as a Latino, but also as Middle Eastern, Arabic, Indian, Persian [and] Pakistani; here I am playing Julius Caesar, who is Italian.

My sexual orientation has rarely figured into the casting decisions about me. It makes me feel even more obligated to come out in that front.

WCT: Talk about your current show, Julius Caesar.

MSA: First off, what Michael Halberstam is doing at Writers Theatre I have never seen in

my life. He is pushing the envelope. He has created a space that is very inclusive of LGBT people. An award winning architect designed the new building with gender neutral bathrooms.

The cast of Julius Caesar is wildly diverse. I was one of the first ones cast and they brought me in to audition people for my wife. I saw every ethnicity, trans actors, and gay men who play women. He brought them all in. I felt lucky and I was in heaven.

It is a 90-minute adaptation of what is a three-hour-plus play. It is scaled down with no intermission. It is an intense exploration about an individual's desire for power. It is about how that trickles down and affects the senate. They eventually conspire to kill Caesar. What lingers in the air is the desire for power. It is explored through the relationship of Brutus and Cassius. It is riddled with homoerotic undertones. It is a Julius Caesar like I have never seen.

WCT: There's a trans actor in the cast?

MSA: Yes—Sydney Germaine. Syd is really fantastic. Hats off to Michael Halberstam for being inclusive. He's openly gay and co-adaptor/director Scott Parkinson is also openly gay. They hired the very best actors while still being inclusive.

WCT: What about audience members who are turned off about Shakespeare?

MSA: We spoke about that to great lengths. The verse is kept with iambic pentameter. There are many versions of Shakespeare where they change the words to make it more palatable to the general public's ear.

The period style in this show is made contemporary with modern costuming. Sometimes I feel like I am walking down the Paris runway!

This adaptation in many ways is a direct mirror to what is going on in our current political climate with the advancement of Trump. His desire for power has done the same thing that Julius Caesar's did. It has infected the mind of many Americans who believe he is capable. No matter what Trump or Caesar says they it with a certain amount of flare and people buy into that.

People will relate to that when they see this show. We have done everything we can to make it audience friendly.

Julius Caesar runs now through Oct. 16 at Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Ct., Glencoe, Illinois. Call 847-242-6000 or visit WritersTheatre.org for tickets.

Coming Up Rosie, The Audacity of Nope and its debut Whitney Houston, We Have a Problem.

The event will feature GayCo alumni, including Andy Eninger, Butch Jerinic, Homer Marrs, John Loos, Mandy Price, Robin Treviño Clay Goodpasture, Kathy Betts, Martin Garcia (Black-ish, The Mindy Project), Jim Bennett (Lambda Legal, Chicago Gay Hall of Fame member) and Celeste Pechous (Hot in Cleveland, Workaholics, Stranger Than Fiction). Queer comedy docent Clay Goodpasture will host.

See GayCo.com.

Sideshow names new members, playwrights

As it embarks on its 10th anniversary season, Sideshow Theatre Company announced the playwrights for "The Freshness Initiative," the company's commissioning and new play development program, now in its third year.

The 2016/17 season will feature public readings of new plays by J. Nicole Brooks, Selina Fillinger and Isaac Gomez. The readings will take place at Victory Gardens Theatre during May, June and July 2017.

Also, Sideshow is welcoming six new artistic associates: William Boles, Philip Dawkins, Elly Green, David Lawrence Hamilton, Noel Huntzinger and Calamity West, as well as new ensemble member Ann James.

See SideshowTheatre.org.



GayCo marking 20 years on Oct. 15

On Saturday, Oct. 15, at 7:30 p.m., GayCo Productions returns home to The Second City at the UP Comedy Club for its 20th Anniversary extravaganza GayCo XX: Gay for Play.

GayCo XX: Gay for Play is a one-night-only event that will feature GayCo luminaries from past and present performing the best scenes, songs, tributes and memories from GayCo's two decades of game-changing LGBTQ sketch comedy.

GayCo has produced dozens of revues in its first 20 years, including the smash hit shows Weddings of Mass Destruction, Everything's



SPOTLIGHT

One classic 19th-century opera that is perfect for the Halloween season is Donizetti's **Lucia di Lammermoor**. Inspired by Sir Walter Scott's gothic novel of a troubled young Scottish noblewoman, Lucia di Lammermoor features arguably the most famous "mad scene" in all of opera, arriving after the title heroine has stabbed her husband to death on their wedding night. Lucia di Lammermoor plays seven performances between Saturday, Oct. 15, through Sunday, Nov. 6, at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker Dr. It's sung in Italian with projected English translations. Tickets are \$17-\$299; call 312-827-5600 or visit LyricOpera.org.

Russian soprano Albina Shagimuratova stars in the title role of Lucia di Lammermoor for the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Photo by Pavel Vaan and Leonid Semenyuk



Rainbows in the magic box: LGBTQ talent featured in fall TV

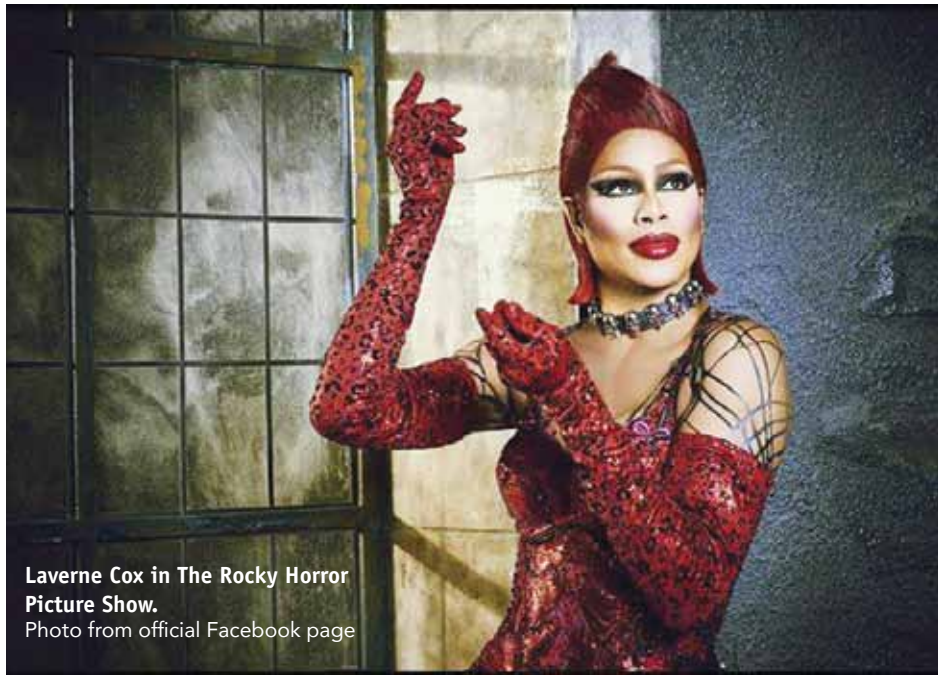
BY LUCY DIAVOLO

We're hot off an Emmys that saw several calls for better inclusion and representation in the world of television. Now, at the start of another season of fall programming, will Hollywood put its money where its mouth is and feature more LGBTQ talent? While it's certainly not resounding, it looks like the answer could be a (somewhat tentative) yes.

Both on camera and behind the scenes, several networks are seeing LGBTQ stories and experiences come into the spotlight. Whether

Live announced that Chris Kelly is the first out head writer in the sketch show's four-decade run. Kelly has been with SNL for five seasons, and has proved his comedy chops as a writer for Comedy Central's *Broad City* and in his feature-length writing/directing debut, *Other People*.

Kelly and his co-head writer, Sarah Schneider, are stepping up to the helm now after being the writing talent behind SNL favorites Aidy Bryant and Kate McKinnon. The promotions mean that McKinnon, an out and proud lesbian, is primed to have a massive season following an Emmy win for her work on the show.



Laverne Cox in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.
Photo from official Facebook page

it's a bisexual bad girl, a gay head writer or a trans-positive twist on an old classic, there are plenty of rainbows to catch in your magic box this fall. And, maybe more surprising than anything else, much of the diverse programming is coming from primetime network TV.

The CW, for example, is working to make sure the tights aren't the gayest thing about their superhero shows this fall. The network's products from the DC Comics universe feature several gay and lesbian characters in supporting roles, thanks in no small part to the efforts of Greg Berlanti, the gay executive producer behind all four of CW's DC projects.

The Flash, which returned Oct. 4, features gay men on both sides of the law in police captain David Singh (played by Patrick Sabongui) and hearing-impaired villain The Pied Piper (played by the openly bi Andi Mientus). Black Canary, a bi villainess with a penchant for leather, was killed off of Arrow at the end of last season. However, a report from Variety confirmed that actress Katie Cassidy, the face behind Black Canary's mask, will return to the role if not to Arrow, which started again Oct. 5.

And don't be worried that DC isn't balancing LGBTQ goodies with baddies. When Supergirl returned Oct. 10, Floriana Lima will join the cast as a lesbian cop who specializes in alien investigations. Could we finally get the openly gay Dana Scully type we've all been waiting for?

An LGBTQ lead character could be in the works, too: Berlanti has teased that a superhero on one of CW's DC shows will be coming out this fall. Place your bets now, but my money's on someone from *Legends of Tomorrow*, the show that serves as a stable of DC vigilantes waiting for their own break.

LGBTQ characters might be stepping out of the shadows on another show as well, as change is coming to a television institution in a major way this year. NBC's *Saturday Night*

a recurring role on a broadcast series, a major milestone in bringing trans experiences to the mainstream. The fact that Cox—so often typecast throughout her career—is taking on the role is a major step forward in representation for trans women of color and the trans community at large.

But don't get too excited. To see Cox, you'll

have to sit through Katherine Heigl playing a criminal attorney falling for her (allegedly) girlfriend-killing client in an abject display of WTF heterosexuality. At least it's a comfort that, with all the changes this fall TV season is bringing, straight love stories still have some consistency.



Northalsted Halloween Parade in 2014.
Photo by Jerry Nunn

Halloween Parade Oct. 31 in Boystown

The 20th-annual Northalsted Halloween Parade, which the Northalsted Business Alliance is presenting, will take place Monday, Oct. 31.

First, however, there will be a Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., celebration for kids at Space Park, 815 W. Roscoe Ave. In partnership with Triangle Neighbors and Children's Learning Place, the event will feature tons of family fun including crafts, some tricks and

lots of treats.

There will also be a "Zombie Bar Crawl" on Saturday, Oct. 29, 4-8 p.m. The participation fee is \$20.

The parade—which, this year, has a "Scream Queen" theme—happens Halloween night at 7:30 p.m., kicking off from the corner of Halsted Street and Belmont Avenue, and traveling north to Cornelia Avenue. The competitive costume contest will award winners in four categories: Drag, Group, Scariest and Theme. Registration is 5-7 p.m.; participation is free.

See Northalsted.com.

The push for diversity in the writing room is being helped as well by the addition of Julio Torres, a.k.a. Space Prince, a gay Latino stand-up from the alt comedy underworld. Here's hoping Kelly and Torres can help SNL make LGBTQ experiences into the heart—instead of the butt—of some of this season's jokes. The sketch show's new season premiered Oct. 1.

Speaking of shifting targets, Laverne Cox takes on no easy task as she plays Dr. Frank-N-Furter in Fox's reprise of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, which is set to debut Thursday, Oct. 20. Early looks at Laverne's musical role promise elaborate costumes, incredible makeup and some stunning performances.

Cox's star is already bright, but the role could boost her to a new level of shine with the chance to show off her pipes as a leading lady in a primetime network display. But the real challenge might be finding a way to play Frank-N-Furter that captures the spirit of the original without alienating members of the trans community who are critical of the original *Rocky Horror* and its creator's transphobic attitudes.

Richard O'Brien gave the world Dr. Frank-N-Furter, an iconic character when it comes to gender variance. Despite expressing his own identification with trans experiences, O'Brien made headlines in early 2016 when he claimed that trans women can't be women.

Only time will tell if Cox is able to give a twist to Dr. Frank-N-Furter that could revitalize the icon for a new generation of LGBTQ youth. Surely, there's no one better for the job. But it'll take a truly inspired performance to turn one man's trash into trans women's treasure.

If one musical isn't enough Cox for you, keep an eye out for *Doubt*. The new show is expected to debut mid-season (probably after something else on CBS tanks). The series features Cox as a working Ivy-League-educated attorney.

When the show gets to air, it'll make Cox the first trans actress to play a trans character in

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From left: Jessica Winegar, Joshua Chambers-Letson and Leonard Suryajaya at the celebration for artist Tseng Kwong Chi.

Photo by Vern Hester

Celebrating queer artist Tseng Kwong Chi

BY VERNON HESTER

On Oct. 1, The Mary and Leigh Block Museum at Northwestern University presented “Five Takes on Tseng Kwong Chi” in celebration of the opening for the gallery exhibition “Tseng Kwong Chi; Performing for the Camera.” The event looked at the late artist’s work from the viewpoint of five young noted scholars with an academic approach, as historical comment, knowing satire and political observation as well as for its aesthetic value.

Tseng hit upon the idea for his work as a result of an innocent prank. He was supposed to meet his parents for dinner in a restaurant at the top of The World Trade Center when he discovered that formal dress was required. Since he didn’t have any, he substituted a Mao-style suit that he had bought in a thrift store.

He was surprised when, rather than being treated like a communist, he was welcomed like a Chinese dignitary. A year later, in 1980, Tseng made his breakthrough when he wore the uniform and photographed himself outside The Metropolitan Museum of Art during the opening gala for an exhibit of ornate robes worn by Chinese Royalty. He charmed everyone in attendance (including Nancy Kissinger, Andy Warhol and William F. Buckley), although they assumed he was a dignitary and not a struggling gay artist.

From there, Tseng created a series of photographs with him wearing the suit while placing himself in front of U.S. and European landmarks (such as Mount Rushmore, The World Trade Center, Niagara Falls, the Eiffel Tower and The Berlin Wall), gently mocking or commenting through his imagery the notion of democracy and white supremacy.

The curator of Five Takes on Tseng Kwong Chi, Associate Director of Engagement Susy Bielak commented that Tseng’s work allowed him to document his era and simultaneously comment on it. The first speaker of the presentation, Janet Dees (curator at The Block Museum and former curator of SITE Sante Fe), viewed Tseng as an “inquisitive traveler,” creating a project between East and West. Jessica

Winegar (associate professor of anthropology at Northwestern and author of Creative Reckonings: The Politics of Art and Culture in Contemporary Egypt) made the point that Tseng’s work commented on the Reagan era and how it disrupted the American identity by adding Tseng’s visage into the frame.

Northwestern University Assistant Professor and author (A Race So Different: Law and Performance in Asian America) Joshua Chambers-Letson drew a direct line of targets for Tseng’s critical voice through J. Edgar Hoover, the civil-rights movement of the 1960s, the white supremacy movement, the Moral Majority and President Reagan’s lack of action during the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. Chambers-Letson also spoke on Tseng’s Moral Majority Project in which, instead of wearing the Mao uniform he wore a seersucker suit for portraits with Daniel Fore, Jerry Falwell and William F. Buckley, who were unaware of his true identity.

The remaining two presenters spoke on how Tseng’s work affected them on a personal level. Leonard Suryajaya spoke about how Tseng’s depiction of himself as an outsider affected his work as a gay Indonesian in his homeland and in the United States. As a recent graduate of the School of the Art Institute with an MFA in photography, he has gone on to create work that is as expressive, though visually the opposite, of Tseng’s work.

The presentation came to a close with Rashayla Marie Brown’s discussion on the importance of archiving and maintaining her work after she has passed away. With her mother, Ann Marie Hammond, on stage with her, she made the point that it was especially important to preserve the history of queer women of color.

On Wed., Oct. 26, at the Mary and Leigh Block Museum, Muna Tseng—dancer/choreographer and sister of the artist—will lead a guided tour of her brother’s life and art at 6-8 p.m. “Performing for the Camera” runs until Sunday, Dec. 11. The Mary and Leigh Block Museum is located on the Evanston campus of Northwestern University at 40 Arts Circle Dr.

Chicago Ideas Week Oct. 17-23

The lineup for Chicago Ideas Week (CIW), which takes place 17-23, has officially been released and includes some of the world’s most accomplished individuals—from entertainment executive Ariel Emanuel to FIFA World Cup Champion Abby Wambach and Skinnygirl cocktail creator Bethenny Frankel.

Some of the curated programs include:

—Life’s Big Questions: Abby Wambach, two-time Olympic gold winner and FIFA Women’s World Cup champion in conversation with New America Foundation President/CEO Anne-Marie

Slaughter about women’s equality; and Define America Founder/CEO Jose Antonio Vargas on what it means to be an American;

—Entrepreneurship—Turning Points: Industry trailblazers discuss the events that transformed them. Speakers include Bethenny Frankel, founder and CEO of Skinnygirl; and global entrepreneur and investor Sam Zell; and

—Humanity and Technology—What’s at Stake?: Megan Smith, chief technology officer of the United States on government’s role in harnessing innovation on behalf of the American people.

Tickets and the full list of speakers are available at ChicagoIdeas.com.



Abby Wambach. Photo from Mark Novak/WNY Flash

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BOOKS

The Transgender Teen: Opening the family dialogue on gender

BY JOE FRANCO

"We think about gender all day and every day, though we might not be aware of it," said Lisa Kenney, co-author of *The Transgender Teen*, to *Windy City Times* when discussing the new book and the emerging national discussion on gender.

According to her book, gender is an exceptionally broad classification. It encompasses desires; preferences in clothing, music and art; hobbies; genes; and our mind. "Gender is much more interesting and complex than we have ever thought before," added Kenney.

One point of clarification that Kenney and

people view gender: as society's public gender only. It is the proverbial male predator in a dress and a bad wig lurking in a Target bathroom, just waiting for his next victim. But Kenney indicated that this kind of argument only seeks to "other someone else. This has always been the case. Transgender people have been using the restroom of their choosing for decades but, until now, no one really cared or noticed." She went on to point out that "finding a transgender predator of the sort described by conservatives would be very rare."

"We have been conditioned to think a certain way. But it is up to us to not buy into the preconceived notions of what gender is or



The *Transgender Teen* co-authors Lisa Kenney (left) and Stephanie Brill.
Photos from the co-authors

co-author Stephanie Brill brought up was how gender, rather than sexuality, is a primary cause for concern. They write, "Although bullying of children and teens often takes the form of homophobia (with such slurs as 'fag' and 'dyke'), in reality, these kids are frequently being bullied and teased for not fitting into typical gender norms, rather than for their sexual orientation."

Kenney said to WCT, "We gender everything: colors, toys, hobbies, cars—everything." She added that young children who begin bullying others with what appear to be sexualized language is in fact rooted in sexism and misogyny: "Children and even many adults still feel that if a 'boy' exhibits what other might call stereotypically 'girl' behavior, then he must be gay. The same goes for 'girls' who exhibit stereotypically 'boy' traits. This is not always the case."

Kenney also said, "As a society, we have conflated sexuality with gender, and that is absolutely improper and incorrect. What is really being revealed with this kind of bullying of our young and, to a certain extent, adults is how far off you fall from the societal norms of expected gender expression will be determined just how hard and how much you are bullied."

Gender expression, writes Kenney and Brill, is "our public gender." Further, it is "how we present our gender in the world through behavior, hairstyle, voice, mannerisms and other forms of presentation, and how society, culture, community and family perceive, interact with and try to shape our gender."

To put it another way, this is how some

is not. There is something within us that tells us who we are and what we like," said Kenney. The complexity of gender is more than being a "girl" or a "boy" but appears far more holistic and encompassing. Gender, according to *The Transgender Teen*, is precisely who we are and who we think we are and who we want other people to see.

The *Transgender Teen* is not only a book about gender, it is also how we as adults can be more understanding, more compassionate, more inclusive and less offensive when working with transgender youth. "One reaction many people have when confronted with transgender teens is to make fun of them. We do it sometimes without even noticing we are doing it," says Kenney. She added that, "one way we can proactively combat transphobia is by asking other people exactly which pronouns they prefer. This is not just an acknowledgment of another person's dignity but it is also a signal to others that you are aware that gender is a complex issue and that you are a 'safe' person—a 'haven'."

Kenney noted that transgender youth and the issue of gender identity and expression can make people uncomfortable. "But is your discomfort more important than the safety of a marginalized child or teen? No," said Kenney. "Their safety trumps your discomfort. If you're uncomfortable with transgender youth or with gender identity issues, then get comfortable." The onus then is on us to learn about the issues and apply what we learn to our relationships with others.

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KNIGHT at the movies

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

LGBTQ highlights of the Chicago International Film Festival

The 52nd edition of the Chicago International Film Festival kicks off Thursday, Oct. 13, with the Chicago premiere of director Damien Chazelle's (Whiplash) musical valentine **La La Land**, which has wowed festival audiences and stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone as two LA dreamers—a jazz pianist and a budding actress with a thing for classic movie stars.

The fest, which continues through Oct. 27, offers many more first look premieres at some of fall's most anticipated movies—with **Moonlight**, sure to be director Barry Jenkins's breakthrough film (see capsule review below); **Jackie**, starring Natalie Portman as Jackie Kennedy in the days following JFK's assassination; and **Arrival**, the sci-fi thriller with Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner, topping my list.

Another must-see film is **A Quiet Passion**, from British out writer-director Terence Davies; it's a lesbian-tinged version of the life of poet Emily Dickinson. Dickinson is portrayed by out actor Cynthia Nixon, who is scheduled to attend the screening.

The festival also includes in-person career retrospective tributes to screen legends Geraldine Chaplin (Doctor Zhivago, Nashville) and Peter Bogdanovich (The Last Picture Show, Paper Moon, What's Up Doc?) as well as 12 Years a Slave director Steve McQueen. Empire star Taraji P. Henson will also be on hand for what promises to be a lively conversation, along with sneak peeks from her upcoming film Hidden Figures.

A 25th-anniversary screening (with a restored print) of director Julie Dash's African-American classic **Daughters of the Dust** and a 30th-anniversary screening of the terrifying John McNaughton chiller **Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer** are also in the lineup. An advance screening of the forthcoming HBO documentary **Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds** (see capsule review below) and **I Am Not Your Negro**—which focuses on gay writer James Baldwin's unfinished last work, Remember This House, an examination of the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Medgar Evers and Malcolm X—are two more on my must-see list.

The aforementioned Moonlight, A Quiet Passion and South Korean writer-director Park Chan-Wook's latest, **The Handmaiden** (a standout at Cannes) have LGBT characters and themes while 11 other films in the festival have been grouped in CIFF's "Outlook" section, devoted to showcasing queer cinema. Synopses (courtesy of fest materials) and capsule reviews of some of these titles and a few others I've already seen are detailed below. Complete festival listings, advance tickets and more at ChicagoFilmFestival.com.

Being 17—This romantic coming-out drama gives us two adorable high-school twinks for the price of one. It is the latest from French queer auteur Andre Techine, who co-wrote the screenplay with another out writer-director, Celine Sciamma (Tomboy; Water Lilies)—which makes the urgency to see this all the more pressing for LGBTQ cinema fans. In French. Screening 10/23 and 10/24; ChicagoFilmFestival.com/film/being-17/

Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds—After Fisher's lightly fic-



Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds.

tionalized Postcards from the Edge and her more recent one-woman show Wishful Drinking, one would have thought we'd discovered just about everything there was to know about show business' second most famous mother-daughter. (I would count Mommie Dearest's Joan and Christina Crawford as number one.)

However, that notion is belied but quick in this charming and surprisingly heartfelt documentary portrait from co-directors Fisher Stevens and Alexis Bloom. Fisher—movie royalty thanks to her portrayal of Princess Leia in the Star Wars epics—and Reynolds (the same) are the human embodiment of the "the show must go on" maxim. This screening is well in advance of its early winter HBO premiere. Screening 10/19 and 10/20; ChicagoFilmFestival.com/film/bright-lights-starring-carrie-fisher-and-debbie-reynolds/

I Promise You Anarchy—Miguel, an aimless skateboarder from a middle-class family in Mexico City, copes with his bored existence by getting high and engaging in sex with his bisexual best friend on the down low, paying for the easy life by running an illegal blood bank for the drug cartels. When things take a sinister turn, Miguel—an antihero if there ever was one—makes increasingly terrible choices and the film veers from a Gus Van Sant-like study of disaffected youth to a quasi-thriller, the latter of which never quick pays off as the truly horrific situation tantalizes. In Spanish. Screening Oct. 19, 21, 22. ChicagoFilmFestival.com/film/i-promise-you-anarchy/

Miles—Former Chicagoan/out writer-director Nathan Adloff follows his delightfully eccentric debut feature, Nate & Margaret, with this black comedy based on his own life. Tim Boardman stands in for Adloff as Miles, a young teen who just came out and who's stuck in small-town Illinois; he yearns to go to Chicago—and film school—as a way to escape his dreary existence.

Molly Shannon plays Miles' recently widowed mother who discovers that her late husband spent Miles' college tuition on his mistress. Miles joins the girls' volleyball team—his only option for winning a scholarship to pay for film school. Naturally, this causes plenty of havoc in the conservative little town, pitting all and sundry against Miles, mom and his upbeat coach (a winning Missi Pyle). It's filled to the gills with expert comic actors supporting Shannon and Boardman (Yearley Smith, Paul Reiser, Ethan Phillips, Annie Golden, Romy Rosemont and Stephen Root), but the film doesn't quite live up to its delightful premise and kinda fritters away, although the relationship between Shannon (whose wondrous) and Board-

man rings true. Screening 10/18 and 10/19; ChicagoFilmFestival.com/film/miles/

Moonlight—Writer-Director Barry Jenkins' movie—an adaptation of Tarell Alvin McCraney's play Black Boys Look Blue in the Moonlight—is sensational. It focuses on the incredibly fraught life of Chiron, a young gay Black man captured at three key stages in his life. This triptych is essayed by three different actors (Alex Hibbert, Ashton Sanders and Trevante Rhodes) who turn in riveting performances. Naomie Harris, as Chiron's drug-addled mother; Mahershala Ali, as a drug kingpin; and Andre Holland, as Chiron's friend Kevin are no less compelling. Jenkins, Harris, Holland and McCraney are scheduled to attend the Oct. 24 screening. ChicagoFilmFestival.com/film/moonlight/

Paris 05:59—Yes, it's just as explicit as you've heard. The first 20 minutes or so of this French erotic drama takes place in a gay sex club in Paris with practically nothing left to the imagination. After we've watched Theo and Hugo go at it in the midst of an orgy and they are heading their separate ways in the wee hours, they decide on the spur of the moment to grab a bite to eat and get to know each other.

When the two met anonymously at the club, the time was 4:27 a.m.; by the time the film concludes—in real time 93 minutes later, at 5:59 (hence the title)—Theo and Hugo will have found much more than sexual desire in common. Comparisons to Andrew Haigh's Weekend and his recently concluded HBO series Looking were perhaps inevitable, as co-writer/directors Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martin-eau's must have known when they were creating the film.

However, this is much more than a pale imitation of Haigh's work and there is a sweetness to these characters and a refreshing matter-of-factness to their situation from the supporting characters that lend much more than a portrait of Theo and Hugo as they grope toward a relationship. We also get a lovely snapshot of the attitudes—mostly positive—of gay people in urban Paris. Vive La France! In French. Screens 10/15 and 10/16; ChicagoFilmFestival.com/film/paris-0559/

Pushing Dead—From writer-director Tom E. Brown comes this droll black comedy that follows Dan (James Roday), a low-key, blocked writer who has been HIV-positive for decades, trying to renew needed prescription medication when the gift of a \$100 birthday check from his mother puts his income into a category that changes his insurance status. Quirky characters—Bob, the bar owner Dan works

part time for (Danny Glover); testy wife Dot (Khandi Alexander), who wants to leave Bob; his chronically single roommate (Robin Weigert); and Mike (Tom Riley), a new guy he's interested in—help enliven the amiable pacing of Brown's movie. It's hard to imagine a gentle comedy being made about HIV and the Kafkaesque insurance industry, but here it is. Screening 10/18, 10/22, 10/23; ChicagoFilmFestival.com/film/pushing-dead/

Strike a Pose—Twenty-five years after Madonna's Truth or Dare documentary and her Blond Ambition tour, filmmakers Ester Gold and Reijer Zwaan brought together her male backup dancers for a reunion. A look back at what was a career and life highlight for the mostly gay men and their ensuing struggles are detailed in this lively and, at times, sobering film that would be much, much more enticing if Madonna had shown up for the reunion. Her unexplained absence is, oddly never discussed—leaving a hole at the center of the movie. Screening 10/22 and 10/23; ChicagoFilmFestival.com/film/strike-a-pose/

Utopians: Director's Cut—From Hong Kong queer auteur Scud comes another sexy treatise on love and lust, with a bevy of nude men front and center (pun intended). When a sexually adventurous college professor announces to his class that he's gay, one of his conservative male students—who has been having erotic gay dreams and avoiding relations with his girlfriend—timidly begins to accept his same-sex desires.

The professor, espousing the old Rocky Horror maxim "don't dream it, be it" and removing his clothes at every possible opportunity, endeavors to help the young man realize his sexual dreams. The young man's journey to "utopia" is equal parts sexy and silly, and not nearly as diverting or visually gorgeous as previous Scud outings.

Women Who Kill—Brooklyn-based Jean and Morgan, former life partners, host a cult podcast about female serial killers and, between broadcasts, volunteer at a local food bank. But when Morgan falls for a woman she meets at the co-op, Jean's suspicions are aroused and she begins to investigate. The dearest of deadpan comedies, this intermittently amusing film will surely please the NPR crowd; however, its limpid pacing and dry-as-toast performances left me cold. Screening 10/18, 10/19; ChicagoFilmFestival.com/film/women-who-kill/

Complete festival schedule and advance tickets are at ChicagoFilmFestival.com.

MOVIES

Anthony Rapp: 'Bwoy' meets world

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Although he lives in New York and his work has taken him all over the world, film, stage actor and singer Anthony Rapp often returns to his roots in Illinois, whether to watch his beloved Chicago Cubs continue an extraordinary season or to visit family outside of Joliet.

However, on Sept. 26, the star of the original Broadway production of *Rent* and a wide range of both mainstream and independent films was back in town for the world premiere of his new film *Bwoy*—chosen as the red-carpet centerpiece for the 34th annual Reeling Chicago LG-BTQ+ International Film Festival.

With award-winning filmmaker John G. Young serving as writer/director, the intimately filmed *Bwoy* centers around a sexually charged online relationship built between an upstate New York credit card phone bank employee Brad (Rapp) and a young Jamaican lad named Yenny (Jimmy Brooks).

Windy City Times: First of all, congratulations on a brilliantly done and very surprising film.

Anthony Rapp: Thank you. I haven't seen it yet. I feel pretty confident about it because it was so self-contained. Some films, when you are filming them, there's so much going on that you don't know how they're going to turn out. But the way [*Bwoy*] was shot was so simple, I felt very good about the work we were doing. Our cinematographer [Ryan Balas] would show me stills so I could see the look and feel of it. I feel good going in.

WCT: What attracted you to the script?

AR: I like the dark, interesting nooks and crannies of human behavior. Stories that explore grief in unique ways are very interesting to me because grief has been a big part of my life. I lost my mom when I was in my mid-twenties and Jonathan Larson who wrote *Rent*. Both of those things happened very quickly. Another friend of mine died right before then, too.

In the middle of all that, I didn't do anything like what happens in *Bwoy* but the darker undertow of grief, especially when it is unexpressed, I found to be really honest. I knew John a little bit and when he shared the script and asked me to do it. I like doing films that are small because everybody involved is that much more involved. I've done big-budget films and you become like a small cog in a big machine. In a film like this, it was literally just the actors; John, the cinematographer; and maybe two other people at any given time.

WCT: Brad comes across as so deeply isolated. Did having such a small crew help?

AR: I think so. It was so intimate and safe. The way that we shot the online conversations was that I was in front of the monitor and Jimmy was in another room on another monitor and we played the scene in real time. The fact that that there were only two or three other people in the room at the same time absolutely made a difference to make it feel that much more isolated and private.

That's the other thing about the film that really attracted me—finding ways to explore hidden, private experiences in a way that doesn't feel pornographic or sensationalistic. John is very clear about how he wants to shoot something. He had a really good sense of what he wanted to accomplish on any given day so it was never rushed. There was no pressure. You could breathe through all of it.

WCT: Off-camera, did you try keep a deliberate separation between yourself and Jimmy?

AR: We did, and it was very helpful. We had a table reading together and then we didn't talk too much outside of that. We wanted to let our

interaction happen through the screen. A film camera is like a lie-detector. It just picks up everything. If the two of us as human beings and as actors are discovering each other in real time, that can only help.

WCT: The cinematography reminded me of the German film *Der Untergang* (Downfall)—very voyeuristic in the way that it places the viewer.

AR: The camera used was like a handheld, still camera. That's technology they have now. So it was very small and unobtrusive. It all felt very contained. It's appropriate that the audience is peering in on these intimate, private moments.

WCT: *Bwoy's* also not very genre-specific. First we are looking a romance and, the next thing you know, we are in thriller territory.

AR: That made emotional sense to me. With

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Anthony Rapp.
PR photo

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MOVIES

Legacy Project to dedicate Sylvia Rivera bronze memorial

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

The quote that headlines New York Latina transgender activist Sylvia Rivera's bronze memorial plaque—to be officially unveiled on The Legacy Project's half-mile long Legacy Walk in Lake View during a ceremony Oct. 15—reads “Hell hath no fury like a drag queen scorned.”

When she spoke those words, Rivera was commenting on a decision made by the Gay Activist Alliance (GAA) to exclude the transgender community from language in early drafts of the New York gay-rights bill, introduced in 1986.

This was despite the role trans women took during the 1969 Stonewall Riots and Rivera's relentless battle for the community's inclusion both with GAA and the Gay Liberation Front (GLF).

However, to those who look back upon and study Rivera's 50 years of life, from her birth in the Bronx in 1951 to her untimely death from liver cancer in 2002, there is no equal, in determination, fight or love for community, like a drag queen scorned.

In 1967, equality-for-all activist Judy Bowen, having majored in journalism, became involved in the New York civil-rights movement.

“I was in a contest at a club in Long Island,” she told Windy City Times. “The police raided the place and arrested me just as I was being crowned Queen of Hearts. They took about 17 people to jail and threw the gays, lesbians and [transgender] people in the same cell. They were very abusive during that time.”

Bowen was released the following day. Shortly afterwards, she met Brooklyn-born businessman and activist Philip Raia. Bowen said that Raia helped her with an apartment on Christopher Street, less than a half block from the Stonewall Inn.

When his family moved to Long Island, Raia went to his first gay bar. He was 18.

“My father was a sailor for 20 years. My mom was very religious,” Raia added. “When I came out, they told me ‘if you want to stay in this house, you can’t be that way. If you leave this house, you have to leave with the same things [with] which you came into this world’ which was basically nothing.”

Raia found a job with an architect and interior design firm on Madison Avenue and became involved with meetings and events held by the GLF, eventually leaving for the GAA.

“We were collecting signatures in the West Village for a [gay-rights] petition to send to councilwoman Carol Greitzer who represented the Upper West Side,” he said. “Sylvia signed one of the petitions and got other people to sign the documents. She was arrested for that. She never took ‘no’ for an answer. She wasn’t a person who was full of fluff. She was going to change things and make things happen. She had vision. I was always impressed with the way she got through this thing we call life.”

Ostracized by her family and homeless from the age of 11, Rivera was living and working on the streets.

“Everybody had to survive,” Bowen said. “I was just trying to keep my life together. I was offered a job working at the 10 Cents a Dance clubs. There were three of them in Midtown Manhattan. That’s where you would find girls who were passable. During those days, a man could come into the club, and select the girl that he wanted. That’s where the money was. Most of the clubs were mafia owned. Myself and another girl were selected to be escorts for people coming from Chicago to New York. Working the clubs was very dangerous. We were never supposed to talk about our reality.”

Bowen became acquainted with Rivera's friend and fellow activist Marsha P. Johnson, who was murdered in 1992.

“Marsha was a great personality who was always with Sylvia,” Bowen recalled. “Marsha and I would stop and talk and sometimes go for coffee. She always made me laugh. Sylvia was rejected by [GAA] because she was too militant. But she stood up to the police when the rest of us were afraid to. She led the way and let us all know we didn’t have to take it anymore because the police would raid the clubs and beat everybody up. They didn’t care.”

Bowen was working when the Stonewall riots took place.

Ever the champion of Black, Puerto Rican and trans activism, in 1970, Rivera alongside Johnson formed the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) through which they provided the city's homeless trans population with a shared roof over their heads in an abandoned building at 640 E. 12th St.

“STAR was not Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries in its first incarnation,” Raia said. “It was really straight transvestites for gays. Sylvia saw that we were not different groups but a community. She was more interested in bringing people together than breaking them into factions.”

“She had a great heart,” Bowen noted, “because she grew up on the streets.”

That year, STAR held a sit-in at New York University (NYU)'s Weinstein Hall.

“This is the question that is running through our minds,” a STAR statement read. “Do you really want Gay Power or are you looking for a few laughs or maybe a little excitement? If you want Gay Liberation then you are going to have to fight for it. We don’t mean tomorrow, or the next day, we are talking about today.”

“My understanding was she was beginning to communicate to gay males and lesbian wom-



Sylvia Rivera plaque.
Photo courtesy of The Legacy Project

en that there was no need to run from each other,” Raia said. “She really did not give up. As she became comfortable with the mission [GAA] was trying to achieve, she brought a number of homeless [transgender] people from 42nd Street to the meetings. For me, this was a wonderful thing because I believe that we make change through unity and not separation. One of the reasons I left GAA was because they were very fixated on white male, middle-class thinking. But even when they were saying ‘no’ Sylvia would find a way of fitting in.”

Rivera would remember GAA's rejection of her during an interview with Village Voice: “When things started getting more mainstream it was like, ‘we don’t need you no more.’”

In a grainy, black-and-white video of a Liberation Day rally held in New York's Washington Square Park, Rivera can be seen squaring off against lesbian and Democratic Party activist Jean O'Leary (1948-2005) who blamed Rivera for organizers not being permitted to read a political statement.

“When men impersonate women for reasons of entertainment or profit, they insult women,” O'Leary said. “Men have never been able to

show us ourselves.”
“Y’all better quiet down,” Rivera stated as she took the microphone. “I’ve been trying to get up here all day. Your gay brothers and sisters in jail write me every motherfucking week and ask for your help and you don’t do a god-damn thing for them. They’ve been beaten up and raped. They do not write women. They do not write men. They write STAR because we’re trying to do something for them. I have been beaten, I have had my nose broken, I have been thrown in jail, I have lost my job, I have lost my apartment for Gay Liberation, and y’all treat me this way? What’s wrong with you?”

“At the age of 13, I had long hair and I walked a certain way,” Bowen said. “I was coming back from the store when a guy picked me up. I guess he thought he was picking up a girl. When he got me out into the country, he discovered my situation. I was raped. Then the man got out of the car and started digging the hole to bury me. I sneaked out of the car, got away and I ran. People found me later, I was found in the woods.”

Although she credits Raia along with a British lawyer and others for helping her build what was to become a successful life as a business and art gallery owner, landlord and newspaper publisher in New York, Bowen never forgot the shadow of violence under which she lived.

“Our society attacks anyone who is different,” she said. “That’s why I have always dealt with everything with caution because I realized that people like me were in danger and you could not trust anybody.”

Despite the loss of STAR's building, the death of Johnson (which New York police insist to this day was a suicide despite physical evidence to the contrary) and her own suicide attempts, Rivera always trusted that there would come a better day for the trans community.

In 2001, one year before her death, Rivera was invited to give a speech at a monthly meeting of Latino Gay Men of New York (LGM-NY). After relating the history of her life, Stonewall and STAR, she got onto the topic of transgender woman Amanda Milan who had been murdered in New York in 2000.

“You screw with the transgender community and STAR will be on your doorstep,” she said. “Just like we trashed the HRC [Human Rights Campaign] for not endorsing the Amanda Milan

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Sylvia Rivera.
Photo courtesy of The Legacy Project



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Top row: Salim Gauwloos, Oliver Crumes III, Carlton Wilborn, Kevin Stea. Bottom row: Luis Camacho, Jose Gutierrez.

Photo by Linda Posnick

MOVIES

Blond Ambition dancers strike a new pose

BY TONY PEREGRIN

Strike a Pose—a new documentary featuring Madonna’s Blond Ambition dancers—dares to tell the truth about the 1991 behind-the-scenes documentary, Truth or Dare, but this time the dancers take center stage.

Strike a Pose profiles the seven dancers (Luis Camacho, Oliver Crumes III, Salim “Slam” Gauwloos, Jose Gutierrez, Kevin Stea, Gabriel Trupin, and Carlton Wilborn) and—with the exception of Trupin, who died of an AIDS-related illness in 1995—introduces audiences to who these men are today, revealing how their experience with Madonna and her celebration of self-expression, perhaps best epitomized by the iconic Gaultier velvet cone bra, altered the course of their lives forever.

Noticeably absent from the film is Madonna herself. However, the film’s directors—Ester Gould, a Scottish-born documentary filmmaker based in Amsterdam, and Reijer Zwaan, a journalist and filmmaker for Dutch public television—purposely turned their cameras away from the pop star in order to focus on the untold stories of the dancers.

In anticipation of the Chicago premiere of Strike a Pose on Oct. 19, 22 and 23, at the 2016 Chicago International Film Festival, Windy City Times spoke with Zwaan and Stea about how the Blond Ambition dancers “live to tell” their stories of truth and survival.

Windy City Times: Why do you think Truth or Dare continues to resonate with audiences today?

Kevin Stea: As put-on as people thought it was back in the day, it’s actually full of honesty. I think honesty is timeless. And courage is timeless. And being fearless and being able to show one’s self in situations that aren’t necessarily flattering, I think, those are things that everyone can relate to.

Truth or Dare also showed gay people as human and relatable and doing normal things like shopping and chatting and being catty and being funny and laughing and loving and eating—things people needed to see back then. It actually changed the landscape of gay-straight relationships back in the day. And I think that has become even more apparent now.

Reijer Zwaan: [Director] Alek Keshishian has done a great job of intermixing the backstage footage with the amazing Blond Ambition tour,



Kevin Stea.

Photo by Djeneba Aduayom

which was in itself, a theatrical kind of story. Truth or Dare tells the story of a family—a self-chosen family—which is something everyone can relate to. We’re living in different times, but it is still a bold film that is very honest in a way that celebrity culture doesn’t know any more.

WCT: Madonna was one of the first to bring LGBT issues and culture to the mainstream. Kevin, looking back, were you surprised that she turned out to be such a trailblazer?

KS: I was absolutely floored. I had no idea that she had anything to say other than being sort of sexually scandalous. I didn’t know enough about her to know that she was incredibly smart and very clever and knew exactly what she was doing and the messages that she was portraying. I had no idea. ... I thought she was just doing things for shock value. Her longevity has shown that she has a lot to say. It’s not a fluke, it’s not guesswork—she’s doing things on purpose.

WCT: Why was the decision made to film the dancers individually at the beginning of the Strike a Pose project, and then as a

group toward the end of the process?

RZ: We wanted them to share their life stories with us first, individually, because things change when you see each other again. The fact that they hadn’t seen each other in 25 years is, of course, on many levels interesting. As a filmmaker, that means there is something new to be done by bringing them back together. I find it fascinating that this group that became a family and talk about Madonna as a mother figure fell apart after filming Truth or Dare.

KS: The idea of not knowing what the others were saying was actually really fascinating because we hadn’t spoken in so long. I wouldn’t have known where to begin to anticipate what they would say. It could have gone any number of ways. ... We didn’t know if there was going to be anger or animosity when we came together. We hadn’t been together since the premiere

of Truth or Dare—1991. It was a real reunion, it wasn’t a put-on reunion. I hadn’t seen Jose since that day in 1991. Period. Hadn’t spoken a word. Nothing.

WCT: Reijer, despite an earlier decision not to focus on Madonna, you eventually reached out to her via letter with a request—what was it?

RZ: Esther and I knew that you can’t have Madonna in a film just a little bit. When she is there, of course, she takes over and I don’t mean it in a negative way; it’s just what happens with someone that famous. We weren’t looking for an interview with Madonna. At the time we finished filming, she was about to go out on tour so we reached out to her with a proposal—we thought wouldn’t it be great to have the original group of voguers, the guys who actually taught Madonna how to vogue, back on stage with her 25 years after the fact to perform Vogue one more time? We set the bar quite high. [Laughs]

To keep a long story short, we didn’t get a reply. We have been in contact with her management and her lawyers because we had to clear the footage of Truth or Dare so, in a way, we know that Madonna has probably seen the film, too, but we don’t know what she thinks about it. For some reason, I always think she would like it because it’s about a group of people that she was very close to and their stories are touching and relevant and very human.

WCT: Kevin, what do you want people to know about the lawsuit you filed against Madonna and her management team?

KS: The press is always looking for a headline; they’re always looking for a way to sensationalize something and the lawsuit was just, literally, a contractual issue for me and Oliver. My contact said that for a movie I get paid X amount of dollars. There is nothing gray about that—it is a very clear clause. And now, only this year, am I realizing that she might not have even known why I was suing.

Besides my agency reaching out to her lawyers, I wrote her a letter. And I read the letter back and it was a very emotional letter, but it had nothing to do with the nuts and bolts [of the lawsuit]. I was 20 years old, I didn’t know how to speak to a businesswoman—I was speaking from my heart: “Why aren’t your lawyers responding to my agency?”—that’s all I asked. And, I was like, I love you and miss you and I want to see you again.

WCT: You and Oliver were suing for monetary compensation, but Gabriel’s suit was related to something else entirely.

KS: Gabriel was told that anything he didn’t

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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.

Gay-bar literary submissions wanted

Story curators/collectors S. Renee Bess and Lee Lynch are asking writings 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 origi-

nal 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.

Troye Sivan in Chicago Nov. 1

The “Suburbia Tour”—the second North American leg of openly gay YouTube star/singer Troye Sivan’s world tour in support of his debut album, Blue Neighbourhood—will kick off Sunday, Oct. 16.

Sivan’s first-ever North American tour kicked off in February. He will perform at Chicago’s Aragon Ballroom on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

“Youth,” from Blue Neighbourhood (Capitol Records), topped Billboard’s Dance Club Songs chart and entered the top 25 of Billboard’s Hot 100.

RIVERA from page 30

actions, and then, when they threw us a piece of trash, we refused to accept it. How dare you question the validity of a transgender group asking for your support, when this transgender woman was murdered? No. The trans community has allowed, we have allowed the gay and lesbian community to speak for us. Times are changing. Our armies are rising and we are getting stronger. And when we come a knocking they're going to know that you don't fuck with the transgender community."

Rivera's legacy

Dr. Beth Kelly, Ph.D. is a professor of women's and gender studies at DePaul University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Hungry for any education about LGBT issues



Judy Bowen.

Photo courtesy of The Legacy Project

since she came out as a teenager during the pre-Stonewall years, Kelly has been teaching courses in LGBT politics and legal issues for nearly two decades.

"Sylvia was a woman who was both of and ahead of her time," Kelly said. "She was angry in 1969 and she was still angry and still an activist almost up to the moment that she died. Many people were challenged by Sylvia in ways that they did not want to be challenged but she didn't back down. She was in poverty, she was a trans woman of color and her criticism of GAA back in the '70s was very contemporary today. She exemplified intersectionality long before feminists were talking about it."

"Clearly one cannot be queer with any serious grasp of our history without knowing at least something about Sylvia Rivera," Legacy Project founder and Executive Director Victor Salvo noted. "That Rivera was chosen by the [Legacy Project] Selection Committee is not a surprise, given the number of historians and academics involved. Though there is a lot of mythology about her within the community, academics and researchers have identified the hallmarks of her true legacy. Personally I was struck most by how she refused to be patronized, refused to be silenced, and was not afraid to take mainstream activists to task when they failed to consider the trans community in their political calculus."

"Rivera would have none of this," he added. "She struck out—without regard as to who got pissed off—and did what she felt she needed to do. It was not always eloquent. It was often uncomfortable. It was always confrontational. But she got heard. And she made an impression."

It is an impression that resounds today in the groundbreaking work of the New York-based Sylvia Rivera Law Project and among Kelly's students.

"A lot of our students are absolutely fascinated with discrimination against trans people in

general," Kelly said. "The students who take my classes know about Sylvia and Marsha (another individual who has yet to get her full recognition). Many of them are challenging gender issues in ways that Sylvia probably could never have imagined. A lot of them reject all labels. I see hope for the future. The murders of trans women are being talked about on the news—not enough, not always well—but it makes a huge difference between growing up in the iron curtain of silence in the '50s and '60s and today growing up with television shows like *Modern Family*."

Raia hopes that the generations who see Rivera's plaque on The Legacy Walk are inspired by a woman "who was being who she is. We can't judge other people for who they are. By allowing them to be, we'll all be better off. We'll all learn. Sylvia was continually open to other people. Whether she agreed or disagreed, she would hear them out. We all depend on each other for survival but we will never do that if we put up walls and obstacles."

"Sylvia and Marsha gave us all hope," Bowen said. "From the very beginning I saw something in Sylvia that was very special. Even though she grew up living on the streets she still thought about other people, especially young people. If our society does not help them, they will not survive."

"She learned her sense of social justice from the perspective of someone who had to endure so much injustice in her lifetime," Salvo said. "It made her sensitive and empathetic. It made her tough. It made her smart. She learned how to fight. But she also learned how to collaborate. She learned how to talk. And she learned how to listen. She endured for over 50 years as an activist because she was able to be both uncompromising when that was needed, and to work in coalition. It is because of her that we began to remember the 'T'. I think that is amazing. We all owe Sylvia Rivera a debt. Because it is only by remembering the most vulnerable among us that we can build a new social reality that is safer and more just for everybody."

Sponsorship of The Legacy Project's 5th Dedication Ceremony Oct. 15, featuring Salvo, Raia, Bowen and celebrated Chicago transgender activist Myles Brady-Davis has been provided by BMO Harris Bank, the Center on Halsted, Levi Strauss, the Northalsted Business Alliance, Sidetrack, and Stoli Group USA. The media sponsor is Windy City Times. Rivera's plaque sponsor is Stoli Group USA (the second of a three-plaque commitment that began with Ugandan activist David Kato in 2014).

For more information and tickets for the events, which start at 1 p.m., visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/legacy-walk-dedication-v-tickets-27530936773>.

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 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.

Joffrey starts Eatherly memorial scholarship

The partner of the late dance publicist Eric Eatherly, Jay Leibovitz, has joined Eatherly's mother Nancy Follis to launch a new scholarship for pre-professional male dancers at the Joffrey Academy of Dance, Official School of The Joffrey Ballet.

Eatherly—who was a publicist (vice president with The Silverman Group), writer (including with Windy City Times) and dancer—died in a car accident in his native Tennessee on Dec. 29, 2014, at age 35.

Donations to the Eric B. Eatherly Memorial Scholarship Fund will support the tuition for a male student on a professional track at the Academy of Dance, to be selected by Joffrey Ballet Artistic Director Ashley Wheeler, with a new recipient to be named annually.

Contributions are fully tax-deductible, as



Eric Eatherly.

PR photo

The Joffrey Ballet is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information or to contribute to the Eric B. Eatherly Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Joffrey Academy of Dance, visit joffrey.org/support and include "Eric B. Eatherly Memorial Scholarship Fund" in the 'Notes' field.

Other options include calling 312-386-8974; or mailing a check to The Joffrey Ballet, 10 E. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601, Attn: Development Department. Check should be made out to The Joffrey Ballet and note Eric B. Eatherly Memorial Scholarship Fund on the memo line.

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>.

'Big Orange Ball' returns Oct. 22

Howard Brown Health invites costume-clad Chicagoans back to its second annual spooktacular Halloween soiree, the "Big Orange Ball," which will take place at West Loop restaurant and event space Carnivale, 702 W. Fulton Market, on Saturday, Oct. 22, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Celebrity guest Bob The Drag Queen (winner of RuPaul's Drag Race's eighth season) will be joining the business, civic and community leaders at this year's ball.

Funds raised support Howard Brown Health's vital medical care and community initiatives for adults and youth.

Admission is \$125 (early bird), \$150 (general admission), \$175 (at the door) and \$300 ("RIP" admission) per person. Call 773-572-5117, email events@howardbrown.org or visit <http://howardbrown.org/event/bob2016/>.

Remastered 'Divine Miss M' out Oct. 21

Rhino will revisit the early days of Bette Midler's career with a deluxe version of her iconic 1972 debut album, *The Divine Miss M*.

The *Divine Miss M: Deluxe Edition* will be available Friday, Oct. 21, as a two-CD set for \$19.98. This includes the remastered album, plus a bonus disc of singles, outtakes and demos, as well as new liner notes written by Midler.

The album will also be released digitally on the same day and is currently available for pre-order via Amazon at <http://smarturl.it/BMDivineMissM>.

Fans are also invited to preview the rare track "Do You Want To Dance—Single Mix" by visiting <https://youtu.be/oLwqP3z31Fk>.

Midler will also make appear this fall as a mentor for Team Blake on Season 11 of NBC's series *The Voice*.

'Jai Ho(rror)' Oct. 28 at Big Chicks

Trikone Chicago is hosting its annual Bollywood-themed Halloween dance party, "Jai Ho(rror)," on Friday, Oct. 28, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., at Big Chicks, 5024 N. Sheridan Rd.

This event, which features South Asian dance music and performances, is open to all; attendees are encouraged to invite friends and family. The venue will have all-gender restrooms and nametags for pronouns.

A suggested \$5 donation will go toward helping TriKone Chicago raise funds to support programs for the South Asian LGBTQI community in Chicago.

See TriKoneChicago.org.

BREAST CANCER MONTH

Cathy Seabaugh: Offering hope in the fight against breast cancer

BY MATT SIMONETTE

In June 2016, Cathy Seabaugh's sister, Shelia Hager, passed away after spending many years battling breast cancer.

Hager was first diagnosed in 1999. She inspired her sister to form her own organization, A Sister's Hope, to raise money for breast cancer research and awareness through events such as walks, runs and golf tournaments.

"Friends who worked for other charities asked why I just didn't raise money for other charities," Seabaugh recalled. "I felt I was putting my name and reputation on the line by asking people to donate. My reputation is attached

about your disease. ...A lot of women might not be able to get information beneficial to them. I don't say that to put down any doctors—it's just every doctor doesn't know everything about every breast cancer. It's impossible. There needs to be a way for women to find out about their breast cancer and how it's being treated, whether it's around the world or their state."

A Sister's Hope has a larger footprint in the Netherlands than it does in America. "We've given researchers more than \$6 million over the last nine years," Seabaugh explained, noting that about \$200,000 was raised in the U.S. while the rest was in Netherlands. "But Dutch

They first met with Dutch researchers to determine whether there was an actual need for the fundraising. "They get about 25 percent of the funding they need from governmental sources, and are looking elsewhere for the rest of their funding," she said. "From that point in 2006, we got busy putting together the first 60K walk, the two-day walk, in the Netherlands."

The projects have been in service of filling a "definite void" in the Netherlands, especially contributing to research that was in its early stages. "The funding here usually goes to research that has reached a certain stage of development," Seabaugh noted. "As the researchers explained to me, 'How are we supposed to fund our research to get it to that level?' A Sister's Hope really filled that void."

The U.S. arm of A Sister's Hope has no paid staff or office, so 100 percent of its contributions go to research. Overhead there is underwritten by a lesbian-owned company, A&N Mortgage Services. In the Netherlands, A Sister's Hope averages over 75 percent of proceeds going to research; it has two paid staffers there.

"That's another reason I started my own

organization," said Seabaugh. "I don't agree with how a lot of charities are run."

She wants to work on holding more events in rural areas, she added. "The more people you can get involved, the more money can be raised. ... Other people have started having events in small towns benefitting A Sister's Hope and that accomplishes the same goal."

Since her sister's death, Seabaugh plans "on doing thing the way I want them done," she said. "I'm going to be a little more outspoken about other charities pissing away money and less worried about being politically correct."

She is also in the early planning stages for a new Chicago event.

"I want to get people physically and mentally active in the battle against breast cancer, and in doing so, they personally become healthier and stronger," Seabaugh said. "A Sister's Hope events can be a trampoline or a diving board, some form of launch for people to push themselves in new directions, all while raising vital funding for breast cancer research. A cure will arrive too late for my sister, but I am continuing in the hopes I can help save others."

For information, visit ASistersHope.org.



Cathy Seabaugh.
Photo courtesy of Seabaugh

to that, and if I can't tell people and companies that donated exactly where and when that money [was disbursed], I don't feel comfortable."

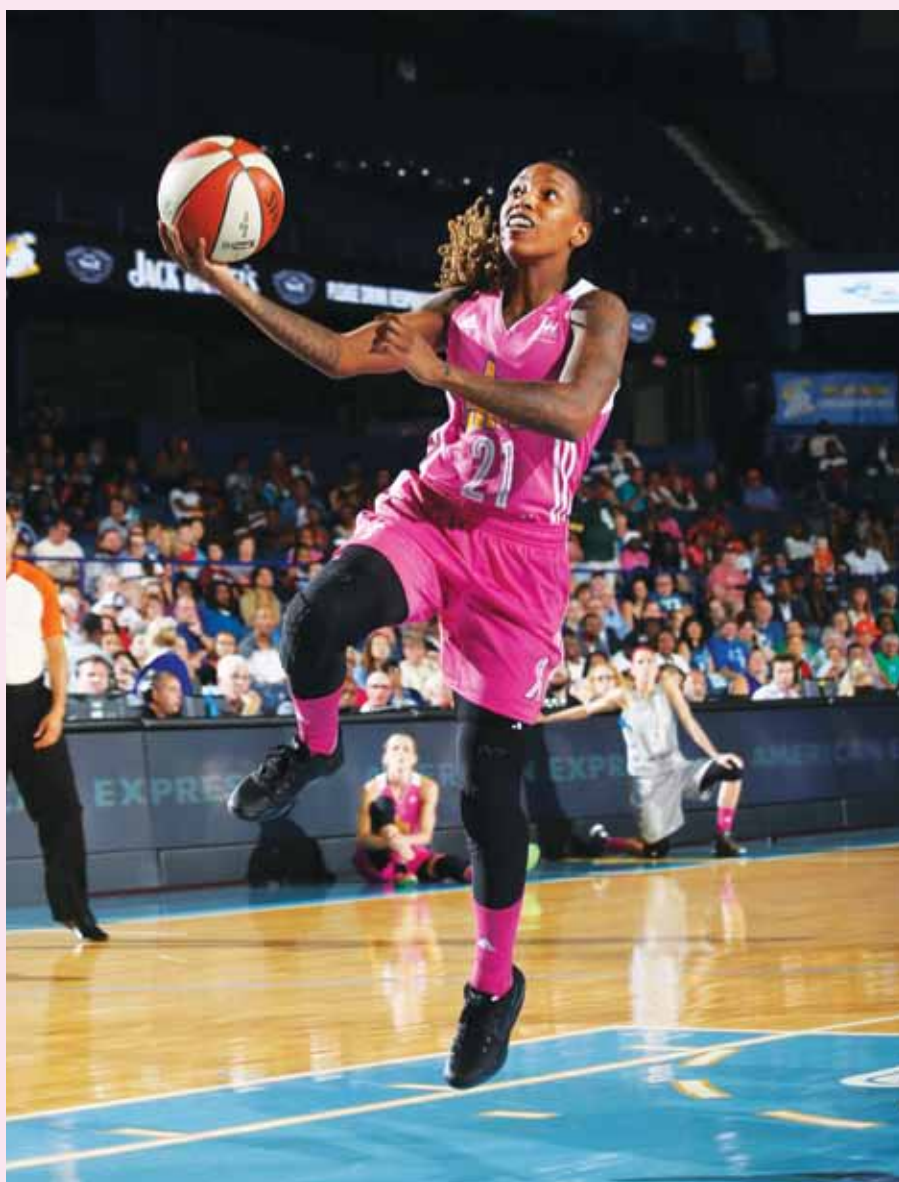
She describes the organization as a "lean, mean machine" with a small staff. "We don't waste money and we don't waste time. People who have breast cancer don't have time," she added.

Seabaugh said that, when women are diagnosed with breast cancer, it remains difficult for them to know what treatments or clinical trials are available to them. "Everyone wants to believe that their doctor is the best doctor," she added. "When you are going to someone and you have a good feeling about them, you want to believe that they know everything

researchers work closely with U.S. researchers, as well as German researchers, so when you're talking about scientific research to find a cure for cancer, if you are just going to be working with people in the U.S., you're narrowing your chance of success."

It was "just kind of fate" that led to A Sister's Hope's close connection with the Netherlands, she added. Just as Seabaugh was getting the organization established as a nonprofit in 2006, Seabaugh, a key staffer on Chicago's Gay Games VII organization that year, met a Gay Games participant from the Netherlands, Martje Hoekmeijer, who organized special events.

"She said, 'We don't have stuff like that in the Netherlands.'" I said, 'Really?'" recalled Seabaugh.



Jamierra Faulkner of the Chicago Sky in the #GETPINK game.
Photo by Gary Dineen/NBAE via Getty Images

Chicago Sky host #GETPINK game

On Sept. 13, the Chicago Sky hosted its annual #GETPINK Game presented by Weiss Memorial Hospital when the team welcomed the Minnesota Lynx to Allstate Arena.

As part of the Sky's #GETPINK campaign, players hosted a bake sale at the #GETPINK Game with homemade goods as part of fundraising efforts that benefited Gilda's Club Chicago.

The game between Chicago and Minnesota featured players in pink uniforms, shoes and accessories. During the game, fans cast bids on select player jerseys, dining and lodging experiences, Sky apparel and other Chicago sports teams memorabilia in a silent auction. In addition, player jerseys were featured in a post-game live auction.

The Sky won the game 98-97 and made the playoffs. However, the Sky recently came up short against the L.A. Sparks, who defeated Chicago 95-75 to win the series three games to one and advance to the WNBA finals. The Sparks are playing the Minnesota Lynx for the championship.

A new kind of business in an old space: Z-axis opens in Pilsen

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Within the walls of an old macaroni factory in Pilsen, Nuha Nazy and her partner, Emilia Rogowska, are looking to combine manufacturing and art in their soon-to-open business, Z-axis Factory. Described by the partners as “artistic cowering,” Z-axis looks to be a full-service space with everything from a 3-D printer, CNC woodcutting machine, and welding room, to a conference suite and a shipping area.

“From having a receptionist at all hours that we’re open, to having a production staff, our approach to every aspect is built around what you need to do to succeed as an artist, as a maker?” said Nazy.

Prior to starting Z-axis, Nazy had a company that custom-designed 3-D products for people with medical needs. She wanted to stay with 3-D printing, but needed the expensive equipment to be useful beyond a purely manufacturing standpoint.

“My approach was to focus on the engineers and the tech world, and Emilia’s the one who said, ‘you know, all the equipment you’re talking about would be phenomenal for an artist,’” said Nazy. “She really brought the whole concept of focusing on the art community.”

It made perfect sense,” continued Rogowska, who makes stained glass in her spare time. “We have all this really hi-tech equipment that doesn’t really get used as often. So how do you justify the cost of a machine like this? When you can use it for other things, then you can actually get the best of it. I’ve always made art, but I’ve never been an artist that is only just painting. I’ve done a lot in a lot of different things because I get bored with one thing. How do I justify buying a \$20,000 machine?”

Other aspects of Z-axis’s service will help cover the cost of equipment, as will the selling of memberships and day passes to use the

space.

“Most artists that I’ve talked to, they’re not business people, right?” Rogowska said. “We can market their things, we have a website where we can put their things on there. We’re creating an ability for them to run their own business. They’re the creative one; we’ll make sure that they actually succeed at it.”

The pair look forward to seeing the space’s members learn from each other and perhaps use each other’s skills in their respective businesses, a philosophy that is unusual in both coworking and maker spaces to date. They plan to promote member services internally and to the outside world, including an Etsy store for custom products. Smaller scale passion products, such as Nazy’s plan to custom-design shoes for her friend, crip artist Riva Lehrer, are what keep the women invested in the space.

“This is the stuff that actually drives our interest in the business,” said Nazy, who found in her previous venture that insurance companies are behind the curve when it comes to financing 3-D printed medical materials.

With its unique blend of art and commerce, the Lacuna Lofts, at 2150 S. Canalport, is an ideal space for Z-axis. In fact, Nazy said developer Joey Cacciatore was looking for just this sort of business when they stumbled upon the building, which is absolutely covered in artwork, inside and out.

“Their entire mission is the art community. It’s 250,000 square feet and it’s all lofts. You walk around and you’re like, ‘that’s a skateboard light fixture,’” said Nazy.

“You’re actually in the space where art happens,” added Rogowska.

While they’d originally envisioned a fairly neutral space, Cacciatore convinced them to let designer Davide Nanni of Salvage One fame make their space “look cool,” like the rest of Lacuna’s interior. So far, the Z-axis space is almost all reclaimed products such as old shower

doors and pallets. These barriers help divide the space into smaller, material-specific areas.

As immigrants, Nazy from Jordan and Rogowska from Poland, the couple value the idea of small business. “I love being a small business owner,” said Nazy. “The reason immigrants come to the U.S. is having that ability to determine your own future, and a lot of that is being a small business owner.”

Nazy and Rogowska look forward to giving back to the community. They plan on making both their space and equipment as ADA compliant as possible, and they’d love to start train-

arts events like Second Friday, the pair want to have a weekly happy hour and monthly open house. And even though Z-axis is set to launch this month with a grand opening party, they already see the space expanding in accordance with their members’ needs.

“We’re spending about 65 percent of our equipment budget with the expectation that members will ask us for the other 35 percent, and it will be tailored to what they actually want, rather than what we imagine they want,” explained Nazy. “I think we’ve got a good mix of services and support and it’ll evolve. Some-



Left: Emilia Rogowska. Right: Nuha Nazy. Photos from, respectively, Rogowska and Nazy

ing at-risk and homeless LGBTQ teenagers and adults to use their equipment.

“The idea is to come up with ways for growth in our own community,” said Nazy. “To work with SHE100, Center on Halsted, others in the community to develop programs that train at risk, homeless—people that are struggling, give them some sort of an outlet to gain experience to take on jobs that are more substantial.”

“Even people that have their day job but are trying to work on something else, or make extra money, or start their own business,” added Rogowska.

To connect with the Pilsen community, which already has a strong tradition of community

one’s going to say, ‘oh we need something else,’ and we’ll adjust to that.”

“Every time you’re starting something, you kind of have an idea of what it’s going to be,” said Rogowska. “It’s like you’re watching a plant: you know what’s supposed to come out, but how fruitful and how large it’s going to become, you really don’t have a clue. There’s so many things I saw in my head, and now that I’m seeing it actually come up I was like, ‘oh my god, this is so much better.’”

The Z-axis grand opening party is Sat., Oct. 22, 7-11 p.m. For more information, visit ZAxisFactory.com.

Feminist nun Quinn book event Oct. 23

Catholic nun, feminist, activist and author Donna Quinn will be featured in a lecture, live interview and book-signing on Sunday, Oct. 23, 2-4:30 p.m. at The Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center, 513 W. Fullerton Pkwy.

Maureen Hellwig, a Chicago Area Women’s History Center board member, will conduct the interview with Quinn.

Quinn’s memoir, *Chicago Catholic Women: It’s Role in Founding the Catholic Women’s Movement*, was published earlier this year. The Chicago Women’s History Center videotaped an interview with Sister Donna shortly after publication; excerpts will be shown at this program.

RSVP at 773-227-0093; more information is at CAWHC.org and “Chicago Area Women’s History Center” on Facebook.

Married authors at W&CF on Nov. 3

On Thursday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St., Flannery O’Connor Award winner and LGBT author Anne Raeff (*The Jungle Around Us*) will have a reading/conversation with her wife, LGBT

award-winning author Lori Ostlund, who is releasing the paperback edition of her novel *After the Parade*.

Author Christine Sneed (*The Virginity of Famous Men*) will also read and host their conversation.

Raeff and Ostlund are the only married couple who have both won the Flannery O’Connor Award (with Ostlund winning it earlier for her story collection, *The Bigness of the World*). They’ve been together for almost 25 years.

See WomenAndChildrenFirst.com.

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.

When the city is your squad. 🌈
#ChicagoMarathon #justdoit Chicago



RETWEETS
28

LIKES
66

LGBT group motivates marathoners in style

The 39th Bank of America Chicago Marathon took place Oct. 9 with perfect running temperatures (in the 50s)—and more than 40,000 participants (from all 50 states and more than 100 countries) who ran and/or walked 26.2 miles.

More than 1 million spectators urged on the runners, with none probably more eye-catching than the members of Frontrunners/Frontwalkers, who entertained in Lake View.

Kenya’s men and women swept the podiums at the marathon, led by Abel Kirui and Florence Kiplagat.



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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR The Dearborn

BY ANDREW DAVIS

I'm going to predict that **The Dearborn** (145 N. Dearborn St.; TheDearbornTavern.com) will be around for years.

There are several reasons for this—including the cuisine, but I'll talk more about that later.

The airy, 8,000-square-foot restaurant (at the Loop's Block 37), which opened in June, has sisters Amy (an out lesbian) and Clodagh Lawless as its owners—and the siblings certainly know their stuff, having learned the business from brother Billy Lawless, who's behind everything from The Gage to Acanto to the buzzworthy Lake View spot Coda di Volpe. (Amy told WCT that it's been the sisters' goal for quite some time to open their own venture, calling it their "baby.")

And The Dearborn is already popular, thanks in part to its location, which is in the theater dis-



From The Dearborn.
Photos by Ed Negron

trict. The day WCT stopped by, it turned out that Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda had just left The Dearborn about 45 minutes earlier (and who knows who may stop by in the future?).

The location also lends itself to seeing some cool scenery (or people-watching). The front area is called The Picasso Room because it affords a view of the untitled sculpture in Daley Plaza. (It also pays homage to the "L" if you look at it from a different direction.) However, there are also The Tavern, The Lawless Room and a special-events area called The Rialto Room that pays homage to the now-demolished Rialto Theatre.

And then there's the cuisine. Among the highlights when WCT visited for lunch were the local



burrata, fig-and-avocado toast, and a BLT that is augmented with different items every day. (I had duck confit.) The desserts were almost beyond compare—especially the old-fashioned donut, which customers practically begged the owners to put on the weekday menu. (Other goodies range from king salmon to a bison burger—and I can't wait to hit brunch, which offers items including French toast and foie gras as well as duck confit and 62-degree eggs.)

"It's been so well-received at this location. It's just great," Clodagh said.

With everything it offers (food, location, service, etc.), I think The Dearborn will be well-received for quite some time.

Sidetrack announces 'Dragapalooza,' Oct. 26 and 27

Two nights, two stages, dozens of queens, sexy dancers, and burlesque entertainers will be taking over Sidetrack for a production like no other to benefit Equality Illinois. For over 20 years, Chicago's longest-running drag benefit, Night of 100 Drag Queens, has celebrated the campy, the beautiful, the avant-garde and the just plain "sickening" Chicago drag community. This year the festival, celebrating all things drag, introduces its new name: Night of 100: Dragapalooza.

The show will take place for two nights only: Wednesday, October 26 and Thursday, October 27.

Directed by Jeffrey Lynch and hosted by Dixie Lynn Cartwright and Trannika Rex, Dragapalooza features a who's who of Chicago drag, including Chicago's own RuPaul's Drag Race favorites Dida Ritz and Jade Sotomayor. There will be solo acts, group numbers and highly choreographed production numbers. Queens come to Dragapalooza from such renown shows as Squad Goals, Geek Haus, Trannika's Most Wanted, Bio Hazards, Crash Landing and Dixie Wins a Talent Show, to name a few. A

special VIP reception will allow you in early to grab the best seats in the house and enjoy the sexy men of The Naughty Little Cabaret.

Miller Lite is the presenting sponsor and additional sponsors include Bacardi, Absolut Citron, Jägermeister and Hendricks Gin. All funds raised from tickets to the show go directly to Equality Illinois.

VIP tickets are \$20 per person in advance or \$25 at the door. Doors open for the VIP reception at 7 p.m. General admission tickets are \$15 per person in advance and at the door. Doors open for general admission at 8 p.m. Tickets are also available online at www.sidetrackchicago.com.

Dragapalooza is a benefit for Equality Illinois to support the work the statewide organization does on behalf of LGBT Rights. Equality Illinois is the state's oldest and largest organization advocating for full equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender ("LGBT") people. www.equalityillinois.us.

—From press release

Paula Sinclaire
at 2015's
Night of 100
Drag Queens.
Photo by Kirk
Williamson



Nick Cearley and Lauren Molina of The Skivvies.
PR photo



The Skivvies at Uptown Underground, Oct. 17

"Undie-rock" comedy-pop duo The Skivvies are showing their stuff at Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway.

The Skivvies don't just strip down their musical arrangements, they literally strip down to their underwear to perform their distinctive mashups and eccentric originals for cello and ukulele, with touches of glockenspiel, melodica and a surprising array of under-used instruments. Award-winning Broadway singer/actors Lauren Molina (Marry Me a Little, Sweeney Todd, Rock of Ages) and Nick Cearley (All Shook Up) became YouTube sensations as The Skivvies, with living-room videos that displayed their powerful harmonies as well as their powerful abs. Those clips led to live shows that The Wall Street Journal remarked were, "Smart, sophisticated ... ingenious," and Out Magazine proclaims, "The Skiv-

vies have managed to carve out a niche that we never knew needed to exist: part Weird Al-parody and part sexy burlesque ... an unusual explosion of satire and sultry."

They will be joined by a cast of special guest stars who will strip down and rock out. Lauren Molina, currently starring in the Goodman's Wonderful Town will bring castmates Bri Sudia, Steven Strafford, and Jordan Brown. Other special guests include Hamilton's Joseph Morales, Ari Asfar, as well as Marya Grande, Meghan Murphy and Bethany Thomas.

The show takes off Monday, October 17, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25. See www.uptownunderground.com for more.

—From press release

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Fabitat: Homecoming



Wed., Oct. 12, 11 pm
Double Door's Door No. 3,
1551 N. Damen Ave.

Break out those ball gowns and the three piece suits! Live music from Natalie Alford. Performances by Curlene Ribbon, The Vixen, Nico, and hosted by the reigning homecoming queen, Lucy Stoolie.

Just Dickin' Around: Third Anniversary



Thu., Oct. 13, 8:30-11 p.m.
Hydrate,
3458 N. Halsted St.

Open mic sign-up at 8. Show begins at 8:30. Hosted by Scott Duff. Showcase guests include Krista Atkinson, Mike Barton, Adam Bindert, Marla Depew and Elyse Nylin. Donations accepted and split amongst showcase guests.

Drag Matinee: Alien Invasion!



Fri., Oct. 14, 10:30 p.m.
Berlin,
954 W. Belmont Ave.

Chicago's wildest weekly drag show. Hourly performances, lqqs and twirls by Kat Sass, Nico, Lucky Stiff, Aurora Gozmic and host Trannika Rex. No cover before 11 p.m. Out-of-this-world lqqs encouraged.

OTTER: Chopped/Cropped



Sat., Oct. 15, 9 p.m.
The Sofo Tap,
4923 N. Clark St.

Fall is Otter Season. Get chopped and chopped. Host Andrew Bowman and Moose the DJ will be looking sharp and ripping cutting beats all night long. The Public Barber is offering \$5 off haircuts with David.



"We can say 'I do' when you can too!"—**Kylie Minogue** and fiancé Joshua Sasse vow to not get married until gays in Australia also have the right. While I appreciate the sentiment, the last high-profile couple who said that was Brad and Angelina—and we all know how that turned out!

As we go to press, the **Trump/Clinton** debate is beginning without an opening handshake. How could you blame Hillary? She's probably worried Donald will reach for her pussy. Yes, that's where the presidential race has gone. And it's all because of **Nancy O'Dell**! Comments Trump made to **Billy Bush** on a hot mike way back in 2005 somehow went public. Regarding my dear O'Dell, he said, "I did try and fuck her. She was married. I moved on her very heavily. ... I moved on her like a bitch, but I couldn't get there and she was married. And all of a sudden I see her and she's got the big, phony tits. She's totally changed her look." All the while, Billy Bush is giggling like a schoolgirl—he's since been suspended by NBC. But a different Billy is laughing now because the time Trump saw a transformed O'Dell was at the 2004 Emmy Awards. And who was with Nancy that night? Your humble scribe, that's who. And the photos are on BillyMasters.com.

Getting back to that incriminating audio (made shortly after the Emmys), Trump sees actress **Arienne Zucker** and says to Bush, "Whoa! Whoa! I've got to use some Tic Tacs, just in case I start kissing her." If nothing else, this brought attention to Tic Tacs, a mint I think is as relevant as Certs with Retsyn! Trump followed up his Tic Tac comment with this: "I'm automatically attracted to beautiful [women]. I just start kissing them, it's like a magnet. And when you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything. Whatever you want. Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything." It sounds like Miss Universe got off easily. In fact, it sounds like Trump gets off easily, but that's another story.

But that's not the most shocking story of the week from a Republican. That honor must go to **Mike Yenni**, a lieutenant with the US Navy Reserves and Jefferson Parish President. Last week, it was revealed that the conservative Louisianan had been sexting a 17-year-old boy. Two years ago, when Yenni was mayor of the city of Kenner, he met the boy at a Catholic high school graduation lunch. Yenni then tracked the boy down to his place of employment—a mall food court!

The two spent some private time making out in the mall bathroom, where Yenni presented the boy with some designer underwear. Yenni then sent a text asking if the boy had worn the underwear—and asked to see a photo of him modeling them! Eventually, Yenni proposes a sexual encounter. Then he suggests a three-way with an older boy. The now-19-year-old boy claims that they never had sex. Even if they did, it would not have been illegal, since the age of consent is 17 in Louisiana. The boy told Yenni when they started texting that he was 17. Yenni's response? "I know the laws." Reports now claim that Yenni sexted with at least eight males on parish-funded phones. Under pressure from his constituents, he is encouraging a full investigation and is refusing to step down ... for now.

Time for yet another **Finding Prince Charming** update. In last week's episode, our former rentboy planned a masquerade ball and asked the suitors to design masks that reveal a secret that they've kept hidden. Oh, goodie, goodie—finally Robert's escorting past will come out. And maybe



Another Billy column means another Finding Prince Charming update.

the guys will gather round to watch the videos you've all seen on BillyMasters.com. Although Robert doesn't want the guys to have any secrets, it becomes clear that he's not gonna reveal a thing.

But, wait—we travel back in time to 1996. Yes, because it would have to be at least 20 years ago that well-travelled gays in their 30s and living in a thriving metropolis would consider it a BIG secret to reveal they are HIV-positive. Of course it's still a big deal, but it isn't the death sentence it was two decades ago. So Eric (the hairdresser living in LA) makes this big revelation to Robert (the hooker). Of course, Robert picks Eric for the one-on-one date because, if he doesn't, he'll look worse than he is ... if that's possible.

On that date, Robert shocks us by making a big revelation of his own. He can identify with Eric's struggle because—get ready for it—Robert cared for an uncle who died of AIDS in the '90s. My God, he's the next Mother Teresa—give him the Nobel Peace Prize right now! And, in case we didn't know it was no longer 2016, Robert kisses Eric's hand not once but twice. Yeah, after Eric just revealed he is HIV-positive, Robert's kissing him on the hand didn't feel awkward at all!

John Stamos recently made his debut on *Scream Queens*. He grabbed our attention with a slo-mo shower scene in the first episode. The following week, he was once again in the shower, but this time totally nude with mega-hot **Glen Powell**. "I felt used and I loved it," says Stamos. You'll love it too, when you see it on BillyMasters.com.

Pietro Boselli, who is known online as the world's hottest math teacher, recently took part in a photo shoot where he wasn't wearing a stitch of clothing. The pictorial (called "Ladies & Gents N °57") also featured some chick named Ymre Stiekema. But you'll definitely want to get to the bottom of Boselli on BillyMasters.com.

This leads perfectly into our "Ask Billy" question. Terry in Rhode Island asks, "I heard the paparazzi got shots of **Tom Brady** sunbathing in the nude. True? Do you have the photos?"

True and yes. I hasten to add that Tom attempted to employ a well-positioned towel. But it wasn't that well-positioned, as we found a photo that captures what we're calling a dick-slip! There's definitely nothing deflated about his assets, which you can see on BillyMasters.com.

When our winning hand features three asses, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Of course, you may need to use both hands when you're checking out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that always delivers at least five studs ... and sometimes an ace in the hole! If you have a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Trump takes down another Bush. Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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BLOND from page 32

want in the movie wouldn't be in the movie. And he was told that very clearly to his face and I was standing right there when it happened. He asked for that kiss with Salim to be taken out and she said no and that this will be the best lesson you'll ever learn in your life.

Now, I understand her stance. I understand how powerful her messages have been. I understand that leaving that kiss in the movie is amazing and that Gabriel would be proud of it now, and that it's changed people's lives—it's saved lives ... but at the cost of the well-being and emotions of my best friend.

WCT: Reijer, Gabriel's on-camera kiss with Salim and other private moments made famously public in Truth or Dare, a film (and tour) powered by the freedom of self-expression, is the paradox at the heart of

Strike a Pose.

RZ: Yes, definitely! The title of the film, *Strike a Pose*, gets a double meaning because *Strike a Pose* means to show yourself and be proud about it and dare to stand there, but at the same time it is about posing. And, maybe in that pose, you hide something of yourself as well and that is very much what our film is about. It's about the difference of the public message of expressing yourself and how hard it can be on a personal level to actually do that and to really not care. Don't we all care what people think of us? It can be hard to show that vulnerability.

Strike a Pose, part of the 2016 Chicago International Film Festival, screens Oct. 19, 22 and 23. Chicago native Carlton Wilborn is scheduled to appear on opening night. For more information, visit ChicagoFilmFestival.com/film/strike-a-pose/.

RAPP from page 29

any kinds of shifts in tone, it is key if the behavior is recognizable in some way where people do extreme things but you can feel the connection to the soul that's driving them. There's a consistency of emotional truth.

WCT: How does it compare to the experience of theater?

AR: I prefer theater overall but, if more film experiences could be something like this, it would be a little closer because theatre is so much more collaborative and so much more on the actor's back to carry the moment on a nightly basis. The way that the scenes played in this film was like that; like doing a play. Not every film is like that. I like going to see a fun, entertaining blockbuster but I don't know if I want to do them because it is a lot of standing in front of a fake screen. A lot of times it is a just a big machine.

WCT: And character and storylines take a backseat role to CGI. What do you think is

behind Hollywood's fear of real stories?

AR: It's this weird catch-22. If they invest more money in the film, they're going to invest more money in marketing to make it a success. If it's a small film, the studio system is not a great place for it because it's just going to get lost because they don't have enough at stake. So it's a weird, back-asswards way of doing it.

Back in the heyday of filmmaking in the '70s, studio films were being made intimately but the business wasn't set up in the same way so, if it was a smaller, mid-size budget film, they would still devote the resources to it. Today, it's as much as anything about economics and the fear of these huge corporations needing to have a profit. The place where the most interesting screen acting, wiring and directing is happening now is in television again. There's this huge renaissance so that, now, it's the kind of area where you can get into intimate story-telling with more vision, control and voice.

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COMMUNITY
CALENDAR

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>

Andersonville Arts Weekend preview at Andersonville Farmers Market Spotlight tent will host local artist Jeff Lassiter featuring his original paintings, drawings, and sculpture. Lassiter will also create and sell live caricature drawings of market-goers. The tent will be stocked with Arts Weekend brochures, maps, and artist information in preparation for the weekend. 3:00pm - 7:00pm Berwyn between Clark and Ashland <http://andersonville.org/artweekend>

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

Thursday, Oct. 13

Chicago Museum Week More institutions, admission deals, discounted admission, exclusive offers and special programs. Through Oct. 23 12:00pm Many locations in Chicago <http://chicagomuseumweek.com>

Personal Pac Awards luncheon with Gloria Steinem The writer and activist will be the keynote speaker. Ms. Steinem

PERSONAL CHOICE
Thursday, Oct. 13

Gloria Steinem will keynote
Personal PAC's annual
luncheon.

Photo by Brian Kinyon

spoke at Personal PAC's very first luncheon in 1994 and has been a supporter of the work that Personal PAC does in Illinois. Reception 11am Time:TBA Chicago Hilton and Towers 720 S Michigan Ave Chicago <http://www.personalpac.org>

aChurch4Me Senior Connection LGBT senior in the community gather for lunch each month to meet new people, offer support, and connect with social and service agencies as needed. 1:00pm aChurch4Me, 7366 N. Clark St., Chicago <http://www.meetup.com/gaychristians-194/events/234082501/?v=me2>

Writers Workshop Series with Nicole Hollander Second of two sessions in writing led by celebrated writer and

artist Nicole Hollander. 6:30pm Lincoln Belmont Branch Chicago Public Library, 1659 W Melrose St, Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/1122980567791926/>

Friday, Oct. 14

Andersonville Arts Weekend: Night of 100 pARTies Series of hosted events throughout the neighborhood celebrating collaboration of nearly 100 artists at over 30 Andersonville locations, meet and greets with featured artist(s). Food and beverage. Through Oct. 16. 6:00pm - 10:00pm Berwyn between Clark and Ashland <http://andersonville.org/arts-weekend>

Queer Genre Fiction Group: Ancillary Justice The only novel ever to win the Hugo, Nebula, and Arthur C. Clarke Awards and the first book in Ann Leckie's New York Times bestselling trilogy. On a remote, icy planet, a soldier is drawing closer to completing her quest. 7:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/1795932527357570/>

OPALGA Potluck Please bring a dish to share. 7:00pm - 10:00pm Contact organizer for location <https://www.facebook.com/events/1783639725243996/>

I Am Who I Am (The Story of Teddy Pendergrass) Written by Jackie Taylor. Directed by Daryl D. Brooks. Through Oct. 30, 2016 8:00pm Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center 4450 N. Clark St. Chicago

Sweetest Day with The Punany Poets Sweetest Day Celebration "Secret of the Pearl" for Women Who Love Women. Shed your inhibitions in Jessica Holter's signature Sex Education Theater Show 10:00pm Theater Wit 1229 W Belmont Ave. Chicago Tickets: <http://yhst-10752528492920.stores.yahoo.net/chilfrocl420.html>

Saturday, Oct. 15

World Premiere! Handbag Productions Presents Skooby Don't Artistic Director David Cerda lampoons a cartoon classic in the world premiere comedy. Through Nov. 4 7:30am - 7:30pm Mary's Attic 5400 N Clark Chicago 800-838-3006 <http://www.handbagproductions.org>

Cultivating Respect: Promoting Safe Schools for LGBTQ youth PFLAG Northern Illinois Council presents PFLAG Central Region Field Director Brooke Smith teaching proven strategies to improve school environments for LGBTQ. \$5 for paid members, \$10 everyone else. 8:30am - 4:00pm St. Paul Lutheran Church, 515 S. Wheaton Ave., Wheaton Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cultivating-respect-promoting-safe-schools-for-lgbt-students-tickets-26857541630?aff=es2>

Out of the Darkness Chicagoland Walk Help save lives and support those affected by suicide by participating in this year's walk Time:TBA Arvey Field in Grant Park 1501 S Lake Shore Dr Chicago Tickets: <https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=register.start&eventID=3778>

Legacy Walk Dedication - V Honoring transgender icon Sylvia Rivera from the Stonewall era, and gay film historian Vito Russo, who co-founded both Act-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) and GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation). Chicago's Legacy Walk is the world's only outdoor LGBT History Museum. 1:00pm - 6:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://> Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/legacy-walk-dedication-v-tickets-27530936773>

National Runaway Safeline annual fundraiser, "Spirit of Youth" November is National Runaway month. Festival with street flair includes cuisine from food trucks like Beaver Doughnuts, Fat Shallot, BabyCakes, Courageous Cup-

cakes, The Slide Ride and Yum Dum inside the festival hall, a wine and beer garden featuring Lagunitas Brewing Company, dancing with live entertainment from Kozmo's Underground, carnival games, silent and live auctions, 7:00pm - 10:00pm Navy Pier 600 E Grand Ave Chicago 773.289.1727 <http://www.1800RUNAWAY.org/about-us/events>

Monday, Oct. 17

Chicago Ideas Week More than 200 global thought leaders and innovators speaking on a variety of topics ranging from leadership and life's lessons, to science and technology, to the most pressing issues of the day and the most creative insights in entertainment. Through Oct. 23. 12:00pm Various locations <https://www.chicagoideas.com/chicago-ideas-week>

48th Annual Jeff Awards Equity ceremony Honoring excellence in Chicago theatre. The public is cordially invited. 4:00pm Drury Lane Oakbrook 100 Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 <http://www.jeffawards.org>

Tuesday, Oct. 18

Part 2 Before Stonewall: The LGBTQ Experience in the '50s and '60s Series Panel discussion by four members of the LGBTQ community on what it was like living in the '50s and '60s. Free 3:00pm - 5:00pm Lake View Presbyterian Church 716 W Addison St., 773-248-8700; www.lincolnparkvillage.org

Wed., Oct. 19

TransWorks Mentorship Program sessions begin Sessions will take place the third Wednesday of every month 6:30pm - 8:30pm Chicago House 1925 N Clybourn Ave Chicago <http://chicago-house.org>

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