

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 32, NO. 4 OCT. 19, 2016

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Jussie Smollett.
Photo by Amanda Demme/FOX



RULING THE 'EMPIRE'

Jussie Smollett discusses his hit show and upcoming movie

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OH, MIGHTY ISIS

Trans model struts her stuff on new show.
Photo courtesy of Oxygen

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Local social worker/educator dies at 54.
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North Side site closing, owns much history.
Photo by Owen Keehnen

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Ex-French justice minister Christiane Taubira talks equality, division.
Photo from the French consulate

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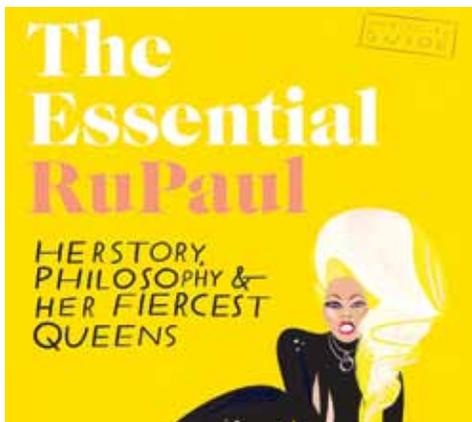


online exclusives at www.WindyCityTimes.com



SETH LIST
 Bent Nights profiles shows by Tim Cain and The Seth Bogart Show.
 Photo of Seth Bogart (left) by Vern Hester

BARE 'ESSENTIALS'



WCT reviews the book *The Essential RuPaul*.
 Photo courtesy of Stu Maddux

OZ AND EFFECT

The latest pieces involving LGBT History Month cover *The Wizard of Oz* and 1950s witch hunts that targeted gay men.

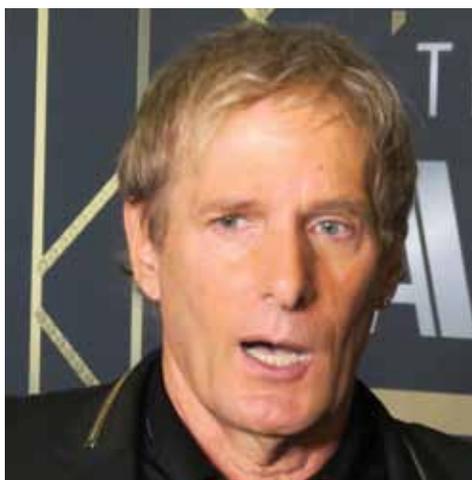
FIT TO PRINT

WCT checked out the fitness expo known as Club Industry, which experienced a big change this year.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Sade, Andy Cohen and *Law & Order: SVU*.

BOLTON FROM THE BLUE



Michael Bolton was one of the luminaries present at the Gateway for Cancer Research's 25th-annual Cures Gala.
 Photo by Jerry Nunn

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

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CDPH announces new fatal case of meningococcal disease

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), on Oct. 14, announced that there had been another fatal case of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) in the Chicago area.

The death took place in September, according to a CDPH alert that went to area health providers Sept. 29. The patient was part of the



Dr. Maya Green.
Photo by Matt Simonette

same serogroup that have caused nine other IMD cases in men who have sex with men (MSM) in the area since 2015. This is the second of the ten cases to be fatal.

In an Oct. 14 statement, Howard Brown Health officials called for all at-risk communities to be vaccinated. Those communities include women and men who live or work on the North, South, and West sides of Chicago and MSM who live or work in any Chicago area.

"It's important to know which areas are impacted by meningitis so we can focus on increasing awareness and prevention in these communities," said Dr. Maya Green, site medical director for Howard Brown Health 63rd Street. "In the past, we offered the same vaccine to all students on college campuses and had great success. This is proof that those of us living or working in at-risk communities should not get scared, we should get educated and get vaccinated."

IMD is a rare communicable bacterial disease that can cause meningitis. It can be spread through activities such as sharing drinks, cigarettes, smoking devices or marijuana, and also through kissing and sexual contact. Common symptoms are fever, headache and a stiff neck. Other accompanying symptoms include nausea, vomiting, increased sensitivity to light and confusion.

Howard Brown Health offers free vaccinations as part of primary care screenings at all its clinic locations. Additional vaccination locations can be found by calling 311 or visiting bit.ly/1Jr8C9M.

Municipal index out, rates nine Illinois cities

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, in partnership with the Equality Federation Institute, released its fifth annual Municipal Equality Index (MEI), assessing LGBTQ equality in 506 cities across the nation, including nine in Illinois.

The 2016 MEI—the only nationwide rating system of LGBTQ inclusion in municipal law and policy—shows that cities across the country, including in Illinois, continue to take the lead in supporting LGBTQ people and workers, even when states and the federal government have not.

The average score for cities in Illinois is 68 out of 100 points—above the national average of 55.

Illinois cities that were evaluated include Chicago (a perfect score of 100 points), Aurora (79), Joliet (78), Champaign (77), Springfield (65), Rockford (61), Naperville (42), Carbondale (47) and Peoria (67).

The MEI rated 506 cities: the 50 state capitals, the 200 largest cities in the United States, the five largest cities or municipalities in each state, the cities home to the state's two largest public universities (including undergraduate and graduate enrollment), 75 cities and municipalities that have high proportions of same-sex couples, and 98 cities selected by members and supporters of HRC and Equality Federation state organizations.

The full report is at HRC.org/MEI.

ALMA announces scholarship

The Association of Latino/as Motivating Action (ALMA) Chicago has announced its annual ALMA Young Latino Leaders for Creating Change Scholarship.

This scholarship was developed in order to provide financial assistance to outstanding Illinois Latino LGBTQ youth leaders and youth allies to attend the annual Creating Change Conference. With ALMA, Comcast and other donors sponsoring, two young leaders will be awarded a scholarship to attend the Creating Change 2017 conference in Philadelphia, and the event also includes the Union Equals Fuerza: Latino Institute.

The application submission deadline is Wed., Nov. 30; award recipients will be notified by Wed., Dec. 7. Creating Change will be Jan. 18-22, 2017.

Applicants must be 18-25; must be residents of Illinois; have demonstrated previous LGBTQ-related activism/advocacy; show that Creating Change participation will not disrupt work or school; and must be willing and able to commit to one year service on ALMA's Youth Advisory Board (January-December 2017) for approximately five to 10 hours/month.

See ALMAChicago.org and CreatingChange.org.

Relationships & the Law Today

BY JILLIAN B. SOMMERS



Protecting Your Interest in Shared Assets after *Blumenthal v. Brewer*

The Illinois Supreme Court recently held in *Blumenthal v. Brewer*, 2016 IL 118781, that couples who are not married to each other have no right to maintenance after ending the relationship, even if the couple has been together for decades and rely on one another financially.

Specifically, in 1981, Jane Blumenthal, then a medical student, and Eileen Brewer, then a law student, bought a home together and committed themselves to each other as domestic partners. Together they had three cross-adopted children, all of whom had the same last names, and both invested money into Blumenthal's private medical practice. Brewer cared for the couple's children, and later became a judge, while Blumenthal worked as a successful physician at her medical practice. Given Brewer's time spent raising the couple's children while Blumenthal worked to support the family and expand her medical practice, Blumenthal was significantly wealthier than Brewer by the time the couple decided to end their relationship in 2008.

When the relationship ended, Blumenthal left the family home, and Brewer assumed all obligations therefor. However, Blumenthal sued Brewer for partition of the home, and Brewer asserted counterclaims for the home and other forms of spousal support, including a portion of Blumenthal's earnings and a share in her medical practice, arguing that assets earned during the relationship should be divided equally between the two parties. Blumenthal moved to dismiss each of Brewer's counterclaims based on a prior Illinois Supreme Court holding, *Hewitt v. Hewitt*, 77 Ill. 2d 49 (1979).

In *Hewitt*, the Illinois Supreme Court determined that an unmarried heterosexual couple that had been living a conventional family life together for over 15 years, but had never married, had no rights to one another's property attained throughout the course of the relationship. The court reasoned that "it is [not] appropriate for this court to grant legal status to a private arrangement substituting for the institution of marriage sanctioned by the State." Based upon *Hewitt*, the trial court in *Blumenthal* determined that because the couple was not married, Brewer had no right to Blumenthal's property earned throughout the relationship.

On appeal, the Illinois Appellate Court overruled the trial court, holding that the court was "no longer justified" in relying on *Hewitt*, given that public policy in Illinois had changed with regard to non-marital cohabitation and non-marital children. However, Blumenthal appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court,

which reversed the Illinois Appellate Court's holding based upon the Illinois Legislature's intent. The court provided that:

"While the United States Supreme Court has made clear that 'the Constitution ... does not permit the State to bar same-sex couples from marriage on the same terms accorded to couples of the opposite sex' (*Obergefell v. Hodges*, 135 S. Ct. at 2607), nothing in that holding can fairly be construed as requiring states to confer on non-married, same-sex couples common law rights or remedies not shared by similarly situated non-married couples of the opposite sex. Legislatures may, of course, decide that matters of public policy do warrant special consideration for non-married, same-sex couples under certain circumstances, notwithstanding the fact that the institution of marriage is available to all couples equally. What is important for the purposes of this discussion is that the balancing of the relevant public policy considerations is for the legislature, not the courts. Indeed, now that the centrality of the marriage has been recognized as a fundamental right for all, it is perhaps more imperative than before that we leave it to the legislative branch to determine whether and under what circumstances a change in the public policy governing the rights of parties in non-marital relationships is necessary."

Accordingly, the Illinois Supreme Court held that Brewer could not assert her counterclaims against Blumenthal, as she had no interest in Blumenthal's assets.

The *Blumenthal* holding suggests that same-sex couples who are in long-term relationships and share residences or other financial assets should consider marriage or entering into a civil union, or executing either pre-nuptial or post-nuptial agreements, to protect the equitable distribution of those assets earned throughout the duration of their relationship.

If no actions are taken and a couple does not marry or enter into a civil union, those individuals, under current Illinois law, will be unable to assert an interest in their significant other's property, regardless of the length of the relationship or the couple's financial arrangements.

If you are interested in learning more about how to protect you and/or your significant other's property rights, please contact any of Clark Hill's experienced attorneys.

Jillian B. Sommers is an Associate in the Litigation Practice Group Clark Hill PLC. Jillian helps individuals, families, and closely held business plan for and resolve complex business decisions and transfers of wealth.



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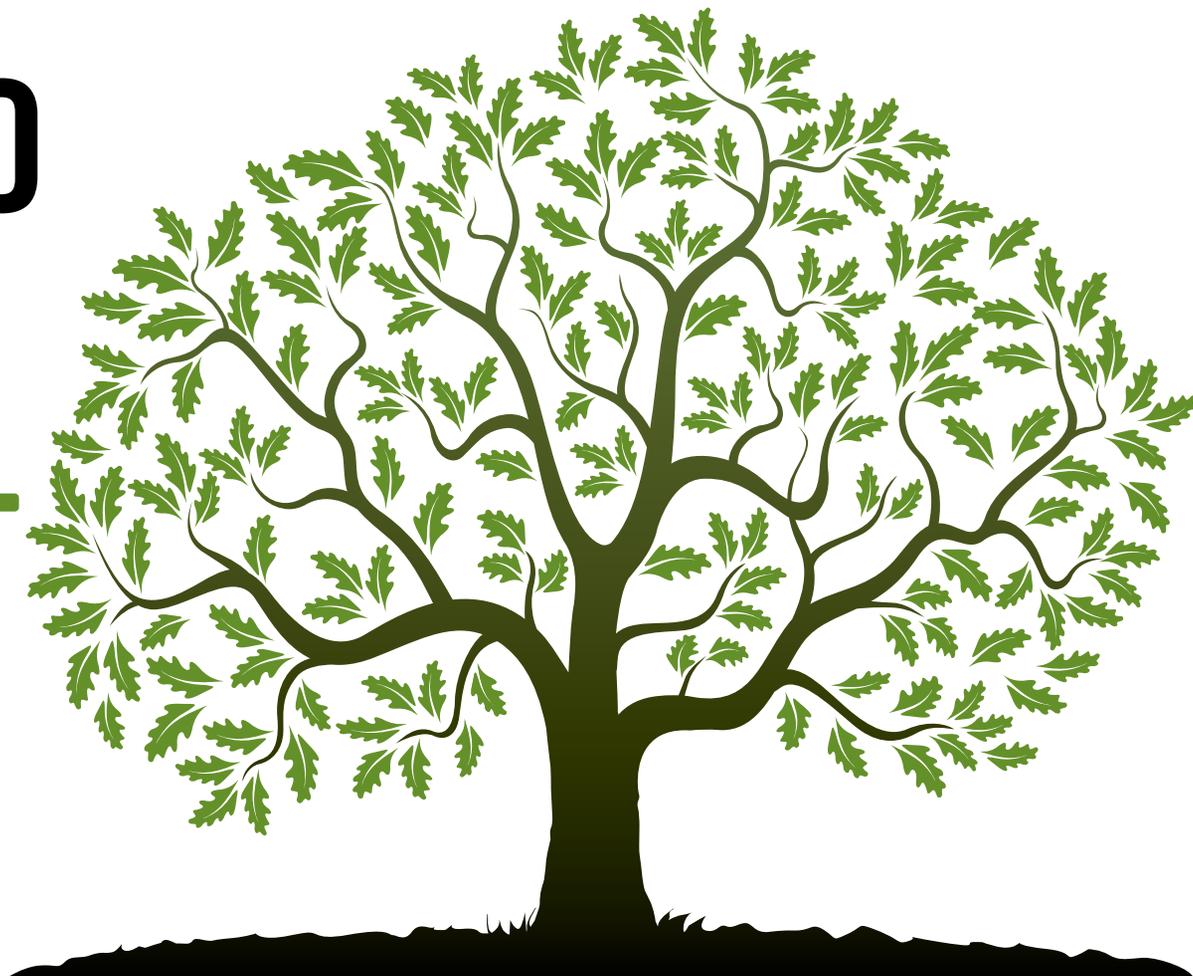
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PROGRAM AGENDA

9:00 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Welcome

Patti Capouch, CEO of TPAN

10:00 a.m. How to Age Successfully with HIV

Presented by Nelson Vergel

11:15 a.m. HIV and Aging

A presentation discussing diabetes, cardiovascular issues, inflammation, excess VAT, and more. Presented by Dr. Magda Houlberg, Clinical Director, Howard Brown Health

12:15 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. Unique Issues Facing Long-Term Survivors

Presented by Jeff Berry, Editor, POSITIVELY AWARE magazine

1:30 p.m. Panel Discussion: Resilience, Resources, and Compassion

Moderated by Jeff Berry. Panel: Tom Hunter, MA, LCSW, Medical Case Management Supervisor, Senior Care Specialist Chicago House and Social Service Agency; Rae Lewis Thornton, Emmy Award-winning AIDS activist and author; Hugh Cole, LCSW, CADC, psychotherapist, Howard Brown Health

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Former French justice minister on equality, division

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Throughout one of the most unusual election campaigns in U.S. history, politicians and the media are singled out as chief among the causes of the country's woes both real and manufactured and Donald Trump, the political outsider, has been elevated by surrogates, supporters and his own ego.

It was during the penultimate month of nearly two years' worth of palpable turmoil and hatred that Former French Justice Minister Christiane Taubira arrived in America, principally to deliver an Oct. 11 lecture on Justice in the Service of Equality at the University of Chicago that was simultaneously broadcast to 10 schools across the Midwest.

The French Guiana-born economics teacher was the first Black woman to be nominated as a presidential candidate in France. Throughout her career, and despite often dehumanizing opposition from France's right wing, Taubira waged battles with as much poetic eloquence as tenacious ferocity.

Her subsequent victories yielded the 2001 Taubira Law recognizing the transatlantic and Indian Ocean slave trade as crimes against humanity while ensuring that French schools included that history in their curricula.

She also won the 2013 legalization of same-sex marriage in France and an equally unprecedented 2015 overhaul of the country's criminal justice system.

In the present national climate, it does not seem quite right that this author, mother and teacher should also have the job title of politician. Nor does she deserve to be tarred with it.

Instead of allowing her wave of successes to rush her further up the shores of political conquest, in January 2016 Taubira resigned her position as President François Hollande's Justice Minister because of her opposition to an amendment he proposed removing French citizenship from those engaging in acts of terrorism.

"Sometimes resisting means staying on; sometimes resisting means leaving," she wrote on her decision.

The proposal was eventually withdrawn, but the rise, in France, of the extreme right Front National and its leader Marine Le Pen remains an ominous threat to everything Taubira holds dear.

It was at the Chicago Commission on Human Relations office that Taubira sat down with Windy City Times and offered to share a croissant and her always candid thoughts on her life, career and the political climate engulfing both France and the United States—one which as she noted in her 2016 book, *Murmures a la Jeunesse* (Murmurs to Youth) "leaves the field open to indoctrination by puppeteers [who are] unscrupulous, flouting all honesty [and who] manage to fool helpless minds."

Windy City Times: Why did you want to get into politics?

Christiane Taubira: I had decided every four years to change my job in order to understand life. So I taught [economics] for four years, I was the manager of the [Caricoop] Agricultural Association [French Guiana] and then manager of the Technical Assistance [to Artisanal] Fishing. Throughout my professional life, I was very careful to make sure that everything was for everyone. I always fought, through so many hard times, for justice.

In 1993, I was working in the [Guiana] Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Office and I was not planning to run for election but people knew me due to my fights in my professional fields. So they organized and made

a petition. It was my first time running for an election. To me, [politics] is not a job, it is a kind of devotion. Every day, I work in order to help people to live better. I'm not saying I am some sort of savior. If I want to stop tomorrow morning, I will stop tomorrow morning.

WCT: Was this desire to help people always a part of you growing up?

CT: When I was a young girl, I used to give free lectures for children. I was only 10 and I was organizing lectures for the school and the girls and boys living on the same street. My mother helped so many people just naturally. Whatever she had, even if it was small, she would divide and give to others. I grew up this way. She used to say, "When you take care of others, God takes care of you." So it was natural for me even before politics.

WCT: You fought hard for same-sex marriage. What was it like trying to get that bill passed?

CT: I was not expecting such rough opposition before it became law. Before writing the bill, I was already sure that it was a question of freedom (freedom to choose the people you love, to make your life with [them], to have children), a question of equality for [LGBT] families to have the same rights as heterosexual families and a question of fraternity because it was a way to say "Different people are still people. They are still citizens. We are improving our collective way of life when we are able consider equality for everyone. We are all equal. We all have to go through prejudices."

I wanted to see why people might oppose the bill, so I consulted experts, organizations and associations. I also [researched] all the consequences of changing the French civil code: sociological, philosophical and what it meant to our collective state mind. The mass of opposition was surprising. But, for me, the question was, "Are you doing something right, just and good?" I knew the answer was yes. I took my time to explain it but those who can't stand rights for others didn't care.

WCT: Who was behind the opposition?

CT: Mainly Catholic people. They were more organized but they included Muslims and Jews. Usually they fight one another, but on this [issue] they were together. At the end of their protest march they would make speeches, one after the other, on the same stage. I thought, "Oh, I'm creating unity!"

WCT: What was behind your decision to resign?

CT: It was an ethical decision. I listened, I argued. Even in the book [Murmurs to Youth] I wondered if I was wrong or if I was making too much noise for something that wasn't so important. But I understood it to be very dangerous and not very efficient. The [bill] was designed to strip terrorists of their nationality but they kill themselves and others. They don't care about nationality. They are not binational. They are just beasts of a person. But we were creating two categories of citizens and putting that into the Constitution. I could not agree with that. I fight for equality. So many years not being at home with my children for equality. So many years being insulted for equality and to then just agree to put equality in the Constitution? No. It mattered to me.

WCT: Marine Le Pen and the Front National seem to be having some success courting gay voters through spreading a fear of Muslims. Is that a mistake on the part of the LGBT community?

CT: Yes it is a mistake for gays and also young people. All kinds of people are joining this party which is xenophobic and discriminatory because it's their philosophy. But the leaders



Christiane Taubira.

Photo courtesy of the French consulate.

of this party want power. They are also very skilled in telling people what they want to hear because all of us are living in hard times and the world doesn't seem safe. They see danger at home and everywhere.

The Front National says, "We will protect you by closing the country. We will expel terrorists (and that means people who look like terrorists) and you will have the jobs that used to belong to the Muslims we threw out." So many simple and stupid things but, because it is hard times, people are tempted to believe them. Those who are objectively threatened by extreme right politics are making a mistake joining the people who [believe] in those politics. It's really just the extreme right's desire to consolidate power that leads them to lie every day, every time. The world history of these people is racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. Their leaders never say, "We deny or we don't agree with our past."

WCT: Are the French people not particularly worried about history repeating itself?

CT: I don't think it will because we have learned from it. The tactics are the same in terms of finding and giving people someone to hate and make responsible for all the problems. I think that they are dangerous for the country and the world because their politics increase inequalities, discrimination, exclusion and hatred between people. You make a country poor when people can't play a part in building a common destiny. If the extreme right gets power in France, we will go backwards.

WCT: And would France leave the European Union just as the United Kingdom's Brexit vote ensued?

CT: [Le Pen] wants a referendum but let me tell you something: In France, I never answer questions about Marine Le Pen. I refuse to make a purpose out of this person. I refuse to take part in the fact that, over the past few years, the core of political debate in France is the extreme right. They are on all the radio and TV broadcasts. Everyone says that "they're right" or "they're wrong" but it's not my problem. I explain to people that there is a way to live together even though we are different. In France, equality is a strong principle and value. That means education, access to culture and housing. We have to make the effort to live together and to be strong together. That is my

concern.

WCT: So what is the feeling in France toward Donald Trump?

CT: Like here, some people laugh at him and some people are very scared about what he represents. I hope he won't be elected. Even though I don't live here, I am concerned about who leads [the United States] because it affects the whole world. Even if he isn't elected, there is a poison he has spread across society that is hard for all of us. His loud voice gives support to the extreme right in Europe. He is so excessive that the [European] extreme right leaders seem softer and more acceptable. That is dangerous.

WCT: And his foreign policy, whether holding up dictators or threatening not to honor U.S. commitments to NATO?

CT: I think that he doesn't understand anything. His political preferences are people who think like him and are as intolerant as he is and who are as dangerous for the world. He helps others justify their hatred.

Howard Brown issues surveys

Howard Brown Health has released two surveys as part of its strategic planning process.

The surveys—one for community-based supporters, one for patients—are completely anonymous and will help guide the organization's upcoming projects, expansions and priorities as it increases capacity to provide healthcare to as many people as possible.

The community survey is intended for anyone who supports Howard Brown's mission to provide affirming, quality healthcare services to everyone, regardless of ability to pay. It is available at [SurveyMonkey.com/r/howardbrowncommunity16](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/howardbrowncommunity16).

The patient survey is intended for anyone who has accessed services at Howard Brown. It is viewable at [SurveyMonkey.com/r/howardbrownpatient16](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/howardbrownpatient16).

Howard Brown is collecting responses through Nov. 1. See HowardBrown.org for more information.

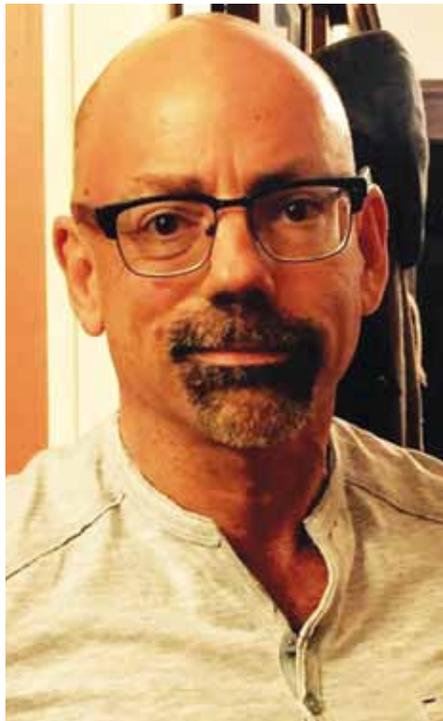
PASSAGES

Clinical social worker, educator Jason McVicker

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Jason McVicker died Oct. 13 of a heart attack. He was 54.

University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration (SSA) Dean Neil Guterman relayed his death to colleagues.



Jason McVicker.
Facebook photo

At the time of his death, McVicker was a private clinical social worker/therapist at Lakeview Center for Psychotherapy and a visiting faculty member at the University of Chicago School of SSA, the Jane Addams College of Social Work at UIC and Loyola University School of Social Work.

He previously served as the director of mental-health services at the Center on Halsted, a master practitioner instructor at the University of Chicago's School of SSA, a program supervi-

sor at Chicago House and counseling program director at Blue Gargoyle Community Services.

McVicker was born Aug. 13, 1962, in New Orleans and graduated from Broadmoor Senior High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He received his bachelor's degree in drama and communications from the University of New Orleans (UNO) in 1987.

He met his future husband, Michael Worley, 29 years ago, when Worley was on vacation in New Orleans. They began a long-distance relationship almost immediately. McVicker later moved to Chicago to be with Worley full-time. Shortly thereafter, he received his master's in clinical social work from the University of Chicago (in 1994).

They were married this past spring in Chicago.

McVicker is survived by his husband, his father Laddie McVicker and brothers Kevin and Shane.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Dawn K. McVicker, who passed away earlier this year.

In addition to his work as a visiting faculty member and in private practice, McVicker also served as a clinical consultant for Test Positive Aware Network, Mercy Housing Lakefront and Juvenile Protective Association. His specialties were LGBT issues, HIV/AIDS, grief and loss, substance abuse and milieu therapy.

McVicker, along with five other authors, published "Integrating Prevention in Residential and Community Care Settings: A Multidimensional Program Evaluation" in the Guilford Press' AIDS Education and Prevention: An Interdisciplinary Journal in 2005 and participated on a panel, "The Art and Science of Teaching Direct Practice in Social Work," during the University of Chicago School of SSA Centennial Field Instructors' Event and Centennial Symposium in 2008.

McVicker's mother instilled a love of opera in him at a young age, and he carried that passion with him until his death. He took this passion a step further more than 30 years ago when he became the lead stage manager of the New Orleans Opera.

"I interviewed Jason for a book I wrote about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina where I included a variety of Katrina experiences," said long-time friend Katheryn Krotzer Laborde. "Jason clearly represented people with roots in New Orleans who lived elsewhere but felt extreme loss. This was years after we met in the drama department at college. After graduation,

we connected again when Jason came to town to visit with our fellow UNO drama classmates.

"When I visited Chicago in 2014, Jason asked my boyfriend and me to talk to one of his classes about our Hurricane Katrina experiences. Many of us have long felt very grateful to Jason for his thoughtfulness in gathering us together, year after year. Right now, so soon after his death, I can't help but see his face everywhere and I know in time that phenomenon will pass but what will stay with me is his spirit. He meant a lot to me and I learned a great deal from him."

"I met Jason in our college drama program and we clicked right away," said longtime friend Michael Gravois. "I remember that he was unapologetically himself at a time when being gay wasn't openly discussed. He expected people to accept him for who he was at all times. I wasn't out at the time and his openness was an inspiration for me to come out. He was the first person I told that I was gay and he helped me navigate the coming out process with my family and friends.

"Since then, we've kept in touch and visited each other in our respective cities a number of times. Jason was always a facilitator, helping people connect to life including the UNO group. We would meet annually for dinner, drinks and to share stories of our lives. A dozen of us are meeting on Saturday night to raise a glass and share stories of Jason. I'll miss him dearly."

"Jason was an amazing therapist, especially for members of the LGBTQ community," said colleague and friend Dr. Claudia Mosier. "One of his passions was training other therapists in the complexities of LGBTQ competent care. The professionals he trained are providing high quality care for the LGBTQ community across the country. He's helped many clients over his 20-year career and will be greatly missed."

"I'm so sad to hear of Jason's death," said McVicker's former Chicago House intern Eevie Smith. "He was a consummate professional and beautiful person who lived a life of service to fellow travelers. As a social worker and psychotherapist, he has touched the lives of countless people who found their way to his office in their darkest hours. He was patient, serious, forgiving and smart. He treated every person with respect and dignity, even when that was hard as hell.

"I had the tremendous good fortune to have Jason as my first clinical supervisor in 2004 when I was just picking myself up from a very difficult part of my life. I have this beauti-

ful memory of sitting in his office—terrified, traumatized, totally unprepared to be anyone's therapist—and talking about how clinical theory was like stars in the dark for navigating or just casting the dimmest light as two people try to understand each other and get by. He pretended he knew what I was trying to say and helped me grow into a life that had seemed impossible. Jason is an inspiration to me as I teach the next generation of social workers at Syracuse University. When I think of Jason, I think of the stars. Peace to all of his friends and family."

"Jason knew and loved opera with an interest and passion that impressed all who knew him," said Eric Weimer, assistant conductor at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. "He could cite casting and staging details of Lyric Opera productions going back to the '70s and '80s with a precision that was uncanny and enviable. I last saw Jason and Michael at the season opening performance of 'Das Rheingold' and his review of that production has already appeared on the GBOpera website. I'm brokenhearted that this is his last review."

A memorial service will take place sometime in November.

Howard Brown talk on HIV stigma Oct. 20

On Thursday, Oct. 20, 9-11 a.m., Howard Brown Health will host a free community discussion to address HIV stigma and how it contributes to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The event is open to the public and will feature government officials, members from the Howard Brown leadership team and light refreshments.

The event—"No More Shame and Blame"—will take place at Howard Brown Health 63rd Street, 641 W. 63rd St. It will feature Global AIDS Efforts Ambassador At-Large Dr. Deborah Bix, Congresswoman Robin Kelly and Congressman Mike Quigley.

It will be a group discussion on global and local strategies to combat HIV-related stigma, which affect strategies to combat the epidemic. See HowardBrown.org/event/NoMoreShame.



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Puerto Rican scholar on queer culture, racism and sexism

BY SUSY SCHULTZ

Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes is a man of many titles and talents: An actor, an academic, a writer, a thinker, an activist, the drag queen Lola von Miramar and a groundbreaking scholar on Puerto Rican Queer culture.

He will be reading from his works and discussing his studies, as well as teaching storytelling during a free program from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22, at The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, 3015 W. Division St. He took time to talk about his work, his performing and living in these times.

Windy City Times: There are so many titles you have accumulated with all your work: performer, actor and academic. How do you describe yourself?

Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes: I think of myself as a gay Puerto Rican writer, activist and scholar.

WCT: You are living in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where you are an associate professor at the University of Michigan. But you spend time in Chicago, don't you?

LLF: Yes. I would say Chicago is a city that I have become much closer to and more fond of. ... Before I had been focused on New York. But in 2003, I moved to the Midwest and ... I started to cultivate many more friendships and connections here with the Puerto Rican and Latinx community and people who teach at the University of Chicago, and DePaul and Northwestern [universities].

WCT: But you had a connection to Chicago before you moved here?

LLF: Yes. For my first scholarly book, *Queer Ricans: Cultures and Sexualities in the Diaspora* (in 2009) I wrote about "Go Fish," which I saw in New York but which was filmed in Wicker Park. It was the history of multiracial young lesbians filmed in 1994 and directed by Rose Troche, a Chicago Puerto Rican although she was raised in the suburbs and she made this film in Chicago and studied at UIC.

WCT: You also film *Cooking With Drag Queens* here as well?

LLF: Yes. I met Fausto Fernos and his partner, Marc Felion. They have been doing the *Feast of Fun* podcast for 11 years. But then in 2010, we started collaborating and making videos. They have national and international viewership.

WCT: Is that when lovely Lola von Miramar was born?

LLF: Well, at first Lola was just an internet project. But then she took a life of her own.

Fernos and Felion decided I would look good in drag and they invited me to dress up and do *Cooking with Drag Queens* with Lola von Miramar. ... The video came out and it really took off. People they wanted to see Lola Von Miramar in person and I like to please my friends. ... So I have performed in Latin America and the United States.

WCT: You're an academic and a scholarly author but you've also written short stories, plays and poetry. Were you always writing?

LLF: Pretty much since then I have been in school as a student, teacher or professor so, yes, I guess I have always been writing. ... I was raised in a bilingual house in a bicultural framework; my father was American and my mother was Puerto Rican and, for me, it was important to be writing in Spanish.

WCT: What about performance? How did you get involved in that?

LLF: Reading fiction in public in New York in the 1990s was exciting and fun and I had friends who were in performance art and it was really appealing to me. There were also people and spaces where you could feel safe to do your own thing: Pregones Theater in the Bronx was one of those and The Bronx Academy of



Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes.

Arts and Dance, Arthur Aviles and Charles Rice-González, That's how I ended up performing. ... I did a one-man show in 2004 (*Abolición del Pato/Abolition of the Duck*).

WCT: Coming from Puerto Rico to the United States, was it a difficult transition?

LLF: I came to the United States in 1986 to go to college. In Puerto Rico, I moved in bilingual and bicultural spaces and I found those same types of spaces here with people who responded to who I am.

WCT: Did you experience homophobia or racism in either the U.S. or Puerto Rico?

LLF: In both Puerto Rican and the United States, among the general population, there is lots of sexism and homophobia. And it can be very tricky to understand who are your allies and where it is safe to express your identity.

WCT: Have you seen movement on racism and sexism since you arrived?

LLF: I think we are living in very difficult and challenging times. And Puerto Rico is, of course, experiencing a great (economic) crisis. But these are also moments of great opportunity to have conversations and struggle to bring about change. There have been enormous gains in the LGBT community and women's rights. But the Orlando massacre reminds of the tremendous threats posed to the LGBT community—this is an important moment to be active and vocal about these issues and to recognize the need to vote and discuss.

WCT: What do you say to young people who are navigating their identity today?

LLF: It can be very difficult and it can be dangerous so you have to be careful. But it can also be very rewarding. You have to be true to yourself and that means listening to what your brain and your heart are telling you. And trying always to be aware of what is the best space and the appropriate space—that will nourish and allow you to be who you want to be. That may involve moving and finding new friends and different mentors. Look for role models and people who can give you advice.

You have to try to identify who is like you and who you want to be. In Puerto Rico, I knew [poet/novelist] Mayra Santos-Febres. We were both young in the 1990s and, for me, it was really crucial asking her how does one become a writer? And are you willing to read my short stories? She opened many doors. And she is world renowned as a Black Puerto Rican woman, who has also written about drag queens.

The free program on Saturday, Oct. 22, has the museum, the Great Books Foundation, the Chicago Cultural Alliance and Public Narrative as sponsors. To register, go to ChicagoCulturalAlliance.org/events/queerricans/.

Susy Schultz is president of Community Media Workshop.

Appellate court agrees to hear Hively case

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, on Oct. 11, granted en banc review in *Hively v. Ivy Tech Community College*, meaning that the entire court will hear the employment discrimination appeal of Kimberly Hively. Hively was denied full-time employment at Ivy Tech Community College in South Bend, Indiana, six different times and maintains she was eventually terminated because she is a lesbian. According to reports, the hearing has been scheduled for Wed., Nov. 30.

"For too long, LGBT employees have been forced to conceal their true identity at work out of fear of backlash and discrimination. It's a modern-day 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy in the workplace. Not only is it wrong, it's illegal—and we need the court to make it clear," said Greg Nevins, counsel and employment fairness strategist for Lambda Legal, in a statement. "We are thrilled to have this opportunity to make the case for Kimberly Hively and for all lesbian, gay and bisexual people who are good, hard-working employees. Whether or not someone may pass for straight at work, none of us should have to live in the closet."

Hively sued on the basis of Title VII protections, but a court determined that Title VII does not offer protections on the basis of sexual orientation. A panel of three judges upheld that decision on appeal in July, but the entire court has now agreed to rehear Hively's case.

"I am delighted that I will have my day in court, and hopeful that the judges will see that I was treated unfairly because I am a lesbian," said Hively. "If I had been a man attracted to women, I truly believe I would have been offered a full-time position and given promotions. Today's decision gives me hope—hope for me, and for all other LGBT teachers, that we will not have to suffer the same unfair bias in the future."

Ohio verdict upheld for gay Black man

A judge ruled that the City of Cleveland must pay the record sum of \$13.21 million from a federal civil-rights case against two of its officers and the city.

Judge Robert C. McClelland ruled that the City must pay the original award, "plus statutory interest," bringing the total sum to \$14,632,336.99.

Ayers, 59, is an African-American gay man and native of Cleveland who, at the time of his 1999 arrest, had been employed for almost a decade as a security officer with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority. He had no pri-



David Ayers.

Photo courtesy of Andy Thayer

or arrests and had no physical evidence linking him to the crime, but was charged and eventually sentenced to life in prison for the 1999 murder of an elderly CMHA resident, Dorothy Brown.

Cleveland Police Department Officer Denise Kovach and fellow defendant officer Michael Cipo enlisted a jailhouse snitch—Donald Hutchinson, who had been housed with Ayers at Cuyahoga County Jail—to falsely claim that Ayers confessed to him. Kovach and Cipo also falsely claimed that Ayers implicated himself to them shortly after his arrest.

At the time of the original verdict award in 2013, it was among the top 10 highest ever in the country for a wrongful conviction case. Ayers is represented by Russell Ainsworth and Ruth Brown of the Chicago-based civil rights firm Loevy & Loevy Attorneys at Law.

Wilmette man accused of criminal HIV transmission

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Wilmette man has been accused of knowingly transmitting the HIV virus to three women he dated, according to reports.

According to an October 10 Skokie Police Department news release, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, on October 7, approved three counts of criminal HIV transmission, which is a Class 2 felony, against the man.

"These charges were the result of an ongoing investigation regarding events which occurred in Skokie beginning in July 2016," said the release.

Bail was set for \$150,000 for the man, Chicago Tribune reported. If convicted, he faces three to seven years in jail per charge.

The man's defense attorney said in court that his client been taking antiretroviral medications that would have made it impossible for him to transmit the HIV virus to others. If the man was indeed virally suppressed, prosecutors may have a difficult time proving that he intended to transmit the infection, said Scott Schoettes, HIV project director at Lambda Legal.

Schoettes noted that the 2012 change to Illinois' HIV criminalization statute requires prosecutors to prove that an individual intended to pass along the infection. Viral suppression greatly reduces the risk of transmission.

"If they are taking a medication that would have made it impossible to transmit HIV, then, in my mind, it would be unlikely that he would be trying to transmit the infection to other people," Schoettes said.

Ramon Gardenhire, vice president of policy for AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC), said that such a case is "an issue of concern for both AFC and others in the HIV sector."

He pointed out that such prosecutions ultimately go against ideas set forth in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States, which says that such actions counter-balance efforts towards HIV prevention, and give individuals an incentive not to know their HIV status.

"It's extremely worrisome and definitely send us in the wrong trajectory," he said. "The stigma associated with these prosecutions is counter-productive in getting people to get tested, and getting HIV-positive people onto the continuum of care."

Gardenhire also noted that the Wilmette man was a person of color and added, "These laws disproportionately affect persons of color, even as that community is most disproportionately affected by new infections."

Tom Yates, executive director of Legal Council for Health Justice, added, "We don't have all the facts, but it is very possible he was doing everything he could to prevent spreading HIV. We do not think that the law reflects the current state of HIV treatment."

The Chicago Tribune's article is at <http://trib.in/2dMQIEj>.

Protestors march in Uptown for tent-city residents

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

On the crisp fall morning of Oct. 13, about 50 marchers gathered at the People's Church on Lawrence Ave. to take part in a march and rally on behalf of Uptown homeless tent city residents and to push for the passage of the Keeping the Promise Ordinance.

Keeping the Promise Ordinance is, according to the press release distributed for this action, "a proposal that would require the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) to distribute several thousand additional housing vouchers sitting unused in CHA's coffers to those in need of housing and produce more public housing to ensure an adequate supply of low-cost rentals across all neighborhoods, including the North side, amidst rapidly escalating market rents."

The march and rally included members of the Uptown homeless Lake Shore viaduct encampment residents' association—Tent City Voices Heard, ONE Northside and the Chicago Housing Initiative fair and affordable housing coalition.

Ahead of the march, Uptown Tent City resident William "Willie" Matos spoke about the city's pending decision to either remove the tents or allow the residents to remain under the Lawrence, Foster and Wilson Ave. viaducts for the foreseeable future. This decision was to have been made Oct. 14 and will be reported when the information is available.

"Unfortunately, city officials don't want us out here because they look at us as a blemish on the city as they build a better look for Chicago," said Matos. "We have nowhere else to go

so we have to stay and fight against the system so we can continue to live the best we can. There's over \$400 million in surplus city funds that are sitting in limbo right now and the city is refusing to put those funds into affordable housing for homeless Chicago residents like myself."

Following Matos' remarks, the marchers headed East on Lawrence Ave. toward the viaduct to go South on the bike path along Lake Shore Drive. Their destination was Wilson Avenue and Marine Drive, where 50 additional marchers had gathered to continue the group's protest action.

Chicago police officers arrived at the Lawrence Avenue viaduct and as the marchers took to the bike path two unmarked police vehicles followed behind them.

Along with holding up signs and chanting slogans including "hands off homeless people, hands off tent city," "affordable housing now," and "tents are home," protestors also carried tents the entire length of the march.

As the marchers attempted to take over the Southbound lanes of Lake Shore Drive with a makeshift tent city, the unmarked Chicago Police vehicles turned their sirens on. Uniformed officers arrived at the scene and began to push the marchers off of Lake Shore Drive. A stand-off took place between the marchers (a few of whom were in wheelchairs and using walkers) for a number of minutes and during that time one of the marchers, Southside Together Organized for Power activist Alex Goldenberg, was arrested. A traffic or police helicopter also hov-



Willie Matos speaks ahead of the march. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

ered above Lake Shore Drive during that time.

The rally took place on the grassy area nearby with about 20 police officers standing alongside Lake Shore Drive to prevent additional road blockages by the protestors.

Among the rally speakers were Matos, Angela Lacy (Disability Rights Action Coalition for Housing and Chicago Housing Initiative leader and voucher holder), Loydell Roberson (Tent City resident), Cynthia Scott (Lathrop Homes resident), Charles Holder (Mayor of Lawrence Tent City viaduct), Abdul (Louis) Jones (Tent City resident) and Little John (Tent City resident).

Matos explained that the city has refused to give the Tent City residents support and instead harasses them on a regular basis. He said they deserve the same rights as any other Chicagoan. Matos also noted that the only viaducts the city insists on cleaning are the ones where Tent City residents live.

Lacy noted that her story is similar to those who live in Tent City. She explained that the voucher she received was supposed to give her family access to safer neighborhoods, better schools and economic opportunities but in re-

ality that didn't happen. Lacy called on Mayor Rahm Emanuel to pay attention to the needs of the entire city, not just the 1 percent.

Scott said that there are open units at Lathrop Homes and they should be occupied by Tent City residents, not opened up to market rental rates.

Matos closed the rally with an announcement that the city would be cleaning the viaducts the following morning and potentially evicting the tent-city residents. They're also threatening to take their tents away, said Matos. He also noted that no member of the city leadership showed up at the march and rally and called on the police to release Goldenberg.

Gay Liberation Network co-founder and Uptown Tent City Organizers activist Andy Thayer added that, "Two recent court decisions have found such threatened moves by the city to be blatantly illegal and unconstitutional. Nonetheless, during an action at his office on Oct. 3, Ald. James Cappleman refused to advocate punishment for any city workers who violate the rights of homeless people and break the law."

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Affinity hosts open house for new space

BY VERN HESTER

Affinity Community Services celebrated its move into a new space with an Oct. 11 open house and a redetermination to serve the LGBTQ community. The new space, located at 2850 S. Wabash Ave., served as the location of the gathering of board members, Affinity participants and supporters.

The mission statement for the organization states that, "Affinity Community Services is a social justice organization that works with and on behalf of Black LGBTQ communities, queer youth, and allies and seeks to identify emergent needs, create safe spaces, develop leaders, and bridge communities."

The group, which started more than 20 years ago, was borne out of a desire for out Black lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals to bring visibility to their presence on the South Side of Chicago.

Throughout its history, Affinity has supported the community with a number of peer-led groups. Among them is Proud Parents (which focuses on LGBTQ parenting), Chi-T (for transgender/gender non-conforming individuals), and age specific groups like Forty Plus (for individuals in their 40s) and The Trailblazers (for individuals who are over the age of 60).

Executive Director Imani Rupert-Gordon spoke on the plans and programs that are in the works. These plans include a short-term GED tutoring program, a community outreach and intervention leadership program, an HIV/AIDS education outreach group, and work with marginalized people of color in the areas of closing the wage gap.

The festivities got a joyful jolt when board member Mel Rainey spoke about the ongoing need for funding and started a new fundraising campaign on the spot. Also in attendance for the gathering were The Pride Cruisers, a behind-the-scenes group of longtime supporters who voluntarily work in the community.

See Affinity95.org.



Above (from left): Affinity board chairwomen Jasmine Thurman, Mel Rainey and Ebonie Davis. Left: Affinity Executive Director Imani Rupert-Gordon.

Photos by Vern Hester

Below: Affinity board, staff and leadership council members. Back from Left: Toi Williams, Arafa Payne, Lisa Scott, Margaret Thurmond, Ann Rochelle, Maria Glover-Wallace, Jas Thurmond. Front from left: Tammy Thurmond, Glenda Poindexter, Ebonie Davis, Imani Rupert-Gordon, Kebra Ross.

Photo by Tracy Baim



The new Affinity space. Photo by Tracy Baim

Obergefell recalls marriage-equality fight

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

The Plaza Ballroom of downtown Chicago's Hyatt Regency Hotel was the setting for LGBTQ equality advocate Jim Obergefell to engage in an equally intimate Oct. 11 conversation with Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Field Director Lynne Bowman, diversity consultant Eric Lushen and a sold-out audience before signing copies of *Love Wins: The Lovers and Lawyers Who Fought the Landmark Case for Marriage Equality*—the 2016 book he co-authored with Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Debbie Cenziper.

The event was part of A Hyatt World, with backing from the organization's LGBTQ employee resource group (ERG).

Hyatt partnered with the HRC on the occasion of National Coming Out Day to celebrate the lives and indelible contributions to marriage equality in the United States made by Obergefell and his late husband John Arthur leading up to the historic June 2016, 2015 U.S. Supreme Court (USSC) decision in the *Obergefell v. Hodges* case.

Obergefell recalled quite opposing coming out experiences for himself and Arthur—a man he knew by the third date as “The person I wanted to spend the rest of my life with.”

“I was really lucky,” Obergefell said. “My dad and the rest of my family were great about it. From the moment he was born, [John's] dad was disappointed in him. His most supportive relationship was with his Aunt Paulette. He credited her with saving his life and helping him not commit suicide. She was a fantastic person who married us.”

The couple lived openly in Cincinnati, Ohio, despite the political and social antagonism which surrounded them.

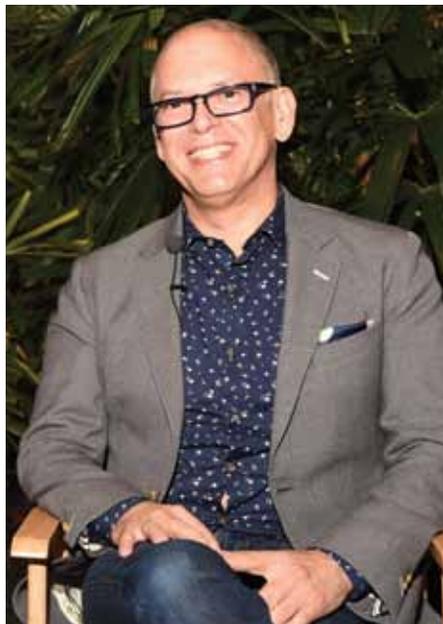
“We never experienced overt discrimination,” Obergefell said. “John had this amazing power to connect with people. He really made people feel like they mattered, were valued and worthwhile. He was incredibly witty and he always looked at life as ‘the glass is half full.’ He helped me become a better person.”

It was an attitude that Arthur maintained even on the summer 2011 day that he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

“He wasn't angry. He wasn't bitter,” Obergefell recalled. “He cried and broke down because he was worried about me.”

The neurological disease moved with characteristic, lethal swiftness.

“By March of 2013, he was bedridden,” Obergefell said. “I was his full time caregiver doing everything for him—feeding, washing



Jim Obergefell.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

and caring for him in every possible way.”

When, on June 26, 2013, the USSC ruled in *United States v. Windsor* that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was unconstitutional, Obergefell leaned over his husband, kissed him and said, “Let's get married. The reason I did that was spontaneous but it was our first ever opportunity to actually have our government say that we exist and we mattered. That was all we ever wanted.”

Helped by family and friends, the couple traveled by a chartered medical jet to be married by Aunt Paulette on the airport tarmac in Baltimore, Maryland.

It was friends who put them in touch with celebrated Ohio civil-rights lawyer Alphonse Gerhardstein.

“Five days after we got married, Al came to our home and he pulled out a death certificate,” Obergefell said. “We knew that Ohio wouldn't recognize our marriage but that was an abstract concept. Suddenly here was something real; a painful, hurtful, hateful result of that amendment. It broke our hearts but it really made us mad.”

They filed the following Monday.

In October 2013, Arthur died.

After what Obergefell called “a pretty offensive decision” in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, Gerhardstein, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Ohio and Lambda Legal filed joint lawsuits in the USSC.

Obergefell recalled oral arguments in April

2015 and, in particular, one raised that same sex marriage should be decided through a “democratic process.”

“I didn't sit with the other plaintiffs, I stood in line for a seat in the public [area],” he added. “Even from our very first hearing in federal court, when the ‘democratic process’ argument came up, I just remember Al saying, ‘The shortest way to abridge the rights of a minority is to allow the majority to vote on it.’ Our story resonated with people because everyone loves someone and everyone loses someone they love. It was a real story about the harm these laws did.”

Obergefell remembered that on June 26, 2015, “The atmosphere was different. Every day, tickets [to the viewing area] were handed out that were orange. That morning, they were lavender. It was hard not to take that as a good sign.”

Bowman noted the “[more than] 200 anti-LGBT bills” introduced “In 34 states across the country” that followed the USSC decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

“After marriage equality, I remember multiple conversations between people who said ‘you won marriage equality so the gay rights movement is done right?’” Obergefell said. “I realized how much we have to tell stories and how much we have to educate people. A year-and-a-half ago, if I had a transgender friend, I didn't know it. I now have a lot of transgender friends. We need allies but we also have to be allies within our own community.”

Lesbian historian's home up for sale

A house that was once the home of lesbian historian/librarian Jeannette Howard Foster (1895-1981) is being sold in the Chicago neighborhood of Beverly for \$740,000.

Among other achievements, Foster wrote the book *Sex Variant Women in Literature: A Historical and Quantitative Study* (1956).

Gerard Koskovich, a founding member of the GLBT Historical Society, noted on Facebook that Foster once grew up there. Koskovich discusses this site and Foster's role in the development of cultural history for lesbian, bisexual and trans women in his chapter in the just-released LGBTQ theme study from the U.S. National Park Service.

The home, at 9238 S. Pleasant Ave., has five bedrooms and four-and-a-half bathrooms, DNAInfo.com reported. Frank Montro of Keller Williams Preferred Realty said the 3,000-square-foot home has high-end finishes and upgrades as well as a new structures such as a brick facade, addition and two-car garage.

The article—which lists the specifics of the house but does not mention Foster—is at DNAinfo.com/chicago/20161013/beverly/five-bedroom-beverly-home-listed-for-740000.

Early voting info

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

Through Oct. 23, early voting is taking place in Chicago only at 15 W. Washington St. at the new Loop Super Site. 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 until 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.)

LGBTI Catholic conference Oct. 17-20

On Oct. 17-20, 40 priests and lay persons from 11 countries are gathering in Arlington Heights, Illinois, to develop strategies for reform in the Catholic Church, including the full participation of women in the Church, ending the practice of closing parishes, confronting clericalism and supporting LGBT Catholics.

The countries being represented are Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Slovakia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

See FutureChurch.org.



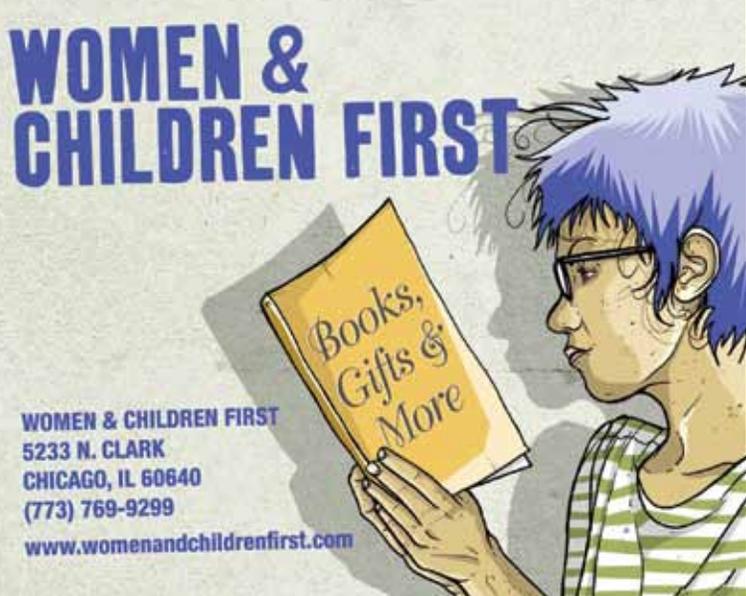
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58TH SENATE DISTRICT Sheila Simon (D) Paul Schimpf (R)			Y	Y				Y																		
1ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Daniel J. Burke (D)			Y					Y																		
2ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Theresa Mah (D)			Y		Y		Y	Y																		
3RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Luis Arroyo (D)			Y					Y																		
4TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Cynthia Soto (D) 19/23			Y				Y	Y																		
5TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Juliana Stratton (D) 22/23			Y		Y		Y	Y																		
6TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sonya Marie Harper (D)			Y				Y	Y																		
7TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D) 21/23			Y				Y	Y																		
9TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Arthur Turner (D)			Y				Y	Y																		
10TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Melissa Conyears (D) Mark Spognardi (R)			Y																							
11TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Ann M. Williams (D) 23/23 Gary Mandell (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y																		
12TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sara Feigenholtz (D) 23/23 Gene Witt (R)	Y		Y	Y			Y	Y																		
13TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Gregory Harris (D) 22/23			Y	Y				Y																		
14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kelly M. Cassidy (D) 23/23 Arthur Noah Siegel (I)	Y		Y	Y			Y	Y																		
15TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT John C. D'Amico (D) Jonathan Edelman (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y																		
16TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lou Lang (D) 23/23			Y	Y			Y	Y																		
17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Laura Fine (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y																		
18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robyn Gabel (D) Jessica Tucker (D)	Y		Y	Y			Y	Y																		
19TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert Martwick (D)			Y				Y																			
20TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Merry Marwig (D) 18/23 Michael P. McAuliffe (R)			Y	Y		Y	Y	Y																		
21ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Silvana Tabares (D)			Y				Y																			
22ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Madigan (D)			Y	Y			Y																			
23RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Zalewski (D)			Y					Y																		
24TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez (D) Andy Kirchoff (R)			Y				Y																			
25TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Barbara Flynn Currie (D)			Y				Y	Y																		
26TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT																										
Christian L. Mitchell (D) 27TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Monique D. Davis (D)									Y	Y	Y															
28TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert "Bob" Rita (D)									Y																	
29TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Thaddeus Jones (D)									Y																	
30TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT William "Will" Davis (D)									Y																	
33RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (D)									Y																	
34TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D)									Y																	
35TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Frances Ann Hurley (D) Victor Horne (R)									Y																	
38TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Al Riley (D) 20/23									Y	Y																
39TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Will Guzzardi (D)									Y	Y	Y															
40TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jaime M. Andrade, Jr. (D) 22/23									Y																	
42ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kathleen V. Carrier (D) Jeanne M. Ives (R)									Y	Y																
43RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anna Moeller (D)									Y	Y																
44TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Fred Crespo (D) Kathy Dolan Baumer (R)									Y																	
45TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Cynthia Borbas (D) Christine Jennifer Winger (R)									Y	Y																
46TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Deb Conroy (D) Heidi Holan (R)									Y	Y																
48TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Steve Swanson (D) Peter Breen (R)										Y																
50TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Valerie L. Burd (D) Keith R. Wheeler (R)										Y																
55TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Martin J. Moylan (D) Dan Gott (R)									Y	Y																
56TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michelle Mussman (D) Jillian Rose Bernas (R)									Y	Y																
57TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elaine Nekritz (D)									Y																	
58TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Scott Drury (D) Martin (Marty) Blumenthal (R)									Y	Y																
59TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Carol Sente (D) Dawn Abernathy (R)									Y	Y																
61ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Nick Ciko (D) Sheri Jesiel (R)									Y																	
62ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sam Yingling (D) Rod Drobinski (R)									Y	Y																
66TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Nancy A. Zettler (D) Allen Skillicorn (R)																					Y	Y				Y
67TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Litesa E. Wallace (D)																					Y	Y				Y
68TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Tricia Sweeney (D) John M. Cabello (R)																					Y					Y
69TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Angelique A. Bodine (D) Joe Sosnowski (R)																					Y			Y	Y	Y
71ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mike Smiddy (D) Tony M. McCombie (R)																					Y	Y				Y
72ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael W. Halpin (D) Brandi McGuire (R)																					Y	Y				Y
75TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Martha J. Shugart (D) David Allen Welter (R)																					Y					Y
77TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kathleen Willis (D) Anthony Airdo (R)																					Y				Y	Y
78TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Camille Lilly (D)																					Y					Y
80TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anthony DeLuca (D)																					Y					Y
81ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Greg Hose (D) David S. Olsen (R)																					Y	Y			Y	Y
83RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Linda Chapa LaVia (D)																					Y					Y
84TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Stephanie A. Kifowit (D) Mike Strick (R)																					Y	Y			Y	Y
85TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emily McAsey (D)																					Y					Y
86TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lawrence "Larry" Walsh, Jr. (D)																					Y					Y
92ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jehan Gordon-Booth (D)																					Y					Y
93RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT John Curtis (D) 17/23 Norine K. Hammond (R)																					Y	Y				Y
94TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Bobby Pritchett (D) Randy E. Frese (R)																						Y			Y	Y
98TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Natalie A. Manley (D)																					Y				Y	Y
10																										

Jan Schakowsky and her work on LGBT issues

BY MATT SIMONETTE

U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky's granddaughter, Isabel, recently came out to her family. When Isabel told her sister, her sister replied, "Grandma is going to love this."

Schakowsky did indeed love the news. She brandished Isabel's picture proudly in the moments before her Windy City Times interview started and spoke about how excited she was that Isabel was happy at her college, "where it seems like everyone is queer."

Schakowsky has been representing the 9th

Appointments are also going to be another thing to make sure that the LGBT community is well-represented in a Clinton administration. Including the federal bench and agencies would be something where we could make good progress, I think.

WCT: How can some bipartisanship be restored in Congress to make it more effective during the upcoming administration?

JS: I think elections will make a difference. What's really important is that, I think, we'll win some statehouses back. They had control of the redistricting. I think we dropped the ball



Congresswoman
Jan Schakowsky.
Photo by Matt
Simonette

Congressional District since 1999, and is running in this election cycle against activist and former advertising executive Joan McCarthy Lasonde. She spoke about her work with the LGBT community, advances she sees for it in the years ahead and how it all has impacted her family.

Windy City Times: What are the most pertinent goals for the LGBT community right now?

Jan Schakowsky: Definitely the Equality Act, which takes a new approach to amend the Civil Rights Act. It's a new approach to doing everything, not just ENDA, credit or housing—it would be everything. David Cicilline is the chief sponsor. I know I'm an original sponsor, but I don't know where I am in there. I think that is a reasonable goal for us to do. We have something like 170 co-sponsors; we only have 188 Democrats [in the House].

It's so hard to predict what "post-election" is going to look like. There is a chance that we'll be in the majority, which would be amazing, in the House and Senate; we'd pass this. I still think it's not that likely that we'll be able to get the 30, because they've been very successful at gerrymandering. It's hard, but not impossible.

We're also in the last gasp of the religious right. They haven't quite yet waved the white flag on the social agenda, so we certainly see that when it comes to choice and [legislation such as] the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which Pence had. But those kinds of things keep coming up, so we'll just have to keep stamping them out.

I think transgender people, especially transgender youth, need to be a focus, because they're still at risk of suicide, homelessness and the whole range of negative outcomes. We're going to have to address that. There are smaller things, like the LGBT Data Inclusion Act. That bill improves federal population surveys by requiring collection of the data, self-disclosed data on sexual orientation and gender identity. There is a whole list of bills.

in paying attention to gubernatorial and state legislative races, so we're going to really need to do that to make sure that districts that are impossible to win are not created.

I think we're going to have some opportunities to get things done and get some bipartisanship. Let's say we picked up 20 or 25 seats. It's very clear that Paul Ryan, if he's still the speaker, will need Democratic votes to get things done. So we won't see so many bad [bill] riders. They put a rider on the Zika bill, not only on Planned Parenthood but to have the Confederate flag flown in veterans' cemeteries.

But Democrats have made some strides too. I mean, 170 co-sponsors on this major civil rights bill—that's big. I had my LGBTQ fundraiser last Sunday, and said there, the gay community has given me hope in so many different places. To be able to say that, in this difficult environment, we've won so many different things. Not everything, but we've proven that you can keep moving forward. You can take advantage of these demographic changes and make things happen.

People are seeing the connection between a lot of things, and Trump has actually helped with a lot of that, because he's gone after everybody. Even if he hasn't gone after the gay community as badly, Pence is the worst there is. He picked the most homophobic governor in the country, and anti-choice, anti-worker, you name it.

WCT: What would be some other priorities for your constituency in the term ahead?

JS: Health care—I am proud to have helped write the Affordable Care Act, but if we had had a partner on the other side of the aisle, there would not have been problems. The first problem is that insurance companies are still in charge. Here in Illinois, the networks are leaving the markets. You've got Aetna leaving and the Land of Lincoln co-op leaving. I feel like people are being left with no options. I've introduced a public option that we create, under Obamacare, where people can sign up under a public plan.

The other thing is the cost of meds. I was just at Dick Durbin at Lurie Children's Hospital. A physician there said that the cost of a drug for children with lead poisoning that was \$500 is now going at \$27,000. Big pharma is out of control. People are going broke.

Getting the voting-rights stuff—stopping voter suppression—is a really big deal. Gun violence, also. We've really seen the gay community buy into that after Orlando, and that's great. We appreciate the coalition. We had our sit-in and people felt good about it. But we didn't get a bill. We didn't get anything, so that's definitely unfinished.

WCT: What have you learned working with the LGBT community?

JS: [Former State Rep.] Julie Hamos was given an award by Personal PAC [recently]. She

made the point about how [pro-choice activists] learned a lesson from the LGBT community—that coming out, putting a face, someone you know, really makes a difference. We also gained hope and a feeling for victory.

We spent a lot of time in a defensive crouch in this Congress, so we can sometimes forget what it feels like to win and recognize what victory looks like. So I think that's a thing I've learned. On a personal level, I see how my whole family has surrounded Isabel and I see how, because of those victories, she lives in a world that is so loving, where many possibilities are there—marriage, children. There was a time when my contemporaries had to struggle, and they did that for her. My family is so grateful for that.

See JanSchakowsky.org.

'Before Stonewall' series ends Oct. 18

The series "Before Stonewall: The LGBTQ Experience in the '50s and '60s" series—which the Lincoln Park Village, Gerber/Hart Library, Howard Brown Health and Lake View Presbyterian Church are presenting—will conclude Oct. 18.

This two-part lecture and discussion will focus on the history of the LGBTQ community before the Stonewall Rebellion on June 28, 1969, which led to the gay liberation movement and modern fight for LGBTQ rights in the United States. (Part one took place Oct. 11.)

—Part 2: Panel discussion by four members of the LGBTQ community on what it was like living in the '50s and '60s.

The four panelists: Bill Gordon, a Lincoln Park Village member, retired executive director of the American Library Association (representing gay men); Martha Smith, a former allied medical professional (representing lesbians); David Matteson, professor emeritus from Governors State University (representing bisexual individuals); and Gloria Allen, currently working with trans youth at the Center on Halsted (and representing trans individuals). The discussion panel will be held Tuesday, Oct. 18, 3-5 p.m., at Lake View Presbyterian Church, 716 W. Addison St.

This series is free and open to the public, but registration is required. For more information and registration, visit LincolnParkVillage.org or call 773-248-8700.

Lincoln Park Village is an innovative, member-driven community of older adults living throughout Chicago's North Side neighborhoods, who together are inventing a different, better future for life after 50. Village members enjoy community, connection, engagement, and fun—plus mostly volunteer-provided supportive services if needed. Using our talents, wisdom and skills we have become an important asset to our communities and to each other and are creating a much-needed change in both the perception and the reality of life after 50.

'Fostering Our Teens' event Oct. 22

The Call to Action: Foster our Youth! Coalition in partnership with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Pride Action Tank, Windy City Times and the Illinois Center for Adoption and Permanency is hosting a free event entitled "Call to Action—Foster our Teens" with the specific goal of finding foster and adoptive families for Illinois teen youth within the foster-care system on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Open to any individual interested in fostering teens, adopting teens from foster care, or who would just like to learn more about the fostering and adopting process, the event will be held in the Great Hall of Kennedy King College, at 6301 S. Halsted St., 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

The event includes overviews of the foster

care license process, the adoption from foster care process and a speaker's bureau featuring teens in the foster care system. The program for this event will be youth developed and delivered through a youth voice. Agency representatives will be on hand to answer questions from attendees. Tickets are free, however due to limited space, reservations are suggested. For more information and to reserve a seat, visit illinoiscap.org/event/foster-our-teens.

Come to hear teen speakers talk about their foster care journey and the immediate need for foster homes, gather information and begin helping youth in foster care.

The Coalition is made of the following social service agencies: Aunt Martha's, Child-Serv, Hephzibah, Illinois Center for Adoption and Permanency, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Kaleidoscope, Lakeside Community Committee, Lawrence Hall, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Little City, National Youth Advocate Program and SOS Children's Villages.

'On the Table 2016' report released

The Chicago Community Trust released a report from the University of Illinois at Chicago's Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) assessing the impact of the third year of On the Table conversations in 2016. The report details who participated in On the Table gatherings on May 10, 2016, key issues discussed, and where and how respondents plan to take action moving forward.

More than 55,000 people participated in 3,500 mealtime conversations as part of the civic engagement initiative across the city and suburbs; in offices, churches, schools and homes; over breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner.

According to the study, which was based on a survey of nearly 4,000 participants, when respondents were asked to name the most important issues currently facing their community, over half (53 percent) identified challenges associated with the judicial system and public safety, nearly half (44 percent) identified economic issues and poverty, one-third (33 percent) expressed concern about equity and social inclusion and 32 percent were troubled by problems within education and youth development.

See OnTheTableReport.com to download the complete IPCE report.

CWIT marks 35 years on Nov. 7

Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT) will mark its 35th anniversary with an event Monday, Nov. 7, 5:30-8 p.m., at Lagunitas Brewing Company, 2607 W. 17th St.

Tickets are \$35-\$70, and the cost covers light refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages. All beer sales and raffle-ticket proceeds will benefit CWIT.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/raise-your-hardhats-a-benefit-for-chicago-women-in-trades-tickets-28156276180>.

ELECTIONS 2016

Quigley discusses why LGBTs should vote for him

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Democratic U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley has been in office since he took over from Rahm Emanuel representing the 5th District in 2009. Quigley came from the Cook County Board of Commissioners, where he was a stalwart foe of both John and Todd Stroger and their tax policies.

Quigley has done much work to advance LGBT equality, and has posts on a number of task forces working on behalf of issues such as transgender rights and LGBT aging issues. He was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (now the LGBTQ Hall of Fame) in 2007 as a Friend of the Community.

On Nov. 8, he will face two opponents at the polls: Republican candidate Vince Kolber and Green Party candidate Rob Sherman.

Windy City Times: Why should voters return you to office in this election?

Mike Quigley: First, my priorities are straightforward. I understand that the most important thing I can do is provide solid services and be available for my constituents—everything we do: social security, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits, what's happening in D.C., etc.

Second, they should focus on the committee work that I do. As the second highest-ranking member—and the only member from Illinois—of the appropriations committee, second ranking on transportation and housing and urban development, affords me a unique opportunity to drive resources back to my district, the city and the region. It's afforded me an opportunity to work on things everybody in my district cares about.

Specifically, related to this community, I was the only person in this race who was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. I have a long history of working and

getting things done as a county commissioner—domestic partnership ordinance, domestic partnership registry, the gender identity amendment to the Cook County human rights ordinance. That's all before I was in Congress.

When I got into Congress, the first bill I got onto was the hate-crimes bill. I'm an original co-sponsor of the Equality Act, vice-chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus in Congress and a founding member of the Transgender Equality Task Force and the LGBT Aging Issues Task Force. When we still had earmarks, my first earmark was nearly half a million dollars for the Center on Halsted. With all due respect, there's no one else in this race with a proven track record of accomplishment serving this district as a whole and the LGBT community in particular.

WCT: What do you see as being the most pertinent issues for the LGBT community in the years ahead?

MQ: It really depends on who gets in the White House and who controls the House and Senate. If everything was an ideal situation, and I could set off an agenda we could knock off one by one: Marriage equality is great but we have to codify it. The movement to greater equality is absolutely vital, but if you can still be fired because you're gay or lesbian, you can still be denied credit, housing or education opportunities because of who you love, we have a way to go. So with the Equality Act, you have a framework for everything else. It's sort of an infrastructure that other things can get attached to.

We've got to get the Veterans Administration on board for some things. My letter came out calling for medical care for transgender veterans, for example. On a personal level, it's been kind of a crusade for me to end the FDA's ban on blood donations by gay and bisexual men. There's a lot of other things to do, but that's a start for what I would put on the agenda.

WCT: What are some other challenges for your district?

MQ: For me, there are infrastructure issues that matter. We've got to rebuild the Red Line and the Blue Line. They go right through the heart of my district. We've got to address gun violence as well.

If I had unlimited power, resources and access, education is extraordinarily important to work on. We have to find a way to expand and rebuild some of our schools and get a steady revenue stream where everyone has access to a quality education at the elementary, high school and college levels.

Chicago is going to be hindered by long-term climate change. That's not just my district, but it will affect my district.

WCT: Congress has a low approval rating now, thanks in large part to inaction and obstruction on the part of many legislators during the Obama administration. What can you do to change that?

MQ: I'll continue to work on efforts requiring bipartisan cooperation. I'm in two bipartisan groups dealing with budget [issues]. I was able to accomplish a lot of things through the appropriations committee was frankly because I was willing to work on a bipartisan basis. Some of it is reducing the volume of the name-calling, and eliminating it, and trying to speak to people on a one-on-one basis and building cooperation. Building a bridge to accomplishing something, rather than just saying, this is all your fault. Those are the things we're trying to do. It's a minority of Republicans, the Tea Party, who've made it difficult for their speakers to get anything done. Their speakers could



Congressman Mike Quigley.
Photo courtesy of Quigley

have exerted more leadership, but let's hope they do a little better next term.

WCT: What have you learned in your work with the LGBT community?

MQ: I was going to say, what I've learned about lawmakers. Familiarity breeds understanding, acceptance and eventually affection and change. I've seen lawmakers evolve and move towards an understanding that the arc of the moral universe should bend towards justice.

What I've seen in the LGBT community is that, like in every community, the minority of people unfortunately do the yeoman's work. There are some unheralded heroes who have been there all along fighting the good fight. There is a tenacious group of dedicated group

of people there who deserve an extraordinary amount of the credit for the progress in the future.

When I got into this business, lawmakers were loathe to touch these issues. What's comforting to me now is that I have links in the community. It's important to me that they come forward and be recognized, people like Tunney. People can look up to him and say, "He's accomplished this, I can too." People like Larry McKeon and Kelly Cassidy and all the others you know. In Congress, the same is true: People aren't known as "gay or lesbian lawmakers," just effective lawmakers. That's as important an evolutionary aspect we've seen in the movement as it grows.

See QuigleyForCongress.com.

Gloria Steinem gives address at luncheon on reproductive freedom

BY MATT SIMONETTE

According to activist Gloria Steinem, the right to reproductive freedom "is at least as basic a freedom of speech or freedom of assembly, perhaps more so."

Nearly 1,500 community members attended Personal PAC's 2016 Annual Awards Luncheon Oct. 13 at the Chicago Hilton & Towers, where Steinem was the keynote speaker.

She described the efforts of the religious right to curtail reproductive freedom and pronounced those as nothing less than efforts to control women's bodies.

"It is the first step in a hierarchy, rather than a democracy," Steinem said, adding that she foresaw a time when advocates take up opposition to that movement.

"The power of the state stops at our skins, male or female," she said. "I don't know what it will be called, but I think it will be our next legal principle."

Steinem spoke enthusiastically about the possibility of a Hillary Clinton presidency and denounced Donald Trump as a "failure of a businessman and a successful con man."

She said trepidation for Clinton amongst many voters can be attributed to many people not really having the opportunity to engage with formidable women.

"We should remember that we were raised by female human beings, so the last time [many people] saw a powerful woman was when they were eight, and they feel regressed," Steinem said.

Steinem presented Personal PAC's Irving B. Harris Spirit of Choice Award to attorney and activist Judy Gold. Physician Melissa Gilliam was presented with the Pro-Choice Leadership Award by Eileen Dordek, while former state Rep. Julie Hamos was presented with the same award by Andrea Friedman.



Gloria Steinem at a Columbia College event.
Photo by Brian Kinyon

In her remarks, Hamos thanked the LGBT community. "[The LGBT] movement took hold when members of the LGBT community stepped out of the shadows," she said. "That sent a powerful message to the pro-choice movement."

Personal PAC President and CEO Terry Cosgrove also spoke, recalling a time when Cook County Hospital kept 17 beds in a "septic abortion ward," and warned, "Make no mistake: This is an era that anti-abortion forces want us to return to."

Other speakers at the event included U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, Personal PAC Board Chair Melissa Widen and event co-chairs Meredith Bluhm-Wolf and Leslie Bluhm.

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.

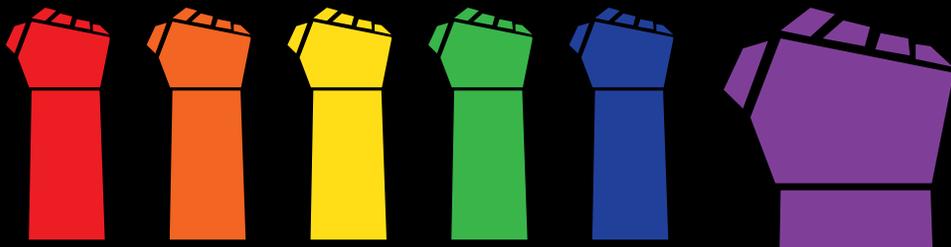
Some of the other honorees include actress Ellen Page, entrepreneur Malcolm Forbes, famed marriage-equality plaintiff James Obergefell, trans advocate/personality Chaz Bono, Israeli gay pioneer/scientist Uzi Even, journalist/commentator Charles Blow, long-distance swimmer Diana Nyad, playwright Terrence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

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



DISARM GUN VIOLENCE

An LGBTQ Town Hall For Action

Education / Coalition Building / Action

**Thursday,
October 20**

6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Speakers:

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

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

Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition partners for this event:

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

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

Community partners for this event:

Affinity Community Services
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
Puerto Rican Cultural Center
Temple Shalom's Social Justice
Thresholds
TransTech
United Latino Pride
Windy City Times

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



G•PAC VOTER GUIDE

2016 General Election Endorsement List

ILLINOIS SENATE

Omar Aquino, 2	Laura Murphy, 28
Patricia Van Pelt, 5	Julie Morrison, 29
Heather Steans, 7	Melinda Bush, 31
Cristina Castro, 22	Christine Benson, 38
Corinne Pierog, 25	

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Theresa Mah, 2	Will Guzzardi, 39
Cynthia Soto, 4	Jaime Andrade, Jr., 40
Juliana Stratton, 5	Kathleen Carrier, 42
Sonya Harper, 6	Anna Moeller, 43
Emanuel "Chris" Welch, 7	Cynthia Borbas, 45
Arthur Turner, 9	Deb Conroy, 46
Ann Williams, 11	Steve Swanson, 48
Sara Feigenholtz, 12	Valerie Burd, 50
Kelly Cassidy, 14	Martin Moylan, 55
John D'Amico, 15	Michelle Mussman, 56
Lou Lang, 16	Elaine Nekritz, 57
Laura Fine, 17	Scott Drury, 58
Robyn Gabel, 18	Angelique Bodine, 69
Merry Marwig, 20	Kathleen Willis, 77
Michael Madigan, 22	Greg Hose, 81
Barbara Flynn Currie, 25	Stephanie Kifowit, 84
Christian Mitchell, 26	Bobby Pritchett, 94
Monique Davis, 27	Natalie Manley, 98
Thaddeus Jones, 29	Carol Ammons, 103
Elgie R. Sims, Jr. 34	

ILLINOIS COMPTROLLER

Susana Mendoza

COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

Kim Foxx

THE COST OF GUN VIOLENCE



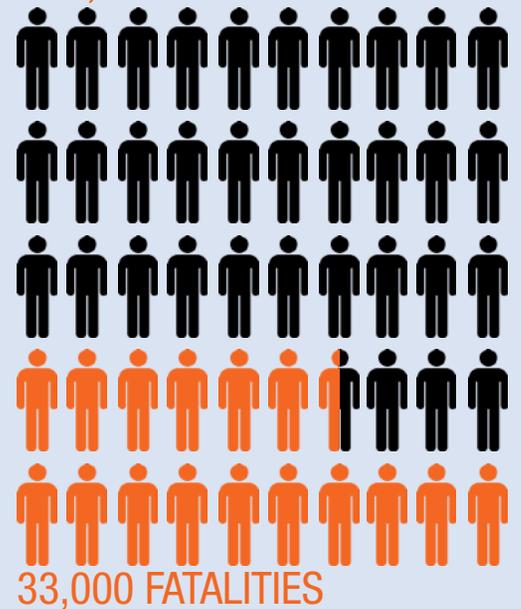
HUMAN TOLL

- On average 100,000 Americans are shot each year, 33,000 of them fatally.
- In Illinois, 1,167 people died from firearms injuries in 2014. ¹

FINANCIAL TOLL

- Nationally, the financial toll of gun violence on American society is \$229 billion/year, \$8.6 billion in direct costs and \$221 billion in indirect costs. ²
- In Illinois, the average cost of gun violence is \$750 per person per year. ³

100,000 AMERICANS SHOT



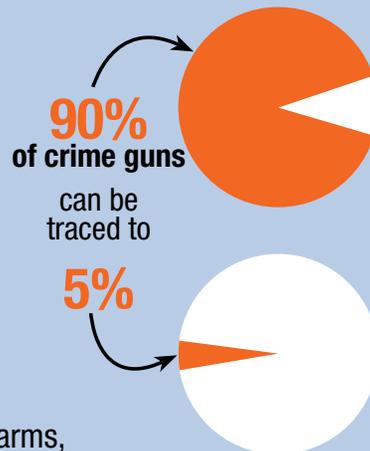
33,000 FATALITIES

HOW DO GUNS ENTER THE ILLEGAL MARKET?

All guns that are sold to the public originate with dealers, making dealers the critical link between gun manufacturers and the public.



- Gun dealers are a major source of illegal firearms.
- Because gun dealers have access to large numbers of firearms, they have the potential to pose a particular threat to public safety. ⁴



- The majority of gun dealers operate responsibly, but 90% of crime guns in the U.S. can be traced back to only 5% of gun dealers.
- Nearly 20% of the crime guns in Chicago were supplied by just four gun shops, all located just outside Chicago. ⁵
- Guns can enter the illegal market when they are stolen from gun dealers, obtained through straw purchases (when someone buys a gun on someone else's behalf), or go missing from a gun dealer's inventory.
- Business practices that a dealer follows, such as employee background checks, anti-theft safety plans, inventory audits and videotaping of gun sales, can reduce the number of guns that end up being used in crimes. ⁶

FEDERAL LAW REGULATING GUN DEALERS

Federal law requires any person engaged in the business of dealing in firearms to obtain a Federal Firearms License (FFL). However, gun dealers are subject to very little ongoing federal oversight, enabling corrupt dealers to go undetected and unpunished. ⁷

- Federal laws limit the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF) to one unannounced inspection of each dealer per year.
- On average, dealers are inspected only once a decade.
- Serious violations are considered misdemeanors; and the burden of proof for license revocation is extremely high. ⁸
- License revocation and prosecution for selling to illegal buyers is rare. ⁹

CURRENT LAWS IN ILLINOIS

STATE LAWS

- The State of Illinois licenses real estate professionals, nurses, doctors, funeral directors and hair braiders... but NOT gun dealers.
- State law enforcement is limited in its ability to inspect or hold the gun dealers accountable for their business practices that lead to guns entering the illegal market.



LOCAL LAWS

- Municipalities or counties may license and regulate gun dealers.
- Locals laws are inconsistent. Some municipalities lack laws to regulate gun dealers at all.
- While the city of Chicago has strict laws with regard to gun dealers, some neighboring towns do not. Therefore the gun dealers located just outside Chicago, that were responsible for nearly 20% of the crime guns in Chicago, are left unchecked.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. *Stats of the State of Illinois*. March 31, 2016. www.cdc.gov
² Mother Jones. *What Does Gun Violence Really Cost?* May/June 2015. www.motherjones.com
³ Ibid.
⁴ The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. *Dealer Regulations Policy Summary* September 13, 2013. www.smartgunlaws.org
⁵ *Tracing the Guns: The Impact of Illegal Guns on Violence in Chicago*. City of Chicago Office of the Mayor, Chicago Police Department, May 27, 2014
⁶ Ibid.
⁷ The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence *Dealer Regulations Policy Summary* September 13, 2013. www.smartgunlaws.org
⁸ Ibid.
⁹ Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, *Shady Dealings, Illegal Gun Trafficking From Licensed Gun Dealers* 23 (Jan. 2007)



DISARM GUN VIOLENCE

An LGBTQ Town Hall For Action

FACTS ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE

- In the United States, over 30,000 lives are lost each year to gun violence that includes homicide (domestic violence, community violence) and suicides
- For every one person killed by a gun, two people survive
- In Illinois, approximately 1,000 people die from guns a year
- As of September 6, over 500 people have been killed by guns in Chicago alone
- Illinois taxpayers pay an average of \$750 a year for direct and indirect costs of gun violence
- A single gun homicide costs taxpayers nearly \$400,000 in direct costs
- In-state gun trafficking is to 2 to 4 times higher in cities located in states without gun sales regulations. Enhancing gun seller accountability can significantly reduce the flow of new guns to criminals

What YOU can do to make a difference – Its starts with Action!

- Reach out** or sign up for updates from any of the groups listed on the back
- Call your state elected officials** and ask them to support legislation that will help stop guns from getting in the hands of those who shouldn't have access
- FIND YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS:** <http://tinyurl.com/YourOfficials>
- Write a letter to the editor** urging support of the Illinois Gun Dealer Licensing Act
- Volunteer** your time and skills with a gun violence prevention group
- Urge** a local restaurant or business to prohibit concealed carry by posting a sign
- Make a monetary donation** to a gun violence prevention organization
- Raise awareness** by talking about this issue and sharing this flyer with your family, friends and community
- If you're invested in a 401(k), you're most likely invested in gun stocks: **Divest your financial interests** of gun manufacturers
- Ask your member of Congress** to pass legislation that would require a background check on all gun sales in every state

The key is we all have to get involved - gun violence is all our problem!



Legacy Walk unveils two new plaques under rainbow sky

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

It was a moment that might have surpassed the wildest dreams of LGBTQ activist icons Sylvia Rivera and Vito Russo, memorialized in bronze on Lake View's Legacy Walk Oct 15.

Under a rainbow that cut through a cloudy sky, summaries of their lives and enduring impact on the community were read by Lyons Township High School students Connor Trimborn and Marshall Harck before two others tugged away the rainbow flag temporarily concealing the faces and contributions now literally etched into the movement.

It was a moment of poignant achievement for Legacy Project Executive Director/Founder Victor Salvo, who has dedicated countless hours over the years since he started—with "\$200 on a coffee table"—ensuring that the world's only outdoor LGBTQ history installation (now with 37 bronze memorials commemorating the LGBTQ individuals who helped to shape history) does not go unnoticed by the generations who follow.

"Without our history, queer people are marginalized, even demonized, and stereotypes substitute for fact," City of Chicago Commissioner of the Commission on Human Relations Mona Noriega noted during the opening reception, held at Center on Halsted. "Fear and ignorance [make up] the perfect environment that allows queer people to be discriminated against and to be killed."

"Creating an avenue by which our history is integrated into the lives of children, teachers and parents gives people permission and an opportunity to recognize us," she added. "We all know the difference coming out has made to a better understanding of who we are and that we are indeed everywhere. We all know that, once the education and truth offered by The Legacy Walk replaces fear and ignorance, we potentially have a new ally."

That's why, according to Salvo, The Legacy Project is presently working with Lyons Township High School "To develop the first LGBT history elective that will be taught in the state of Illinois."

Thus the significance of a large contingent of Lyons Township students in the 150-plus audience for the organization's fifth dedication ceremony was not lost on Pride Action Tank Executive Director Kim Hunt.

"This is a very intergenerational event," Hunt noted. "These are more than plaques."

For Howard Brown Health Transgender Relations Coordinator and trans activist Myles Brady-Davis, the work of The Legacy Project is more than everyday if youth is to grow up, as Brady-Davis did, with a testament to the honored heritage bequeathed to them.

"I'm a proud Ghanian," he said. "I'm from the Akan tribe, a member of the Ashanti people. My father often told me that there 'is nothing new under the sun.' In pre-colonial times, trans people were seen as being chosen by God. They were cultural bearers and spiritual leaders within their community."

"Each generation of people try to pass on strength, skills, cultures and traditions to the next," Brady-Davis added. "Most LGBTQ youth often grow up without the knowledge of the

history of people like themselves or with the awareness that people like themselves even have a history. This absence can add to the alienation that queer youth experience simply by growing up in a heteronormative community and tradition. I'm an example of how sharing one's history can literally be a life-saving endeavor."

However, founder of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Cleve Jones recognized that it is not just the past that is imperiled by heteronormativity—something demonstrated by the gayborhoods that are being rapidly eroded through unaffordable real estate and the extinction of LGBTQ spaces such as lesbian bars.

"It's not just enough to remember the people who came before us but we need to be thinking ahead," he said. "We're losing the geographic

begin the same climb, the new plaques unveiled on the pylons which line Halsted Street are a free-to-all necessity.

Activists and Rivera friends and witnesses Judy Bowen and Philip Raia traveled from Las Vegas and Orlando respectively for the occasion.

After they each shared memories of Rivera's life and hope for trans inclusion and LGBTQ community unity, Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame inductee and Puerto Rican Cultural Center's Vida/Sida staff member Maritxa Vidal noted that, "Sylvia had a vision. She used her strength to advocate for the needy, homeless, the poor, the marginalized, the transgender women of color. To be willing to be arrested multiple times because she wanted to fight for those of us [whose] voices could not be heard



Left: Cleve Jones, Bruce Vilanch, Richard Knight, Jr., Tim Miller, Jose Pepe Pena, Art Johnston and others at the Vito Russo plaque. Right: Maritxa Vidal, Judy Bowen and Philip Raia at the Sylvia Rivera plaque.



Above: Myles Brady-Davis. Left: Marshall Harck.



Above: Tim Miller. Left: Lyons Township High School students.

concentrations of LGBT and allied people that was responsible for some very important things. What we've seen now is that these districts are being completely transformed by gentrification and displacement."

Jones asserted that the home he made in San Francisco's historic and once-vibrant LGBTQ Castro neighborhood has become unaffordable for senior, long-term HIV survivors like him who are "Targeted for eviction. They want us out of there. The younger queers can't come to San Francisco. They can't pay \$4,000-per-month for a studio apartment. Harvey Milk's neighborhood is now one of the most expensive in North America."

While Lake View's average rent has long since

speaks to the strength, character and the valor of Sylvia Rivera."

Windy City Times film critic, director, writer, musician and Queer Film Society Founder and President Richard Knight, Jr. represented the Russo family and noted the recent celebration of the 35th anniversary of Russo's groundbreaking book *The Celluloid Closet*.

"The story of the ways in which gayness has been defined in American film is the story of the ways in which we have been defined in America," he said. "We have cooperated for a very long time in the maintenance of our invisibility and, now, the party is over."

Knight also introduced Emmy Award-winning comedian, writer, actor and Russo friend Bruce

Left: Russo plaque unveiled by Lyons Township High School students.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

Vilanch, who recalled the days when he and Russo would greet each other with a dip of the hand and the words "Hail Cobra," a phrase from an old movie.

"The strength of *The Celluloid Closet* was that not just gay people read it but straight people read it and they realized, many of them, for the first time the depth of hatred and misunderstanding that existed and, to some degree, still does—Trump—in this country," Vilanch said. "[Vito's] fearless and tireless devotion to helping [during] the AIDS situation became his real legacy beyond the cultural one he established."

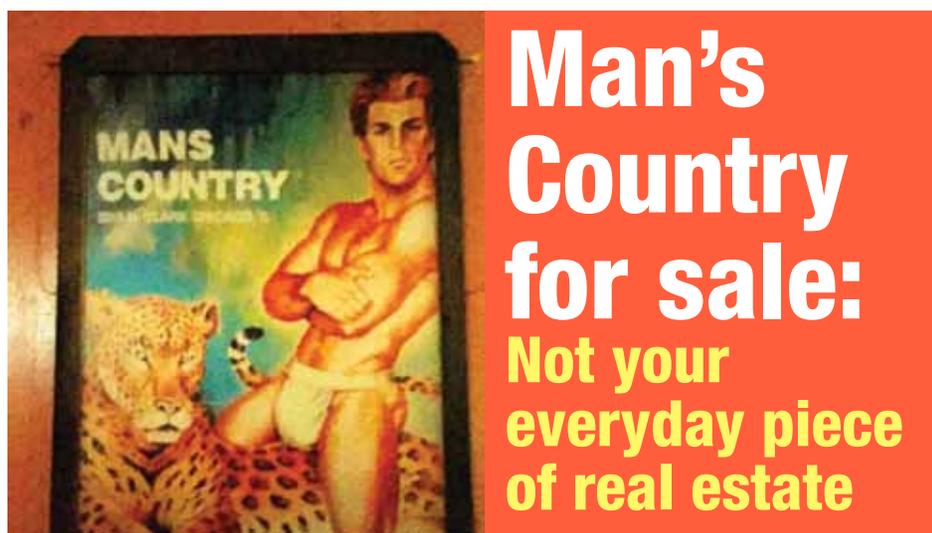
Russo's plaque was sponsored by Knight and Jim Bailey, The Queer Film Society, Arthur L. Johnston and Jose A. Peña, Michael Leppen, Tim Miller, Patrick Schaller and Clayton Ebert and Tom Segal.

Rivera's plaque was sponsored by Stoli Group, USA. Stoli Group USA was represented at the dedication by Patrik Gallineaux, who said his work is about making sure LGBTQ people and events internationally are supported by Stoli. He was very passionate about making sure the company sponsored Legacy plaques that represented people who may have been more marginalized, and less likely to find donors to underwrite the plaque costs.

Event sponsors included BMO Harris Bank, the Center on Halsted, Levi Strauss, the Northalsted Business Alliance, Sidetrack, and Stoli Group USA. The media sponsor was Windy City Times.



Cleve Jones.



BY OWEN KEEHNEN

Last week Chuck Renslow gathered his employees and told them the news: After 43 years, he was selling Man's Country, located at 5017 N. Clark, just south of Andersonville's main strip of businesses.

"The place is holding its own, but it is just getting to be too much for me," he said.

At 87, Renslow still comes down to the office three times a week. That's something he says he'll miss: "I don't know what I'm going to do with myself." After a pause, he smiled, "Bathhouses are still going strong. Maybe I'll open a new one."

Renslow shrugged when asked how the long the selling process for the building might take. "Someone could buy us in a month or it could be a year. I have no idea when we will eventually close," he said. "In the meantime, we are still open. They'll probably tear it down and put in condos. Land is premium in Andersonville and Man's Country occupies a lot of land."

The remaining Man's Country complex occupies nearly 20,000 sq. feet which includes 113 feet of street frontage and 160 ft. depth. When asked what they might discover if the building is, in fact, torn down for condos, Renslow laughs, "Oh, there will be some surprises I'm sure. Walls built on top of murals that are built in front of mirrors. Who knows what all they will find."

Renslow maintains that nostalgia and a hundred favorite memories will make leaving Man's Country difficult. He cites his bathhouse as having been an integral part of building community.

"Back in its heyday, it was something," he said. "One time I did a survey and asked our members why they came to Man's Country, only 20 percent said for the sex. A large part of the rest came to see the shows and have fun and to be with other gay men. Being with each other, that's what was so much fun."

Memories are everywhere.

Rudolf Nureyev ran naked down these hallways shouting, "Who wants to swing on a star?" Paul Lynde arrived one night in a limo. Wayland Flowers roamed the halls in a towel with his puppet, Madame, in curlers and a chenille robe. On the Man's Country stage specialty dancer Sally Rand entranced a towel-clad audience with her balloon dance. Countless men explored their sexuality in the rooms along these labyrinthian corridors. Sexual awareness and abandon, devastation and education happened within these walls. Here lifetime friendships were born along with five-minute and five-decade romances.

Forty-four years ago Renslow first toured the multi-unit structure on the 5000 block of North Clark and realized its potential. At the time Renslow owned the Gold Coast leather bar as well as several other Chicago businesses. Renslow had owned bathhouses before. At the time he was co-owner of the Club Baths in Chicago, Kansas City and Phoenix.

After seeing the space, Renslow took a gamble. He sold off some property to buy the structure at 5017 N. Clark St. His partner in the purchase, and in life, was Dom Orejudos, also known as the erotic artist Etienne. Taking his

Man's Country for sale: Not your everyday piece of real estate

inspiration from the Continental Baths in New York, Renslow began extensive renovations. His goal was to create not just a bathhouse, but an entertainment complex.

Built in 1907 as a lodge hall and fraternal organization, the building provided several surprises during renovation. There was strong evidence of on-site gambling. Behind one steel-bolted door was a room that contained



Murals (top and below) and the elephant (above) at Man's Country.

Photos by Owen Keehnen



poker tables with a separate staircase. In another room only brackets remained where slot machines were once mounted. Even a skeleton was discovered—but it was the sort used in classrooms with numbered bones and a steel hinge on the jaw.

When Man's Country opened on Sept. 19, 1973, it was a single floor. Overhaul of the building continued and by April 1974, the bathhouse consisted of locker facilities galore, a basement and steam room, a whirlpool bath, an orgy room, a small lounge with a juice bar and sandwiches, and a TV lounge. There were also 26 rooms, three of which were double occupancy. Though still in the midst of renovations, Man's Country was far superior to the typical bathhouse of the era.

The crowning achievement of the renovation was the Music Hall. The gay megaplex could now hold 1,500 people. The grand opening was a "black towel optional" affair on New Year's Eve 1974. In the coming years all the stars of the KY Circuit (as the gay bathhouse/gay club circuit was called) graced the Man's Country Music Hall stage. Divine performed here as did campy impersonator Charles Pierce. Comics like Rusty "Knockers Up" Warren, Pudgy, Bruce Vilanch and Judy Tenuta all brought their unique humor here. The Music Hall hosted singers, magicians, dancers, hypnotists and more. Speaking of Vilanch, his disco scene in the gay Christmas movie *Scrooge & Marley* was shot in the Music Hall, and several other scenes from the film were also shot in the complex. Renslow was even cast as an extra.

During its heyday, the resident drag queen, emcee and DJ of Man's Country was Wanda Lust. Lust became the face of STD testing in Chicago during the dawn of gay men's health. During that era of expanding community, Man's Country became a site for VD and STD testing with a full clinic upstairs.

As a result of the enhanced atmosphere, Man's Country was a sex club which became a sort of retreat. Men sometimes arrived with luggage and stayed the weekend. They might bring beads to hang from the door frames, throw rugs, colored lights, candles, incense and anything else to make their cubicle home. For many, Man's Country was a haven, a place of sexual expression and experimentation, social interaction, openness and camaraderie. All these elements were vital in the early years of gay liberation.

Author Edmund White captured Man's Country in his 1980 travelogue of gay America, *States of Desire*. "On the ground floor are the showers, a steam room and a hot tub, all fitted into a stone grotto. On the second floor are rooms, lockers, the TV room and the orgy room—TV viewing and orgy viewing seemed comparatively tranquil. Upstairs I found the disco. Lying on mats along the wall were sleeping bodies. A twirling mirrored ball cast scintillas of light over these dreamers. At one end of the room was a spotlight stage, bracketed by art deco caryatids framing a set: a painted skyline of skinny skyscrapers in black and white, stylized to look hundreds of stories tall ... Coiled metal stairs led me up to the roof garden, where, under a

cool, blowy sky, I watched two couples fucking."

In June 1981 the U.S. Centers for Disease Control announced that five men had been diagnosed with a rare pneumonia. The "gay cancer," or gay-related immune deficiency (GRID, as AIDS was initially called), had dire effects on Man's Country. Early in the epidemic, Renslow closed the orgy room and glory holes. The bathhouse did not distribute condoms until the means of HIV transmission was known. Once it was discovered, condoms were given with a towel at check-in and were made readily available throughout the facility.

During the peak years of the epidemic, attendance at Man's Country plummeted. To compensate, Renslow opened *Bistro Too* on the ground and second floor in the rear of the structure. The Music Hall stage became the *Bistro* stage which hosted performers from Grace Jones to the Village People to Boy George. When *Bistro Too* closed, Renslow opened the *Chicago Eagle* on the lower level and main floor at the back of the of the building and reopened the Music Hall. With the eventual closing of *The Eagle*, Man's Country added more rooms.

The entire complex has been repeatedly altered and modified from the original structure. The sun deck Edmund White wrote about was eventually closed as part of the *Bistro Too* conversion. The Man's Country internal complex once even included stores such as *The Erogeous Zone* which sold bath-related items—caftans, jocks, lounge pants, 'aromas,' magazines and lubes. There was a country store, a leather store, and even a gym with weight equipment and machines.

Renslow is rightfully proud to say that for a long while Man's Country was the finest bathhouse in the country. After 43 years, the eventual closing of these doors will also be the end of an era. For generations Man's Country stood as a symbol for the evolution of gay liberation and consciousness. Though its original grandeur has tarnished, the value and necessity of this building and its place in the evolution of Chicago LGBT history cannot be minimized.

Though Man's Country is up for sale and open for business, several iconic treasures remain. The *Leather Archives and Museum* will be coming though to remove some of the plentiful historic erotic artwork, like the multiple murals and pieces by erotic master Etienne, the dozens of Kris Studio photo prints, assorted statuary, artifacts and maybe an iconic sign or two. Renslow added, "Whatever they think is worth keeping, I want them to have."

When asked what the the most precious thing in the place was for him, Renslow nodded towards the large teak elephant statue in the lobby. "That's something they can't have. That is something that will be going with me."

Owen Keehnen is the co-author, with Tracy Baim, of the biography *Leatherman: The Legend of Chuck Renslow*, available in color and black-and-white editions from Amazon. The book details not just Man's Country, but Renslow's political activism, bar ownership, newspaper ownership, founding of *International Mr. Leather*, and much more.



Renslow in his office, surrounded by images of him with politicians and celebrities.

Photo by Owen Keehnen



in the LIFE

Conor McGarry

TEXT BY ANDREW DAVIS
PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCGARRY

- **Age**
22
brownies more than once a week."
- **Neighborhood**
Buena Park
- **Job title**
Actor/personal trainer
- **Pets**
Louie, a disabled, 7-year-old, deaf pug that's "the light of my life and the sunshine of my world"
- **Favorite snack food**
"I eat really healthy, so I have a giant bag of nuts that I always snack on. But I sneak in
- **Motto**
"Never stop creating and never give up."
- **Desired dinner guests, living or dead**
"Stephen Sondheim, and Rodgers and Hammerstein"
- **Dream theatrical production**
"I know it sounds stereotypical, but [it'd be] The Book of Mormon. It's one of the funniest shows ever written."

Conor McGarry knew he wanted to be in theater from a very young age.

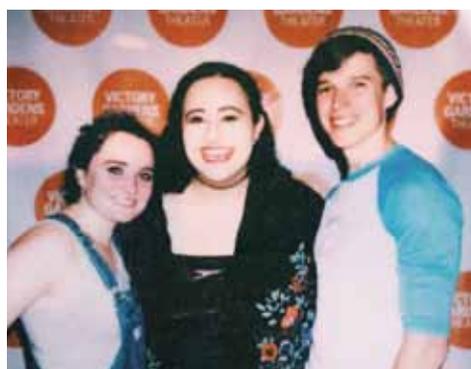
Said love of theater led him to major in it at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. "Decatur is the middle of nowhere," he said, "and there's absolutely nothing to do—which works for a theater school. When there's nothing to do, it just makes you practice more. We just worked on our craft."

However, he was eventually drawn to the Windy City, studying acting at Columbia College Chicago. "[Moving] was a great decision for me," he said. "I adopted a pug (that I've [whittled] down from 40 pounds to 22—my first personal-training success story), and [being here has] become a really positive experience." Being in Chicago also allowed McGarry to procure more theater experience, including roles in productions such as Altar Boyz, Mary Poppins and Planted: A Song Cycle, a show about being gay in modern-day America that McGarry called "one of the best experiences he's ever had."

McGarry portrays Ziggy in Lake Forest Theatre's production of the classic Mel Brooks comedic movie Young Frankenstein through Sunday, Oct. 30. The only thing that's really different from the film, he said, is that the theatrical production has more singing and dancing; "otherwise, the scripts are about 90 percent the same."

Oh, there's one other tidbit. With October being National Coming Out Month, McGarry was asked who the first person he came out to was. Without skipping a beat, he said, "I feel like it was myself. I wanted a 'typical' life for myself, and it took me a long time to come to terms with being gay. But I have a clear memory of walking across the Millikin campus one day—and it hit me that I am gay. Within 12 hours, I had come out to all my friends, and everyone was very supportive."

Young Frankenstein plays Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. Single-show tickets are \$49 and three-show season tickets are \$120; call 847-604-4975, see LakeForestTheatre.com or visit the box office.



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Cost: FREE

When: Oct. 22 from 10am - 1pm

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viewpoints



**Hayley
GORENBERG**



**Richard
SAENZ**

The Constitution should protect sex work

As courts confront challenges to prostitution laws that pile fines and criminal records on people who get paid for consensual sex, we're making our position clear: we see no constitutionally adequate basis to criminalize sex solely because one consenting adult pays another.

In one such case, *Erotic Service Provider Legal, Education & Research Project v. Gascon*, pending in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, Lambda Legal recently filed a friend-of-the-court brief challenging a decision that failed to examine the facts of whether a California prostitution law actually promotes public health. Representing our own organization, as well as AIDS United, APLA Health, The Center for HIV Law and Policy, GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders, The HIV Prevention Justice Alliance, National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Positively Trans, Positive Women's Network-USA, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Brad Sears (executive director of The Williams Institute), Sero Project and the Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center, we laid out the real-world evidence that criminalizing sex work actually undermines public health.

When the government criminalizes sex work, people involved in the sex trade fear law enforcement, arrests and penalties. Criminaliza-

tion deters people frequently targeted by police (often poor, often people of color, often transgender women) from carrying and using condoms, a cheap and effective method of preventing HIV and other sexually transmitted infections—because those condoms may be used as evidence of intent to commit a crime. And that result, as a prominent prosecutor admitted years ago, is “a public health disaster.” Yet more than three decades into the HIV epidemic, this is the public health impact our criminal laws have wrought—often affecting people for whom sex work makes the difference between having food and shelter or going hungry and homeless.

Sex workers are more likely to be targeted for violence, and less likely to get help if they are attacked, because telling the facts of what occurred will likely reveal their engagement in criminalized conduct. They are also less likely to go to doctors and clinics or to be forthcoming about their activities when the work they do can lead to being charged with a crime. For all of these reasons, criminalizing sex worsens public health—for both sellers and buyers—rather than protecting or improving it.

These impacts can make workers vulnerable to the force and coercion that are the hallmarks of trafficking. In turn, people who are trafficked have reduced control over their work and their choices, leading to worsened health, including added vulnerability to HIV and disease progression.

To be clear, human trafficking is not sex work, and confusing the two leads to legal and public health chaos when we try to find our way to sound results. Clearing out the clamor: The key is consent. People who are coerced or forced into sex or domestic labor (the most common form of human trafficking) are not sex workers—they are trafficking victims. Nothing about our position blocks prosecuting their tormentors.

At the heart of Lambda Legal's most groundbreaking victories and continuing mission is self-determination, including bodily autonomy. When the Supreme Court struck down laws criminalizing same-sex relationships and gay identity in *Lawrence v. Texas*, it rightly rejected assertions against us that “public health” justified sodomy laws. The movement for reproductive justice, from which we draw

key legal precedents, similarly fights for facts over fiction when government tries to limit the right to contraception, abortion, or other similar personal decision-making. Lawrence explained that the constitutional right to liberty protects all of us when we make our own decisions about adult, consensual sexual intimacy. In cases such as *Lawrence* and a long and venerable line of reproductive justice cases the Court has recognized values of dignity, privacy, and autonomy extending to each of us in our sexual choices, independent of whether encounters involve love or marriage and unimpeded by moral disapproval. Across connected movements, we are all in this together, in so many ways.

And so we have rejected facile assumptions about public health and sex work. We did so in supporting Amnesty International's deeply researched platform rejecting criminalization of sex work, and soon after in critiquing the Rentboy.com prosecution. Throughout, we have driven home the truth about the devastating harms of arrests, fines, sentences, criminal records, injuries and violence that criminalizing sex work generates against LGBT people and many others. We will continue to do so in our legal and policy advocacy and in coalition with other organizations in support of our mutual goals: health, safety, and choice and self-determination about our relationships, our work and our bodies.

Money complicates sex. But a commercial exchange shouldn't negate these constitutional rights. And frankly, sometimes relationships are transactional. For just a few common examples, consider prenuptial agreements, surrogacy and hook-up websites; the fact that money is involved does not obliterate constitutional protections for marriage, parenting or sexual intimacy. All of these truths animate Lambda Legal's position that the government may not constitutionally criminalize consensual adult sex solely because it is bought and sold.

Hayley Gorenberg is Lambda Legal deputy legal director and Richard Saenz is a staff attorney as well as the criminal justice and public misconduct program strategist.

This column originally ran at LambdaLegal.org/blog/20161012_constitution-should-protect-sex-work.



**Dana
RUDOLPH**

MOMBIAN Telling stories of Jewish LGBTQ lives

The Jewish High Holiday season recently took place, so let's take a look at some new stories that feature queer, Jewish families, including a children's picture book and a grown-up memoir by a woman with four lesbian moms.

Meryl Gordon's *The Flower Girl Wore Celery* is one of two children's books to gain publication through a writing contest hosted by Keshet, the national organization for LGBTQ Jews, in partnership with Kar-Ben Publishing. (The other title, *The Purim Superhero*, came out in 2013.)

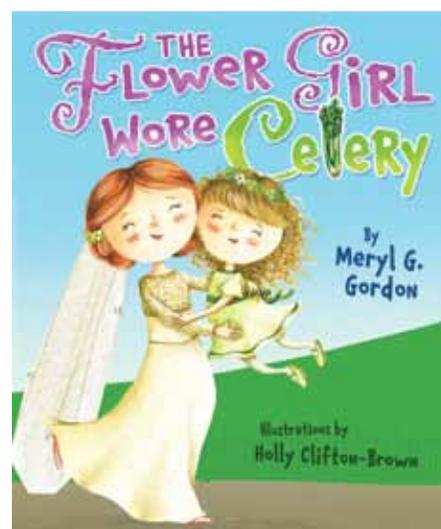
Gordon's book—with dynamic, whimsical illustrations by Holly Clifton-Brown—tells the story of young Emma, who is asked to be the flower girl at her cousin Hannah's wedding.

Emma is excited, but has some misconceptions. She thinks she will dress as a flower—until her mother tells her she'll wear a “celery dress” like the bridesmaids. She then imagines a dress covered with stalks of celery. When she hears there will be a “ring bearer,” she envisions a furry “ring bear.” About Alex, to whom her cousin is engaged, she knows nothing.

She is surprised to learn that celery refers to the dress color; that the ring bearer is a human boy; and that Alex is a woman. “No celery. No bear. And two brides! Nothing was what she had imagined,” she thinks—but takes it all in stride. Gordon doesn't dwell on the fact that the couple is female, even as she acknowledges that it might be unexpected (but no more so than anything else). This makes the book a great choice for any parents wanting to show their children various types of families, as well as for same-sex parents and our kids.

The wedding is definitively Jewish: There is a rabbi (a woman) and Jewish wedding traditions like reading the ketubah (wedding contract) and stepping on wine glasses. Publisher Joanna Sussman told me, “We were seeking great Jewish-themed stories featuring same-sex families that would be of interest not just to the LGBTQ community, but to the community at large.”

LGBTQ-inclusive kids' books are rare, and those that celebrate any kind of ethnic or reli-



gious identity are rarer still. A lack of specificity may give a story broad appeal—but it is also important for children to see in books the various intersecting parts of themselves (and others). Kudos to Keshet and Kar-Ben for helping to make this happen.

Kellen Anne Kaiser's self-searching, funny and occasionally bawdy *Queerspawn in Love* is not a children's book, but rather a

WINDY CITY TIMES

VOL. 32, No. 4, Oct. 19, 2016

The combined forces of *Windy City Times*, founded Sept. 1985, and *Outlines* newspaper, founded May 1987.

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

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

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

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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WCT reviews the production *Wicked City*.

Photo by Jay Kennedy

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Partners in drama

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Los Angeles-based writers and spouses Nancy Nyman and Heather McNama were grateful to win the 2015 Pride Films and Plays' LezPlay Competition with their historical drama *Resolution*. But Nyman and McNama couldn't believe that Pride Films and Plays also offered to produce the world premiere of *Resolution* the following year.

"It was a very nice surprise," McNama said in a joint telephone interview with Nyman.

"We were so excited to have the honor of winning the contest," Nyman said. "But this is just very thick icing on a delicious cake."

Described as a "vintage queer thriller," *Resolution* is about a New York high society couple in 1892 whose long-held secret is revealed around New Year's Eve.

"We've always been attracted to period pieces. Edith Wharton is really my favorite writer and so this period really speaks to me," Nyman said. McNama interjected by mentioning British lesbian author Sarah Waters (*Tipping the Velvet*, *Fingersmith*) as another big influence.

The idea for *Resolution* came to McNama and Nyman after the 2008 passage of California's Proposition 8 that rescinded same-sex marriages. Due to an immobilizing injury sustained by McNama, she and Nyman were unable to get married during the brief window of opportunity when gay marriage was legal in the state. (The U.S. courts returned same-sex marriages to California in 2013.)

"The idea came to us on Christmas morning and we were just thinking about the year ahead and how we couldn't get married and how devastating that was for us," Nyman said. "For us, our reaction to the whole Prop. 8 thing was to write a play about marriage and what it means to be married. And what are all of the things that make up a marriage."

McNama and Nyman didn't originally write *Resolution* with African-American characters in mind. Yet they were more than happy to entertain director Diana Raiselis' more expansive casting ideas for the Pride Films and Plays premiere.

"It was absolutely within the realm of possibilities with this play, so we said, 'Yeah,'" Nyman said. "It's given us even more to explore and that has been really fun and interesting."

In order to attend Pride Films and Plays' world premiere of their drama *Resolution*, McNama and Nyman have had to jump through multiple hoops due to the fact that they are foster parents. There are multiple rules of clearing who can take care of their charges during their absence.

The duo are also relishing the chance to ex-

perience Chicago for the first time together as a couple. Nyman and McNama missed out on attending last year's LezPlay Festival due to a pushed-up writing deadline of a TV pilot.

"We are both fascinated by Chicago and its incredible theater community," Nyman said. "Funnily enough, the preview weekend when we are visiting is on our second-year wedding anniversary."

Pride Films and Plays world premiere of Nancy Nyman and Heather McNama's *Resolution* plays from Friday, Oct. 21, through Sunday, Nov. 20, at Rivendell Theatre, 5779 N. Ridge Ave. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 3:30 p.m. matinees Sundays. Tickets are \$15 for previews (through Oct. 23) and \$10-\$25 during the regular run; call 800-737-0984 or visit PrideFilmsAndPlays.com for more information.

Life transitions

In Shepsu Aakhu's world-premiere drama *Starting Over*, for MPAACT, two interracial young lovers who grew up in an intolerant small town face other complications when they are reunited 15 years later in corporate America. In their time apart, one of them has

become transgender.

When asked what inspired him to write *Starting Over*, Aakhu said it was both a tough and an easy question. In large part, Aakhu was frustrated by segments of the African-American community that are a part of the backlash against same-sex marriage. Many African-American religious leaders in particular have also been outspoken about efforts to link the struggles for civil rights with LGBTQ acceptance.

"Lots of people who are church-minded, and not so really church-minded, have an extraordinary difficult time seeing how civil rights are civil rights," said Aakhu, who identifies as heterosexual. "This reluctance to see the humanity of others while at the same time decrying your very own—I wanted to figure out how to write a play that stripped the—for lack of a better word—bullshit out of the argument so that we could get down to try to look at people for who and what they are."

Aakhu was quick to point out that *Starting Over* is, overall, a love story and not a play exploring an individual's journey through during the transitioning process. And as a cisgender male, Aakhu wanted to be sure that he wouldn't face appropriation accusations.

So auditions were opened up to trans performers, while Aakhu said a trans-identified dramaturg was part of the play's early development. Yet ultimately a trans actor was not cast.

"To be fair, there's just a question of whose

stories in this cultural appropriation conversation you get to tell. So if this was a play about a central character that was undergoing this transition and there was no input, no feedback, no connection to that community in telling the story, I think that's a pretty valid point," said Aakhu about his decision to skip over his character's transition process by building in a large time gap into the plotting of *Starting Over* before the reunion years later.

"But we're treading in a different pool of water. If I tell the story about an interracial couple trying to survive in Virginia where there were laws stating there can't be interracial couples, and I'm Black, can I write the white characters because that's still part of the same story? Or if I'm a white person can I only write about white people?" Aakhu asked. "It's not a singular story, it's a story with a multifaceted approach to a question. And so where do you have to sit to be authentic to have a conversation? For us, it was not to write about the things in portraying the things that we are not well-enough grounded to discuss."

MPAACT's world premiere of Shepsu Aakhu's *Starting Over* continues through Sunday, Nov. 20, at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago. Performance times are 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 3 p.m. matinees on Sundays. Tickets are \$21 to \$37; call 773-404-7336, or visit MPAACT.org or GreenhouseTheater.org.



Aneisa Hicks (left) and Amber Snyder star in *Resolution*.

Photo from Pride Films and Plays

THEATER REVIEW

Pirandello's Henry IV

Playwright: Luigi Pirandello, translated and adapted by Tom Stoppard
 At: Remy Bumpo Theatre Company at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.
 Tickets: \$42.50-\$52.50
 Runs through: Nov. 13

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Luigi Pirandello is probably the best-known proponent of the connection between real-life actors impersonating fictional characters and our own everyday adoption of different roles as occasion demands. The legacy of this early 20th-century playwright has long been impeded by atonal translations intended for academic study, but Tom Stoppard, himself a champion of sleight-of-hand narratives, has crafted from his intellectually dense source material an adaptation at once breezy and concise.

A few things you might want to know going in are: 1) The title character refers to Holy Roman Emperor Heinrich IV (1050-1106), not the English and French monarchs; 2) the man on the throne is not the real Henry, but an Italian playboy who, following a head injury sustained in a fall off a horse at a costume pageant 20 years ago, awoke convinced that he was the German king; and 3) our setting is a room in the invalid's home, decorated to look like the



From left: Michael Turrentine, Mark L. Montgomery, Martel Manning, Patrice Egleston and Jake Szczepaniak. Photo by Johnny Knight

royal castle at Gosler, where three servants dressed in period garb are instructing a newly hired fourth in his duties. They are interrupted by the arrival of visitors: the widowed Matilda Spina, her daughter Frida and consort Tito Belcredi, along with the faux-Henry's nephew Carlo di Nolli. They have come with a psychiatrist proposing to cure their delusional comrade by invoking a prototypal form of abreactional therapy. What could go wrong?

The minutiae of the tumultuous reign under scrutiny—itemized by Pirandello in vertigo-inducing detail—is the least of the obstruc-

tions confronting the well-meaning meddlers. For one, there are the full-length portraits of Henry and Matilda dressed in High Middle Ages fashion, painted to commemorate the fatal festival, that serve to remind everyone that the latter's daughter looks the very image of her mother, once the object of the pre-concussive Henry's affections. As the conspirators prepare to implement their restorative plan, our alleged madman reveals to his henchmen a secret that changes our view of his hallucinations altogether.

Orienting ourselves to internecine intrigue

within two parallel environments at a single sitting can be a formidable task. Fortunately, director Nick Sandys and an ensemble anchored by Mark L. Montgomery's scenery-chomping performance as the batcrackers Henry, retain a firm rein on their personae, guiding us through the chronological and genealogical labyrinths with a verbal agility enabling us to keep pace with the swift reversals Pirandello employs in his diatribe on the duplicity of a society ready to humor a reclusive madman rather than question their part in precipitating his retreat.

THEATER REVIEW

Wicked City

Playwright: Chad Beguelin (book/lyrics), Matthew Sklar (music)

At: Chicago Theatre Workshop at The Edge, 5451 N. Broadway

Tickets: ChicagoTheatreWorkshop.org; \$40-\$42

Runs through: Oct. 30

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Nights are sultry in Wicked City, dames are hot and private eye Eddie Cain is "the best dick in town."

If you like 1940s-style jazz and close-harmony vocals, this 95-minute show is your shot o' rye in the familiar pattern of noir thrillers,

where the tough-talking gumshoe falls hard for the voluptuous babe whose hidden secrets outnumber her diamonds, and she has lotsa diamonds. Wicked City also has an unexpected classical pedigree that will enhance your enjoyment if you recognize it, but won't inhibit your pleasure if you don't.

You see, years ago Jo Van Cleave (shapely Lauren Roesner) abandoned her out-of-wedlock baby, coerced by her gangster-politician boyfriend (Jason Richards) into climbing the ladder of power. To repay her scandal-saving sacrifice, he married her and she's been rich—and miserable—ever since. Now Jo wants to find the babe. Set on her journey by Madame Theresa (Rashada Dawan), a street fortune-teller, Jo hires Eddie Cain (Javier Ferreira). Naturally, it's all told as a flashback in proper cinema noir style.

Wicked City is musically slick, which is a compliment as nothing-but-nothing ever has sounded smoother than '40s jazz. The twisty story is laid out quickly and told in straightforward manner, with a new song provided at no more than five-minute intervals. The cast handles the musical chores with aplomb and has fun (but not too much fun) with the genre and its archetypal characters. Director/choreographer Christopher Pazdernik strikes the right balance. In a small homage to a master of the form, the police detective is named Inspector Hammett (Gabriel Fries).

This Chicago premiere of Wicked City is Chicago Theatre Workshop's inaugural production. As the company name suggests, the focus is on brand-new or nearly-new theater pieces (all musical in some form) which still might be described as "in development." As such the

production is modest, having limited scenic elements, a cast which is several singers/dancers short of a full-scale production and a small three-piece band (which cooks under Dustin L. Struhall, music director). Nonetheless, it's a fully staged production, although one can see where a dance number would go, and one can hear where a larger singing ensemble or a brass section would flesh out the sound.

The show is billed as a comedy but it's really a semi-comedy, especially when the classical inspiration becomes apparent. The dialogue is appropriately snappy and clever but a few more real laughs would strengthen the comic tone . . . if that is, indeed, what the creators are after.

FYI: The classical inspiration is—gasp!—a Greek tragedy, which I will not name. It took me an hour to catch on, but maybe you'll be faster than I am ... but I doubt it!

THEATER REVIEW

Merge

Written by: Spenser Davis

Directed by: Andrew Hobgood

At: The Den Theatre's Upstairs Main Stage, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Tickets: NewColony.org, \$20

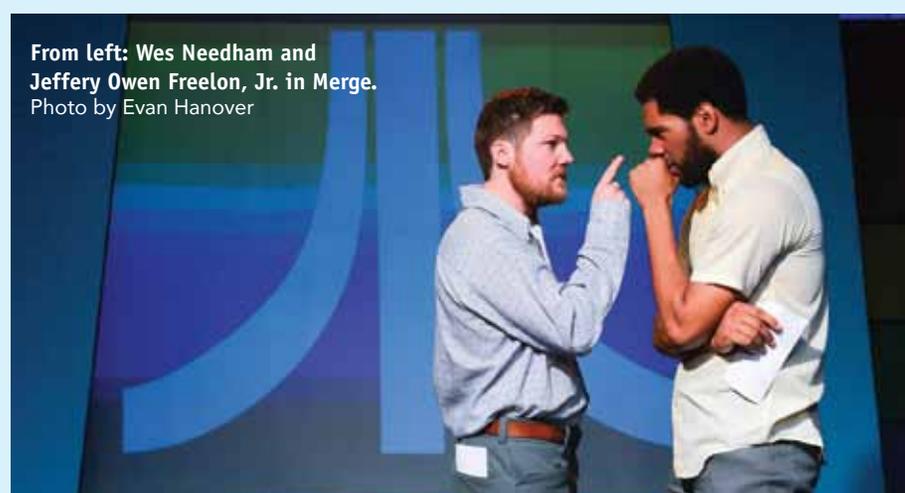
Runs through: Nov 13

BY ERIC KARAS

The New Colony concludes its 2016 season with Merge, a play about the history of video games, home gaming and, specifically, the rise and fall of Atari.

When you walk into the space you are immediately taken into the world of vintage video gaming from the fun neon painted walls/sets by John Wilson and the video-game projections by Paul Deziel and Ben Zemen. Anyone like me—who was a child of the 1970s and teen of the 1980s—will instantly experience a wave of nostalgia, and that happens throughout the whole show. This show starts energetically and keeps on moving with the cast running in and out with dramatic flair and comedy.

The cast does a fine job inhabiting roles, from the dreamer at the beginning (Wes Needham) to his parter and his conscience (Jeffrey Owen Feelong Jr.). I especially enjoyed Lindsey Pearlman's cool as a cucumber



From left: Wes Needham and Jeffrey Owen Freelon, Jr. in Merge. Photo by Evan Hanover

Patti York who lobbies for the designers.

On the other end of the spectrum is the over-the-top performance of Michael Peters as the aggressive salesman Joe Seltz. Will Cavado does a fine job as the nervous sweating Warner Brothers corporate representative Stuart Nygard. Daria Harper's dual role as his corporate boss and cleaning lady is great as both. Omar Abbas Salem's corporate bisexual coke sniffing flirt is hilarious. The full commitment and humor of this cast is infectious but I do admit from scene one till the end I do not enjoy theater where a bunch of people on stage just run on and off yelling in each other's faces. I think they could tone it down

a tad and relax.

Overall, this is an interesting trip through history with a nostalgic bent for anyone in their 40s or older. I'm not sure what millennials will think of this but it is a universal story of how companies, especially tech companies, operated and still do. This production effectively spotlights the dreamers who start the companies to the people they stab in the back to the corporations and middle managers who ruin them. This could be the story of the dot bomb or our current culture based on smartphone apps.

It's a fun trip if you can take a little yelling.

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. SCM

The Maligned Mezzo, Transgressive Theatre-Opera at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Oct. 29. In the spirit of Baritones Unbound, the big-voiced belters cast as witches and vamps by composers from Bizet to Sondheim command the spotlight tonight. MSB

Miss Holmes, Lifeline Theatre, through Nov. 27. Not only does Christopher M. Walsh's built-from-scratch script have fun with the premise of a rare female detective and doctor flouting repressive Victorian customs, but it delivers a helluva good whodunit for them to solve (with hints of a sequel). MSB

Visiting Edna, Steppenwolf, through Nov. 6. Sometimes tender, sometimes tough, often funny, this world premiere about family, the fading of parents and inevitable loss looks/sounds simple but is magnificently profound. Ian Barford and, especially, Debra Monk are brilliantly truthful. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan



Shaun Baer (back) and Lewis Rawlinson in **Bare: A Pop Opera**. Photo by Laura Leigh Smith

THEATER REVIEW

Bare: A Pop Opera

Playwright: book, music and lyrics by Damon Intrabartolo and Jon Hartmere Jr.
At: Refuge Theatre Project at Epworth United Methodist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Ave.
Tickets: \$20
Runs through: Nov. 6

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

In 1891, Frank Wedekind wrote a play protesting the destructive behavior arising from teenagers suffering under sexual ignorance promulgated by those in authority.

In 2000, Damon Intrabartolo and Jon Hartmere Jr. explored the same themes in a song cycle excoriating the Catholic church for its neglect, leading it to be performed widely in regional productions aimed at the youths whose troubles it addressed. Resurrecting lost musicals is the Refuge Theatre Project's stock in trade, however, and the decision to stage its production in the site-specific sanctuary of a fully functioning Protestant house of worship (permitting language vulgar, but never blasphemous) offers audiences a rare opportunity to view this long-forgotten milestone in North American theater history.

The story reads like a checklist of teen-angst tropes: Peter is gay. Jason, his boarding school roommate and best friend since childhood, is also gay, but fears parental disapproval should his proclivities become public. The girls at their school, especially the flirtatious Ivy, adore

Jason, and the drama club is doing—what else?—Romeo and Juliet. One night the friends sneak off to a Rave, where under the influence of party drugs, Peter and Jason are seen kissing. Later, Jason succumbs to Ivy's advances, things get hot and heavy, and Ivy discovers she is pregnant. Peter, reeling from this betrayal, rejects Jason. You can guess the rest.

What redeems this paint-by-numbers plot, featuring a book borrowing liberally from the source materials referenced therein, is its multigeneric score, encompassing not just the expected choral anthems, but also eminently coverable romantic tenor-range ballads and duets ("Best Kept Secret"), poignant soprano soliloquies ("All Grown Up") and even a few Aretha Franklin-riffing Gospel tunes ("God Don't Make No Trash") for the seen-it-all Sister Chantelle. Contributing mightily to the professional ambience is sound designer Chard Schroeder, whose expertise ensures that we hear every word and note in this collection of well-crafted arias, whether emanating from the chancel or the next pew.

None of this would matter without Refuge director Matt Dominguez and music director Michael Evans, under whose guidance an ensemble of uniformly young and vocally adept actors bestow great quantities of uncaricatured compassion upon their formulaic personae. The course of adolescence ne'er did run smooth, but the talent on display in this ecclesiastical setting promising—not without irony—deliverance from temporal turmoil render its spiritual agony as moving and heartbreaking as when Shakespeare first proposed his own crazy-mixed-up star-crossed kids.

CULTURE CLUB

Henrik Ibsen's once scandalous tragedy Ghosts is the inspiration for Megan Breen's world-premiere adaptation **Lecherous Honey**, for Cock and Bull Theatre. This site-specific promenade production is limited to audiences of 25 per performance as taboos through different generations of a family are explored room to room. **Lecherous Honey** plays Thursday, Oct. 20, through Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Berger Park North Mansion (The Gunder House), 6205 N. Sheridan Rd. Tickets are \$25-\$30 and \$15 for students and the Oct. 20 preview; visit CockandBullTheatre.org.

Caption: (L-R) Isabella Karina Coelho, Benjamin Ponce and Meg Elliott star in **Cock & Bull Theatre's Lecherous Honey**. Photo by Rebecca Memoli

THEATER

'Bleacher Bums' running during Cubs' possible winning season

BY JOE FRANCO

Jerry Pritikin is a self-described "gay Forrest Gump."

He's been everywhere and always at the right time. When walking into his living room recently, this writer was greeted by a wall-sized photograph of then-presidential candidate Jimmy Carter holding one of Pritikin's photographs of the San Francisco street sign; it read "End Ford." He lived in the City by the Bay for the majority of his early and mid-adult life and has both the stories and the pictures to go with it. "I still don't know anything about photography," said Pritikin.

Pritikin was there with gay icon Harvey Milk in the very center of the Castro and at Milk's photo shop. He was there when Milk led the LGBT community on the now famous march from the Castro to downtown after Anita Bryant and Floridians like her ended protections of gay people from discrimination and defamation. He was there when his friends, Mayor George Moscone and Milk, were killed in 1978. Pritikin is a living LGBT history artifact.

San Francisco was home to many firsts in the LGBT movement, including gay softball. Pritikin has a number of great stories about his days pitching for teams for now-iconic gay bars. "I pitched for the Mint. Do you remember the Mint?," asked Pritikin. There is one day in Pritikin's two-decade softball career that stands out among all of them. "I had just pitched a game—a great game in fact, I got home and decided to light one up and relax and there on PBS was a play, all about the Cubs and their fans."

The play Pritikin saw that day in early 1980 was Bleacher Bums. It's an original story written by Joe Mantegna, and originally starred Mantegna and Dennis Franz. The basic plot is something the Cubs fans of today can appreciate, although the actual bums of the bleachers within the Friendly Confines (a beloved nickname for Wrigley Field) are a thing of the past. Pritikin, being a living history and cultural exhibit, brought that old story to vivid life.

"When I first saw that play on PBS I found myself cheering in my seat at the TV," Pritikin

said. "It was more than a three-act play. It was a nine-inning game!" Pritikin loved it. He was a native to Chicago and a lifelong Cubs fan. The next day, as Pritikin scoured the want-ads for jobs he would never actually want to do (a noted hobby of his) he came across a call for actors for the first touring production of a Chicago play: Bleacher Bums. When he spoke with the producer of the show he told them he couldn't act, but he could sell that show like no one else. He was hired immediately for the show's six-week run in San Francisco.

In part, thanks to Pritikin's natural ability to sell, especially sell his beloved Cubs, the show ran for nearly two years. It became so popular that it was forced from a small, boutique theater seating barely 90 to a larger venue seating four times that number. He said, "I tied that show into everything. I got Butterfingers to be the official candy bar of the show since the Cubs could never hold onto the damn ball. I got the Chicago Tribune to loan 40 pictures from their exhibit '35 Years of the Cubs Dropping the Ball.'"

He got Vienna Hot Dogs to advertise and serve its Chicago original dogs at the play's concession stand. At one point he went as far to get the 1981 San Francisco cast of the show to sing both the "Star Spangled Banner" and "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" during a Cubs game against the Giants at Candlestick Park. Pritikin was the go-to man in San Francisco for all things Chicago that needed to be advertised.

He was never afraid to ask and that is how he has managed for the last 60 years to become a walking baseball fan legend. Pritikin is known both locally and by even some fans, nationally as the "Bleacher Preacher." Part of that is because of his work doing public relations work for the show Bleacher Bums but also for his presence at dozens of Cubs games wearing his trademark solar-powered pith helmet and carrying the "Ten Cub-Mandments." (For example, number seven forbids people from doing the wave.) In August 1988, at the Cubs' first night game, Pritikin sold the naming rights to his back to Lakeshore Mazda for \$1,000; he made national news doing so. "The night games—



Jerry Pritikin (left) on Harry Caray's 10th Inning Show in 1985. Photo courtesy of Jerry Pritikin

that was really the end of the actual bleacher bums, if you ask me," said Pritikin.

Pritikin was reluctant to give away too much about the show he has advertised for 30 years. He said, "You've got to see the show. It's updated for today's audiences since they now mention Sosa. That's when the show takes place. The 1990s Cubs. Sosa. McGwire. It's all there." The show follows the exploits of the regulars as they sat in the bleachers and watched a game between the Cardinals and the Cubs. It's a perspective that most people don't get to see since one would have to be a player to watch the antics of the fans in the bleachers.

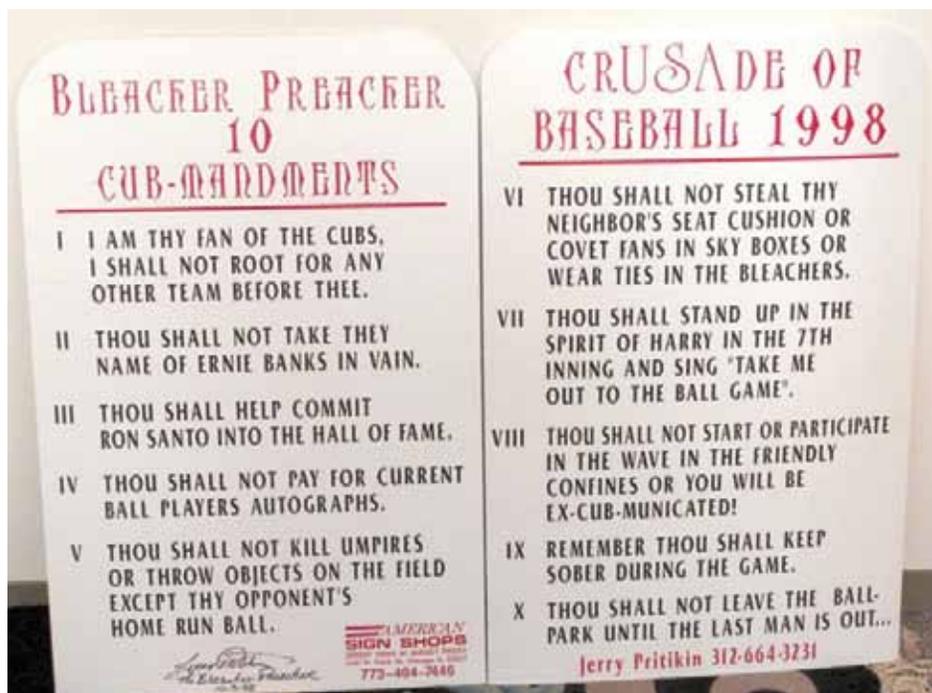
Who were the bums? Both the play and the men who inspired it were the regulars; the men who spent most of their hard-earned money on seats in the bleachers for day games at Wrigley. "They would sit and watch and then before you knew it, they'd start the betting," added Pritikin. "They bet on everything. The game? Sure, the game, but they'd bet on the number of drops of condensation that would fall from a cold beer before the guy who bought it would actually get it. They'd bet on the wind. If there

was a chance of something, they'd bet on it. Once, a guy lost his entire apartment building betting like that." That, in a nutshell, is the essence of the production Bleacher Bums.

His hopes are high this season and still all he wants is to see his beloved Cubs play in the World Series. "It's expensive to sit in the bleachers now. The regulars aren't there anymore." Pritikin's nostalgia for the game is well-earned, considering he's been at it since 1945. "When the Cubs got into the World Series that year, I wanted to go so bad but my Dad only said, 'Next time, son.' Well, that hasn't happened yet."

Pritikin wondered aloud about what might happen if Chicago's "Lovable Losers" might become winners. "Maybe the play will get a revamp or a sequel. Maybe they'll be lovable winners instead," he said.

The show Bleacher Bums is playing at the Pride Arts Center through Sunday, Nov. 6, closing out the run right after the World Series. Visit TheatreInChicago.com/bleacher-bums/8741/.



Jerry Pritikin's, a.k.a. The Bleacher Preacher's, 10 Cub-mandments. Photo courtesy of Jerry Pritikin



Honey West. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

'Priscilla' cast announced

Complete casting and the creative team have been announced for Pride Films and Plays' production of the Tony Award-winning musical Priscilla: Queen of the Desert, which will run Jan. 12-Feb. 12, 2017, as the company's inaugural production in its two-stage Pride Arts Center.

The musical will be performed in The Broadway, the center's 85-seat space at 4139 N. Broadway.

Executive Director David Zak will co-direct the production with Artistic Associate Derek Van Barham. Artistic Associate Robert Ollis will be music director, Jon Martinez will choreograph and Jeff Award-winner John Nasca is designing the costumes.

The trio of performers—two drag queens and a transgender woman—who traverse the Australian Outback in a beaten-up bus nicknamed "Priscilla" will be played by Honey West, Jordan Phelps and Luke Meierdiercks, with Jill Sesso, Tuesdai Perry and Rebecca Coleman as the three Divas and John Cardone as Bob.

Tickets are \$30-\$40; visit PrideFilmsAndPlays.com or call 800-737-0984.

Teddy Pendergrass musical ends Oct. 30

Black Ensemble Theater, 4450 N. Clark St., continues the 40th-anniversary season ("The Season of Greatest Hits") with I Am Who I Am (The Story of Teddy Pendergrass), written by CEO Jackie Taylor and directed by Daryl D. Brooks. The production runs through Oct. 30.

Pendergrass was known for songs like "Turn Off the Lights," "If You Don't Know Me By Now" and "Wake Up Everybody."

Tickets are \$55-\$65 each; visit BlackEnsemble.org or call 773-769-4451.



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THEATER

Ruby Western: Female-identified variety

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Don't try to pin down Ruby Western. The queer-identified artist dabbles in acting, painting, writing and stand-up comedy. It's the latter that largely inspired Western to produce and host an hour-long female queer variety show called *Quite Right Tonight* at the Annoyance Theatre.

"A lot of comedic spaces especially are dominated by white cis men and I myself have gone in there and felt uncomfortable and not listened to," Western said. "You're number nine of 12 and I'm, like, 'I'm not going to make a joke about my dick tonight—sorry, I'm the only one.' So bringing together people who want to hear each other and want to speak to each other and have it be a conversational thing—it felt really important."

For each performance of *Quite Right Tonight*, Western invites five different female and queer-identified performers to appear. For example, at the Oct. 12 performance there were two poets, a singer-songwriter, a standup comic and a burlesque dancer. Western then interviews each performer in the style of a late-night TV show host to ask about future projects and what they do for a living.

"I wanted to bring folks together because there are some amazing comedians and amazing musicians who would never be playing in the same space," Western said. "It's mostly a showcase space for people that I've seen and enjoyed."

In aiming to create an inclusive space, Western wasn't too picky about how the performers self-identify. For example, one performer on Oct. 12 mentioned she was in a relationship with a cisgender male.

"Queer' means different things to different people. But it's this umbrella term. It's definitely this political identity or sexual orientation identity and so there are folks who I know who are cisgender females who are dating cisgender men," Western said. "They still identify as queer, while there are people who don't identify as a certain gender. There are so many possibilities and the whole spectrum—I want to have everybody represented."

Western frames each show around a broad theme like "Beginnings," "Family" or "Dating." It's done with the hope that the performers already have work to correspond with it.

"Something that is important to people so they probably have something in stock about it," Western said. "And if not, they're welcome anyway."

This aspect played out Oct. 12 when poet Stacy Fox chose to ignore the "Dating" theme for one of her two poems read aloud. It was an alarmingly funny, yet poignant, poem about the time she was babysitting and the infant fell from a couch to hit its head on the living room floor.

In framing *Quite Right Tonight*, Western wanted to keep things fun through the show. That's why the show program is an unconventional bingo card for audiences to play along with during the show with the hopes of winning a prize.

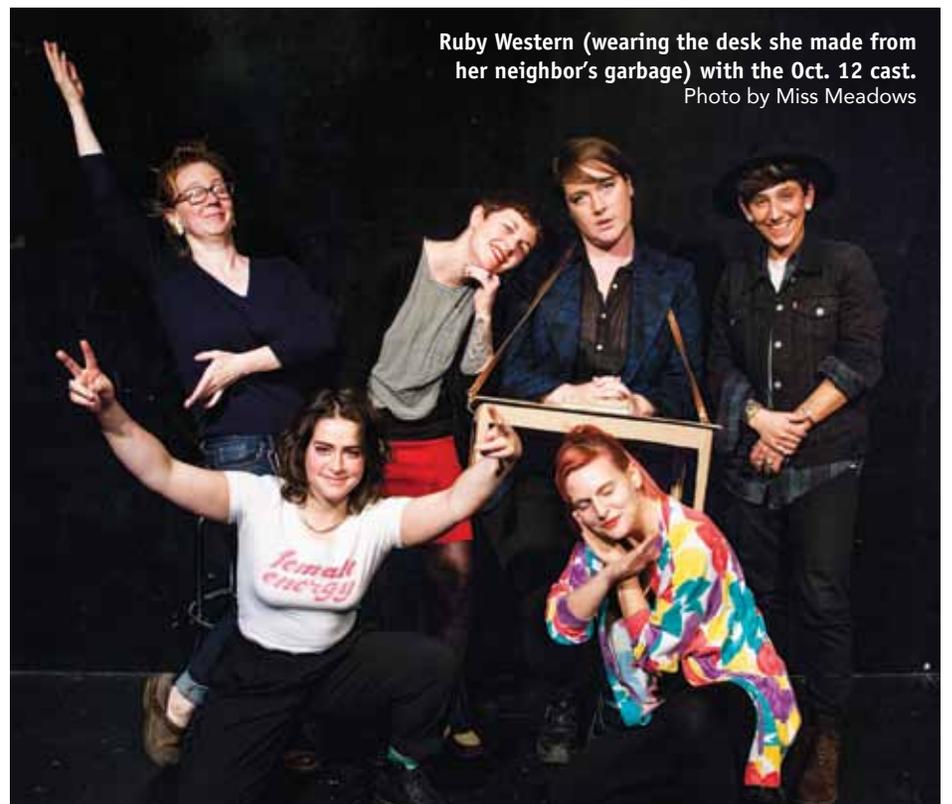
Since *Quite Right Tonight* is staged in the Annoyance's classroom-sized Small Theatre, production values are understandably limited or makeshift. The non-conformist and rough-around-the-edges vibe is also in play, since not every performer was polished or spoke loudly

enough during their interview portion with Western.

Nonetheless, *Quite Right Tonight* serves an important purpose for Western and hopefully for all the artists working in different genres that she has gathered together.

"As many spaces that can be made safe spaces for queer artists is incredibly important," Western said. "And so I had the opportunity and I wanted to make that happen."

Ruby Western's *Quite Right Tonight* continues at 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Nov. 16 at the Annoyance Theatre, 851 W. Belmont Ave. Tickets are \$8. For more information, call 773-697-9693 or visit TheAnnoyance.com.



Ruby Western (wearing the desk she made from her neighbor's garbage) with the Oct. 12 cast. Photo by Miss Meadows

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Jussie Smollett.
Photo by Michael Levine/FOX

Jussie Smollett rules on 'Empire'

BY JERRY NUNN

Jussie Smollett started as a kid actor in films like *The Mighty Ducks* and *North*, but has now grown into a full-fledged adult, garnering rave reviews for playing Jamal Lyon in the hit Fox TV show *Empire*.

The musical series *Empire* was created by Lee Daniels and Danny Strong, and it debuted in 2015. It tells the story of the Lyon family navigating the hip-hop world along with family drama. Smollett plays Jamal, one of the three sons, who came out of the closet in season one and took over as CEO for a bit.

Next year he has a new film coming out called *Alien: Covenant*. *Windy City Times* was part of a conference call to the out actor about his character and his progression on season three on *Empire*.

Windy City Times: Hi, Jussie. We love having you film here in Chicago.

Jussie Smollett: It's getting cold in Chicago. I'm starting to cry a lot.

WCT: I just want to talk to about the LGBT aspect to the show *Empire*. What have fans' reactions been like over the few seasons and how do you think it's changed the dynamic of the culture?

JS: I think that it's shown just a man trying to make it work and that this is just who he is. What I've seen is that it's made a lot of people, both members of the LGBTQ community as well as allies of the LGBTQ community, it's really opened up a conversation.

It's also opened up some sort of understanding of that everyone knows someone whether you know it or not.

On this show we don't preach. We never have, and I don't think we ever will. I think what we've done is we've been able to just hold up a mirror to society and the world while also



Jussie Smollett (right) with Bryshere Y. Gray in *Empire*.

Photos by Chuck Hodes

entertaining them.

Everybody's okay with gay people until they're in their family. Everybody is okay with integration until your daughter brings home a Black man. I think what it's opened up is this very strong conversation about who am I and what is it to you.

WCT: Do you think Lucious [Jamal's father, played by Terrence Howard] will ever get to a point of accepting Jamal's sexuality?

JS: I'm so glad that you asked this because it leads me to a slightly bigger point; I don't think, at this point, it's necessarily about Jamal's sexuality. It's not to say that Lucious is the supportive father and is going to be on the marches and the front lines of parents of LGBTQ

people, but I also think that they just have a problem with each other because more than anybody, they're most alike. That is the issue.

So this season, it's not necessarily about the sexuality. It's so much bigger than that. That leads me to the whole thing of will Lucious ever accept his son's sexuality. This is the point that I keep on trying to drive home, we don't all have to see the world in the same way. You know what I'm saying?

Lucious has every right to think and to believe that Jamal being homosexual is wrong. He has every right to believe that. It only becomes wrong when he shits upon Jamal and Jamal's basic freedoms. That's all.

So Jamal's obviously a bigger picture for the

world as a whole. We don't all have to agree, and it doesn't make us bad people if we do agree. It only makes us bad if your disagreement and your beliefs then trace over my simple basic freedoms. I think that goes for Lucious and Jamal as well.

WCT: What kind of love interests will Jamal have this season?

JS: I guess you'll just have to watch and see. I will say this: I'm very happy where Jamal is going. This is the toughest season that I've done so far because this season has made me have to do real research, not just digging inside of myself but real research of PTSD and panic attacks and things like that. It's really made me have to do extra work, and I love it.

So this season, I will say without giving too much away, I love exactly where Jamal is.

WCT: Working with Mariah, how has that been and do you plan on recording any music outside of *Empire* with her?

JS: Working with Mariah, it's perfect. It is. It's perfect, and I keep saying this. I was talking to her the other day just to thank her. She didn't have to show the incredible amount of support that she has to me personally. But she has, and I'm very honored to work with her. It's just everything.

I grew up in the '90s and the 2000s, when our main go-to vocalists were Whitney and Mariah. To be able to sing with one of these greats is just an honor. It's been wonderful.

As far as recording music outside of the show, I would love to. I think that we just have to talk to Mariah and try to figure it out.

WCT: How do you prepare for your performances with her?

JS: Praying to the Lord a lot. This is the biggest thing that I have ever done, so it has to be on point. So we're just working hard. I'm working with my creative team and we're going to just put on the very best show that I can. I'm excited. I'm just preparing. I've already started. I flew here to LA to start preparing already.

It's unbelievable because you're already going to have the Mariah fans there who have to keep their attention because they're waiting on Mariah. We have to give a good show. So that's what I'm just aiming for. It'll be fun.

WCT: After all Jamal has been through in past seasons, do you continue to learn things about yourself as a person through this character?

JS: Sure. I think that's a part of art. I learn something new about myself every day playing Jamal, but I learned something new about myself every day when I was a broke artist before I even knew of anything called *Empire*.

You have to understand that I'm older than Jamal is, not by much but by enough, like five years. That's enough. So I've been through a lot of things that Jamal has been through already. The only thing is that now I feel sometimes like I'm going through them again because now more people are watching me go through them. So it's a different experience, but I learn something new.

I've learned from playing Jamal to be as honest and fearless as I possibly can, and that's not always going to work in your favor in the short run, but in the long run, it will.

WCT: Can you talk about the character you play on *Alien: Covenant*?

JS: No, I cannot because I literally signed a phone book. I think I would have to give up my firstborn.

What I can say is that he is a member of the covenant. Listen, working with Ridley Scott, Michael Fassbender, Carmen Ejogo and Billy Crudup was just such an awesome experience. I've been so blessed in these casts that I get to be a part of that we actually are cool with each other. I haven't run into any cast—knock on wood yet—that I've worked with where I'm like, "Damn, I hate these people, God, I want to go home." It's always been cool. So that was a great thing.

It comes out Aug. 4, 2017, and it's pretty incredible. It's kind of scary!

Empire airs every Wednesday on Fox at 9 p.m. CT.

Isis King.
Photo courtesy of Oxygen



NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Trans model Isis King struts out with a new show

BY JERRY NUNN

Reality star Isis King first made a splash on America's Next Top Model, becoming the first transgender person to compete on the show. After that, she pursued fashion design that she studied in school.

Now she is ready to come back with the new Oxygen Channel series Strut. With Whoopi Goldberg as executive producer, the show follows several transgender models, including King, who pursue their dreams while the cameras roll. Cecilio Asuncion and Cassandra Cass of Slay Model Management, the first exclusively transgender modeling agency, are both there to support and train the models.

The model who made it out of Maryland promises to be back on top in the fashion world.

Windy City Times: Hi, Isis. Where in the world are you calling from?

Isis King: I am in New York. I decided to extend my stay after the premiere party so I can see my friends here and visit my family in Maryland.

I just moved to LA a few months ago so I am still adjusting.

WCT: Growing up in Maryland, did you want to be a model?

IK: I wanted to be a world-renowned fashion designer. That was my first dream. My dream has just expanded. Top Model really opened up possibilities for me. It opened my mind because it showed me that anything I can put my mind to can happen. From that I visualized that I could be an actress if I wanted it to happen. The push of Top Model allowed me

to accomplish anything I can think of. That is what I have been doing.

WCT: What is one thing you took away from Tyra Banks?

IK: I learned about branding from her. I also learned how to be a businessperson from Tyra—oh and, of course, how to find my light!

For me, my whole thing coming from Top Model was that I was first known from shining in the background. I learned you don't have to be in the forefront to get the shine that you deserve. It is being the best you can be in whatever position at the moment.

WCT: I was sorry to hear about all of the bullying after Top Model.

IK: It was a lot. It was both times on Top Model. The second time was better because it was a few days later. Back in 2008, it was really bad. It was the beginning of cyberbullying. There was no one pushed into the public the way I was, especially at that vulnerable time.

WCT: Then you took a break?

IK: I did take a break, in a sense, but I have never stopped modeling. I took a break from the public eye. I still travelled the country and spoke at colleges. I did TV appearances and different things.

It was taking a break from doing a TV show where people really see you in all of your flaws. After Top Model, I needed to find out about myself away from all of that. That show happened at the beginning of my transition. I had to figure out me and get away from everything, including relationships. I learned I was giving so much to people that was not given back. I went on a little break to learn about me.

WCT: How did you get involved with Strut?

IK: Cecilio reached out to me a year before. At the time, I didn't think I was ready to be with an all-trans agency just because a big part of me finding myself was realizing me as an artist was most important. I then realized that this is my reality. I have opened up so many doors for so many people and it was time to reap the benefits of that.

I got involved with Slay Model Management and Strut. Whoopi really sealed the deal, meeting her and seeing she was so genuine. She really had our best interests in mind. I come from reality TV so you never know how things are going to be but this was an awesome journey.

WCT: Was Whoopi around a lot?

IK: Not during filming. She didn't want to affect us. We did spend a lot of off camera time with her, which I was surprised. How does she have time? She does so many things. She had us at her house and was really like a mother figure. She gave us one on one talks. I was impressed because cameras were not around and she really wanted to know about us. She was not doing that for TV. She really cared.

She really read our energy and made one of the girls cry because she knew so much about her. I said, "Are you really your character from Ghost and a psychic in real life?" She is awesome on another level.

WCT: Did you know about Tyra Banks producing TransAmerica for VH-1?

IK: I do know about it. I am friends with Carmen Carrera, who was on it. I don't know what happened to it. I think it sometimes take the right formula of people and the right circumstances.

Strut really built a great team and I think that it just worked out.

WCT: What do you hope to accomplish by being on Strut?

IK: I really want the world to get to see me and my personality. Outside of Top Model people ask what I have been up to. It also captures me moving to LA, which is a major factor in my life. I hope it shows my next chapter.

It will also show my designs and getting that off the ground. I have been doing that since I was a kid. It is a different aspect of me. My mission in life is to be known as an artist. That is the most important thing to me, before I am a woman, trans, and everything, I am an artist.

WCT: What is your design aesthetic?

IK: High-end women's wear, customized and edgy; my inspirations are superheroes.

WCT: I'm a big comic-book nerd.

IK: Don't get me started. I originally wanted to be a comic-book artist, but then I realized I was doing illustrations of fashion models and not superheroes. Storm is my favorite hero. I still think I will be her one day. I am a Marvel girl but I like DC as well. Suicide Squad did a really good job.

WCT: Did you watch DAX, who dresses as Storm on RuPaul's Drag Race?

IK: I did and just came across her Instagram. She does a lot of the mohawk Storm stuff, which is really cool.

WCT: When are you coming to Chicago?

IK: I was just there a few weeks ago doing a guest spot on a TV show there. I would love to come back and host at a club. I know the RuPaul Drag Race girls do that a lot. I hope I get back there soon.

WCT: What is next for you?

IK: I will just have to wait and see what happens. The show focuses on me moving and getting myself together with the agency. Moving to LA was for me to focus on my acting. For me it was hard to do that in New York where it is mostly sending out videos. I am not good at that. Now I am with my agent at Model Management Group in New York. I am able to go to the castings in LA. They can meet me and see my personality. Things are really starting to take off.

What's next for me is acting, hopefully more fashion spreads and me launching my clothing line.

Strut works the runway every Tuesday on Oxygen at 8 p.m. CT. Follow KingIsis.com for more on King.

Queer comic artist/dancer Rosalarian makes what women really want

BY SARAH TOCE

Femme comic-book artist/burlesque dancer Megan Rose Gedris is as unique as the artistic name given to her as a child.

"The name 'Rosalarian' is a nickname my dad gave me forever ago," she said. "He would always call me by my middle name, Rose, and he was messing around making nonsense out of it, and he started calling me Rosalarian. It sounded like a flowery space woman's name, which I thought fit me well."

Indeed. Rosalarian's work involves "a lot of fantasy, but not so much the elves and wizards kind. Dream worlds, outer space adventures, sexual fantasies," she said. "I like whimsy. Real life is dark and gritty enough. I want mermaids and superpowers. I want bright colors and larger-than-life personalities. I like mixing media and mixing genres and I tend to use multiple art styles in a single story. I've used cut paper, watercolor, even clay puppets to tell stories. Otherwise I get bored."

The out artist considers herself femme, but is new to the queer label.

"I'm a very femme woman, and proud of it," she said. "Feminism is very important to me. I'm kinda of new to identifying as queer. I identified as a lesbian for most of my life, but I was incorrect. Queer fits me better. To me, queer isn't just about who I like, but how I like them, and how I express that. That's why I'm not bi or pan."

Rosalarian's realization freed her in a way she didn't quite expect.

"Since coming to this realization, I've felt comfortable and free in a way I didn't before," she said. "It's nice. This makes sense. I still sometimes use the word 'lesbian' because I'm in a relationship with another woman and the world perceives me as a lesbian. I sometimes use bi when trying to talk to people who don't understand what queer means. I'm not offended by those labels, they just aren't the most correct. I've also found that the LGBT community and the queer community are two different things, and the queer community is where I fit in."

Finding where she fit in also inspired the direction of her art.

"I started making comics about queers and women because I wanted to read interesting stories about people like myself, and couldn't find very many," she said. "I started making the stuff in the late '90s. Up until this point, I think the only comic I read that had a female main character was Luann from the newspaper."

"When I got a little older and came into my

sexuality, the rare comics I could find with lesbians didn't resonate with me. [Alison Bechdel's] *Dykes to Watch Out For* is iconic, but not relatable for a 15-year-old. The manga boom of the late '90s/early '00s brought a lot of women and queer characters to American comics readers like myself, and it did help me realize that I could make stories like that, too."

Rosalarian began looking at the statistics of women in comics and said she discovered a massive disconnect.

"We're still incredibly underrepresented in mainstream comics," she said. "Really, Marvel? Less than 16 percent of your creators are women? You find that acceptable? When I was younger, I assumed I would spend my whole life making comics just for myself and my friends, because I never saw a woman's name on the cover of a comic book. Manga had a lot of female representation, but I wasn't Japanese, and it seemed like I had a .001 percent chance of ever making a career out of comics."

Then a global shift occurred that would change the course of her self-perceived limited trajectory.

"The internet changed everything," she said. "Without gatekeepers and old guys in suits to tell me the kind of person I am and the kind of comics I make don't sell, I could get out there and make and sell comics. I honestly expected the bulk of any backlash against me to be for my sexuality, but it's primarily misogynistic vitriol that I get. A lot of guys are really upset that I don't have enough strong male models in my comics. There was a time when those guys made me so frustrated, I almost quit making comics. I'm glad I stuck around, but it was really rough before I grew an extra thick skin."

Rosalarian said she has two boilerplate standards: She does not write about herself and she will not date a fan—ever.

"I don't put too much of my own love life into my comics, which is why I never date fans," she said. "I've had a few try, but they come into things with a very skewed idea of who I am and what I'm like. Especially as I gain more notoriety, I really relish keeping personal things like romance private."

Queer characters are beginning to pop up in a new form of art—the webcomic.

"Nowadays, webcomics are so incredibly queer. Every webcomic has at least a couple queer characters, it seems, by creators queer and straight alike," Rosalarian said. "I keep making queer characters because we're still far from the bottom of that barrel of content. But what it really comes down to is the fact that I write about the kind of people I know, and all these women and queer people I know are very interesting people, with depth that often goes unexplored in stories, where we're reduced to nothing but our sexuality or gender. Straight white cisgender men are not the default."

When asked about her life's greatest adventure thus far, Rosalarian didn't mention comics.

"My greatest adventure in life has been touring all over the country with a burlesque show," she said. "I went from a timid homebody who was afraid of most things to someone constantly traveling and trying new things with a lot less fear. I got to see so many things and meet so many people. I almost died in the desert and I almost died in an ice storm. I learned how to be uncomfortable and dirty and tired without that driving me crazy. I learned how to be the glitter femme woman I always wanted to be, but never knew how. I met people who would become close friends. I met the people who would convince me to move to Chicago and take on new challenges in this city."

Speaking of Chicago, "I love the pizza at Boiler Room," she said. "I feel kinda bad for hating deep dish so much, but it's not pizza,



Megan Rose Gedris, a.k.a. Rosalarian.

Photo courtesy of Rosalarian

it's a casserole, I'm sorry. Chicago hot dogs are the best hot dogs, but this pizza, I can't stand behind. Give me thin crust with a side of beer and a shot of Jameson. When it's not pizza, it's Stan's Donuts. A warm blueberry fritter was the first thing that made me stop feeling so homesick when I first moved here. And then I love just walking around in Humboldt Park. It's big enough to be interesting, but not so big I get lost."

Rosalarian is now a part of a site full of pornographic comics all created by women and non-binary people, with women and non-binary people as the site's main demographic.

"I've been with the site since its beginning, after my friend Gina Biggs said she was starting the site and asked if I would be interested," she said. "I had never publicly stated how much I love dirty comics, but I'm glad she somehow knew it was my destiny. I'm so proud to be part of this. I think 90 percent of sex happens before and after genitals enter into it. It's all about the situations, the characters, the settings. The story is important. It builds tension. And the story is basically like any story you'd see on TV, only instead of fading to black when the foreplay ends, we keep going."

"In my experience, this type of pornography especially resonates with women. Just look at fan fiction. It's mainly written by women, filling in steamy sex scenes that traditional media doesn't depict, taking these three-dimensional characters and reading between the lines. And I love that this site is aimed at women and non-binary people. There's long been a myth that women aren't interested in porn, or even sex in general. We're very interested in that stuff, we just tend to like it in a different way, and it's important to be part of the process of creation. It's been great making it, and it opened the door to making comics my full-time gig."

One of her first solo burlesque acts was based

on her first porn comic about a mermaid wanting a vagina. Now she is preparing to tour stateside through the end of the year.

"When I first started doing burlesque, I was with a touring show and did about 75 performances a year around the country," she said. "As an independent performer, I'm scaling back a bit, and I've also been focusing on comics a little bit more in the past year, going to conventions around the country. But I still make it out and perform whenever and wherever I can. The holidays will be a slower time for comics, and busy time for burlesque, and I'll be around the Midwest shaking what my mother gave me."

Catch up with Rosalarian at <http://rosalarian.com>.

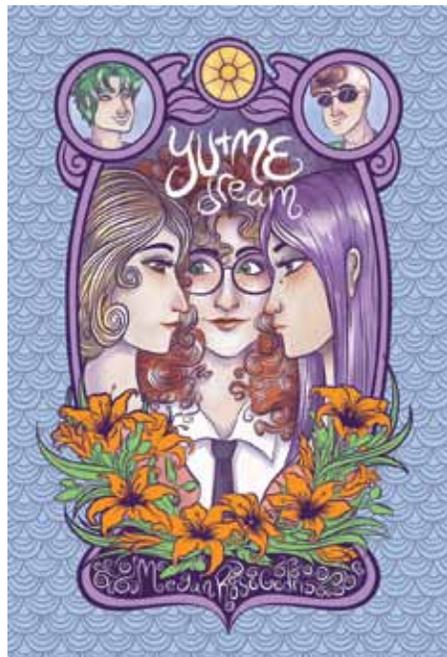
'Rocky Horror' soundtrack out Oct. 21

The soundtrack to Fox's reimagined version of the cult classic *The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Let's Do the Time Warp Again* will be available on CD and digital formats on Friday, Oct. 21.

The movie will air Thursday, Oct. 20, on Fox at 7-9 p.m. CT.

Among those on the soundtrack are Tim Curry, Laverne Cox, Adam Lambert, Ryan McCartan, Reeve Carney, Ben Vereen, Victoria Justice, Staz Nair, Annaleigh Ashford and Ivy Levan.

The soundtrack includes one bonus song not included in the film: "Once in Awhile," sung by McCartan. The soundtrack was produced by Grammy Award-nominated songwriter Cisco Adler.





Sarah Schulman.
Photo by Drew Stevens

BOOKS

Sarah Schulman discusses queer culture, 'Conflict'

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Sarah Schulman describes herself, and her work, as unorthodox. "I mean, this has been one of the problems my whole life. I don't write books that take an already established position in an argument," said Schulman. "All of my books initiate a new frame. This is true of my book on familial homophobia, of my book on gentrification, of my book about the Palestinian Queer movement. If you don't read it, you can't know what it's about, because it's not an idea you've heard before. But the thing is, people imagine that they know what it's saying, because they think it's some kind of preexisting idea they already object to. So then they start taking it down without even knowing what it is."

On a well-rounded queer bookshelf, Schulman's name would appear multiple times. While she writes plays and fiction, her non-fiction is often hard to categorize. Works like *Ties that Bind: Familial Homophobia and its Consequences* sound like queer theory, but a term Schulman once used to describe her previous nonfiction work, *The Gentrification of the Mind*, seems the most all-encompassing. Her latest book, *Conflict Is Not Abuse*, is in that tradition. While it includes interviews and case studies, Schulman calls the book "community-based nonfiction that's outside of the academic realm," and compares its function to the essays of Audre Lorde and Adrienne Rich.

The thesis of *Conflict Is Not Abuse* is that people in a conflict often mistake their heightened emotions—either inadvertently or willfully—as a more sinister threat. "Right now, there's a confusion where some of us feel that if we're frustrated and angry and upset, and we don't know how to solve the problem, that means we're being abused. There's a confusion between internal anxiety and external danger. Things like racism function in the same way. The white police officer kills the Black man because he feels an internal anxiety that comes from racism, and it makes him believe that that

Black man is dangerous to him, even though he's not," Schulman said.

This misrepresentation's benefit is obvious to Schulman. "We're in a moment geopolitically as well as personally, where if a person or a nation or a group acknowledges that they have participated in causing pain or escalating conflict, then it becomes their fault," she explained. "And so everyone on every level is playing the game where they present themselves as a pure and innocent victim, which some people actually are. But in cases when they're not, people present themselves that way, so that they can be eligible for compassion."

The examples she cites in the book range from domestic partner violence to state-sponsored violence like the 2014 Israeli-Palestine clash. She notes that perpetrators often use pre-existing oppressive systems to their own advantage: the abusive partner, for instance, files the restraining order. This has become more common in the queer community as institutions like marriage help the assimilation process.

"When I was younger, gay people would never call the police, because they were considered threatening," Schulman said. "Now, certain kinds of gay people are invited to call the police. We have a division in a group that was once united by being unilaterally in illegality. We now see that white gay people who are citizens, if they're not trans or sex workers, if they're HIV negative, especially if they're in family structures, are increasingly invited into the power structure. So we have a new abject object, a new queer, who is undocumented or trans or poor. And this person becomes the object of that apparatus. American history shows that the structure doesn't change. It just rearranges who's on the bottom and who's on the top."

Schulman said she finds the solution to misuse of the community's newfound power in group accountability. "Unfortunately, now we define group loyalty by who helps us escalate.

But I'm saying that that's not loyalty," Schulman explained. "Loyalty is the person who says, 'how can I help you calm down? How can I help the two of you talk to each other? What is the order of events? How do you think you contributed to this? That's love. That's what a true friend does. We have to get away from this nationalist model of friendship.'"

Queer assimilation appears to be occurring on an artistic level as well. For years, Schulman railed against a lack of primary lesbian content in mainstream art, an issue that crippled her career as a playwright. She can pinpoint why critics and the public alike have lauded recent works like *Fun Home* and *Transparent*.

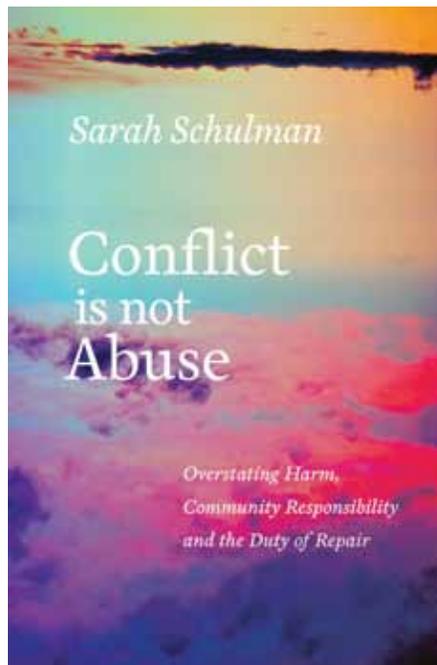
"Historically, things that reinforce the dominant culture's view of themselves are the queer works that get promoted," Schulman said. "And that's also true for works by other minorities. Most of the queer-themed works that are getting mainstreamed and institutional recognition have to do with family."

Radical queer culture has left its mark: Schulman cites Black Lives Matter and Palestinian solidarity as radical movements that welcome queer people and are informed by queer analysis. But when it comes to LGBTQ activism, Schulman sees a split in priorities.

"The LGBT track has become more of a white reconciliation movement, focused on certain kinds of legal reforms that are about assimilating white gay people into a white power structure," she said. "The reason there was a separate gay movement in the first place was because nobody else would have us."

Forgetting the past in the rush towards assimilation can have powerful consequences beyond creating dysfunctional conflict. Schulman was part of ACT UP in the '80s, and a central theme of much of her work is friendship.

"This is a community that functions on



friendship," Schulman writes about the queer movement. "The reason we were able to respond so appropriately to the AIDS crisis was because we were a community based group and not divided into privatized family units."

Schulman's personal desires for the queer agenda include preserving those strong friendships that make movements like ACT UP possible, redefining motherhood for queer women, and combating racism and poverty. And she doesn't feel her role has shifted from activist to critic.

"Hopefully everything as deepened," Schulman said. But the arenas I'm involved in are the same."

Sarah Schulman will appear at Women and Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St., at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23, to discuss *Conflict is Not Abuse*.

Shemekia Copeland to perform Oct. 21

Blues singer Shemekia Copeland is touring to support her Grammy-nominated album *Outskirts of Love*, and will perform at Freedom Hall in Park Forest on Friday, Oct. 21.

Showtime is at 7:30 p.m.

Since the release of the album, Copeland won the 2016 Blues Music Award for Contemporary Blues Female Artist Of The Year. She won the 2016 Living Blues Award for Best Blues Artist (Female) in both their Readers' and Critics' Polls, and *Outskirts of Love* was named the Best Blues Album of 2015.

Tickets are \$26 (season subscriber)-\$30; visit FreedomHall.org.

'Love Is All You Need?' showing Oct. 30

The film *Love Is All You Need?* will be shown Sunday, Oct. 30, at 2 p.m. at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., as part of a 20-city, anti-bullying "Moviement" tour.

The plot is as follows: In a small town, the university's star quarterback (Briana Evigan) is outed for being a heterosexual. Her forbidden love affair with a male journalist (Tyler Blackburn) rocks the town to its very core, setting off a series of catastrophic events that will forever change the community.

Profits from the Lscreening will be donated to Center on Halsted. *Love Is All You Need?* will be released digitally on Thursday, Nov. 24, and is available for pre-order on iTunes. (The movie will not be released in theaters.)

Tickets are \$7; visit <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/Love>.

Chicago Theatre Week Feb. 9-19

Chicago Theatre Week (#CTW17)—an annual celebration of theatergoing in Chicago—will take place Feb. 9-19, 2017.

Some of the slated productions include *The Wolf at the End of the Block* (Teatro Vista), *Death of a Salesman* (Redtwist Theatre), *Gloria* (Goodman Theatre), *Carmen* (Lyric Opera of Chicago) and *Sweeney Todd* (Paramount Theatre).

Heading into its fifth year, Chicago Theatre Week is a program of the League of Chicago Theatres in partnership with Choose Chicago. Tickets are priced at \$30, \$15 or less, and will go on sale Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017 at 10 a.m.

Joan Baez in Chicago Oct. 25

Joan Baez will travel to Europe for a series of festivals in July and returns to major U.S. markets in October and November with shows in Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles and more.

She will be at Chicago's Symphony Center on Tuesday, Oct. 25.

Baez was honored last year when Joan Baez, her breakthrough 1960 debut album, was selected by the Library of Congress as one of its 25 annual recordings to be preserved in the National Recording Registry.



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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Farmhouse Chicago

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The people behind **Farmhouse Chicago** (228 W. Chicago Ave.; FarmhouseChicago.com) certainly believe in truth behind advertising.

As if the decor—which ranges from a pitchfork on the door to a tiny tractor on the bar on the place's second floor—doesn't tell patrons, Farmhouse (which has a capacity of 120 standing, or 99 seated people) specializes in the concept of farm-to-tavern dining. Of course, said concept isn't new—but it's done quite well.

The Farmhouse makes condiments, burgers and even sodas from scratch, and the care shows. However, another reason people may like this spot is that it offers almost 30 varieties of craft beer (and, if there's one thing I've learned, it's that Chicago is a drinking city). And, with me being a big



Shortrib dumplings (left) and the Juniper Jupiter at Farmhouse Chicago.
Photos by Andrew Davis

fan of cider, I certainly enjoyed what Farmhouse offers.

As for the food, there's one thing the reader must know: This is that time of the year when chefs gradually replace summer items with autumnal offerings—so some of the dishes I review here may not be at Farmhouse next week, even (so don't necessarily trust the menu you see online—but give it a couple weeks).

That being said (or typed), Farmhouse Executive Chef Emily Kraszyk (who I mistook for a server, partially because she looks so young) knows her way around a kitchen. I could've just eaten the shortrib dumplings (with creme fraiche and beef jus) for days, but there's much more to try. The bucatini (with brown butter, olive oil, aged ched-



dar, toasted walnuts, marjoram and red onion) is another must-try—and if loving the mac 'n' cheese is wrong, I don't want to be right.

The entrees lived up to expectations—mostly. The Slagel Farms half-chicken (which is on its way out, if it's not gone already) is one of the most popular dishes at Farmhouse—and with good reason, as it's expertly cooked. The double-cut pork chop is monstrous, although my friend and I had to get through what seemed like a substantial amount of fat to get to the well-seasoned meat.

If, by some miracle, you get through all that, please try the desserts. We sampled the apple streusel as well as the ice-cream sandwich. You can't go wrong either way—or with the rest of the menu, for that matter.



RPDR ALL STARS FINALE @ SIDETRACK

Photos by Jed Dulas

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



nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

BARLESQUE 9: GODS AND GODDESSES



KICKOFF PARTY: Wed., Oct. 26, 6-9 pm Charlie's,

3726 N. Broadway

This November, contestants representing more than a dozen local businesses will bare all to empower and benefit those living with and vulnerable for HIV/AIDS in Chicago. Barlesque, the annual strip-a-thon fundraiser produced by TPAN (Test Positive Aware Network) returns this fall with its sexy competition to find "Chicago's Sexiest" bartender or performer.

Running from October 26 through December 3, **Barlesque 9: Gods & Goddesses** offers donors a unique treat for their generosity. Boudoir-style photos of contestants are available online at Barlesque.org. As donations are raised online and at in-person events, contestants' photos advance from fully dressed to "nature's best."

Barlesque culminates at midnight on December 3, when the participant who has raised the most money is crowned "Chicago's Sexiest."

This year's Barlesque, TPAN's ninth, celebrates the sexual power of mythological deities—a pantheon of Greek, Roman, and Egyptian figures await donors. Photographer KJ Heath has returned to shoot this year's contestants.

This year's Barlesque includes a number of new partnerships. Chicago performer and personality, host of QUEEN! at Smart Bar Sundays, Lucy Stooles is Barlesque's official host. Contestants will be paired with custom jockstraps from Chicago's own Crochet Empire, as well as Timoteo underwear. Chicagoans will also see a couple new contestant faces from the Chicago Burlesque community. This year's competition features support from 17 bars and participants from 13 bars and venues: Big Chicks; Boy Toy Pocket Cabaret; Charlie's Chicago; Elixir Andersonville; High Hat; Jackhammer; Kit Kat Lounge; Naughty Little Cabaret; Shaker's on Clark; Sofotap; Touché; Uptown Underground; and Vaudzilla.

The kickoff party takes place Wednesday, October 26 at Charlie's. Hostess Lucy Stooles will get the gods' and goddesses' fundraising started that night, leading Chicago into a fun Halloween weekend. Shortly afterwards, on November 1, Barlesque 9 will team up with Organized Grime for Tatt Tuesday – Barlesque 9 Edition.

Follow the competition and your favorite contestant all the way to the closing party, Saturday, December 3.

For more info on Barlesque 9 events and to see the sexy shots of the contestants, go to barlesque.org.

—From press release

Pictured: Alexander, representing Charlie's in Barlesque 9.
Photo by KJ Heath



"Change the lines that were said before, we're all dreamers, we're all whores. Discarded stars like worn out cars litter the streets of this town."—Jane Wiedlin and Charlotte Caffey's "This Town," The Go-Go's homage to Hollywood.

It's so easy to talk about people anonymously. But once you know them and their situations, it becomes quite difficult. Case in point, **Brent Corrigan**—subject of the film *King Cobra*, which I saw at the MiFo LGBT Film Festival in Fort Lauderdale. I used to have lots of fun at Brent's expense. He was young, good-looking, involved in underage porn and was the center of a dramatic murder case. He was like a gay *Traci Lords*—with a little Patty Hearst thrown in! Since he appeared to have come out of it better than everyone else involved, I felt he was fair game—even when I was onstage in front of him! Then something terrible happened—I got to know him. Despite not liking my jokes, he was charming and we became friendly. The more I knew, the less funny it all seemed.

It should be mentioned that **James Franco's** *King Cobra* was done without Brent's assistance or blessing. And perhaps that's why he comes out of it the least fully realized character. Most of the others comes across as damaged and desperate—specifically the guy who "discovered" and exploited Brent, and the two rival porn producers/stars who wanted to work with Brent. They decide the best way to eliminate Corrigan's binding contract with his mentor is to eliminate the mentor. By the end of the film, you have sympathy for everyone involved—except, ironically, Brent. Corrigan comes out scarred but still standing—and showing off his backside to the camera and winking (his eye, not his ass). The real Brent Corrigan was wise to not get involved. But you would be wise to see this film—even if you think you know it all.

Also at the MiFo Festival was *Strike a Pose*, the documentary about **Madonna's** dancers from the *Truth or Dare* film (and the "Blond Ambition" tour). It's hard to imagine how different the world was 25 years ago—and how Madonna really took it all on with not only her best musical material, but also with a show that had all the bells, whistles, singers and dancers to push her agenda. The dancers (except for Gabriel, who died of AIDS in 1995) reunited for this documentary about that time, their experiences and the aftermath.

Madonna, who several of the dancers sued, is no longer a part of any of their lives. It's clear that *Truth or Dare* captured these guys at their artistic (and physical) peak. And in a way, it ruined them for whatever life would later offer. They tried, they lived in hope and they still hope, but nothing will come close to that time of their lives. It was lovely to see how much personal growth they've gone through. There's a normalcy missing from their lives, but they toured the world with Madonna—that's the trade-off. It's a curious doc that could have (and should have) been so much better. Blame it on the Dutch—it was funded in part by Dutch Public TV. I know it's a small country, but couldn't they find some good mikes? The person I understood the most was Jose's mom—and she was speaking Spanish!

Many performers have what I call the "whore mentality"—to become famous at all costs. This leads to some news about the latest whore, **Robert Sepulveda** from *Finding Prince Charming*. First, no recap this week. (Please—we saw this



Guys have another reason to call Cheyenne Jackson "daddy" now.
Photo by Karl Simone

meltdown coming a mile away.) Logo has announced there will be a second season. On Nov. 3-17, people can post photos of potential suitors. But who will Logo hire to be their next Prince Charming? Too bad *RentBoy.com* was raided by the feds. That would have been the perfect candidate pool—admittedly, not a pool you'd actually want to swim in, at least not without taking PreP and perhaps a morning-after pill, just in case.

Someone who is whore-adjacent is **Cheyenne Jackson**. His whore-ness became more visual when we got our hands on that nasty j/o video of him. (Some things last forever on *BillyMasters.com*.) But this week, our story is about another use for semen. Didya know it could be used to make babies? Chey and hubby Jason Landau just had twins. Last week, their surrogate gave birth to Willow and Ethan. Congrats.

I've often stated that my ideal mate would be an Italian national. But I'm starting to think fondly of the Germans. I should add that my first European sexual encounter was with a German near a bonfire on the banks of the Seine. (Leave it to me to be in Paris and sleep with a German.) The German government has introduced a law that will distribute \$30 million to gay men who were persecuted for their sexuality after World War II. While over 50,000 men were convicted, reparations will be paid to the 5,000 men who are still alive. So, if there's a German who wants to share dual citizenship with a relatively attractive man with connections and a huge penis, I'm available.

Our "Ask Billy" question this week goes back to our first story. Joshua in Chicago asks, "What do you know about **Garrett Clayton**? He plays Brent Corrigan in that movie and is gorgeous. He must be gay."

Must he? Depends on who you ask. If you ask Garrett, he'll tell you, "I don't really like talking about my personal life. I like a certain amount of veil." Ask yourself this question—how many straight men use the word "veil" in a sentence? Exactly. While he's undeniably hot, I don't think he captured Corrigan's *je ne sais quoi*. He needed more "quoi." What he doesn't need—or want—is more clothing. "I like to be as naked as possible," he said. "If friends come over, I'll just have on basketball shorts with no socks, no shirt, and maybe underwear. I hate clothes."

When I'm showing off my foreign tongue, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Let me once again remind you to check out *www.BillyMasters.com*—the site that has plenty of "quoi." If you have a question for me in any language, send it along to *Billy@BillyMasters.com* and I promise to get back to you before Logo casts Brent Corrigan as its next Prince Charming. So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.



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*.

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'Grounded' running Oct. 23- Nov. 6

George Brent's *Grounded*—the story of a female Air Force pilot who is grounded after becoming pregnant with her first child, and the aftermath—will run at The Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway, Oct. 23-Nov. 6.

Plot-wise, when the pilot returns to duty, she is reassigned from fighter jets to drones and must learn to navigate the intersection of wartime and home life. Reassigned to operate military drones from a windowless trailer outside Las Vegas, she hunts terrorists by day and returns to her family each night. As the pressure to track a high-profile target mounts, the boundaries begin to blur between the desert in which she lives and the one she patrols half a world away.

Amber Kelly will portray the pilot, with Lexi Saunders directing.

Ticket prices are \$18-\$25 each; visit <http://theaterofthought.com/>.

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 preorder 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*.

Rapper's CD cover sparks debate on masculinity

Rapper Young Thug has launched a debate on masculinity, thanks to the cover of his latest project, *No, My Name Is Jeffery*, which pictures him in an Alessandro Trincone periwinkle ruffled skirt, a white top and a pleated parasol-like hat.

According to *Complex* magazine, Young Thug wearing dresses is nothing new, as he once donned a Gucci dress in *Dazed* magazine. The musician also wore a dress for his Calvin Klein ad campaign.

Thug is not the first male hip-hop/R&B artist (or even Atlanta-based musician) to wear a dress, as Andre 3000 (of OutKast) and Cee-Lo Green have done the same. And the late Prince certainly wore items that have traditionally been considered female.

On social media, there has been a heated



debate. Some contend that Thug's act as a "sissification" of Black men, while others see the move as revolutionary. However, Thug has reportedly said the photo was used purely for aesthetics, not to make any sort of statement.

The *Complex* article is at <http://uk.complex.com/style/2016/08/young-thug-jeffrey-black-masculinity>.



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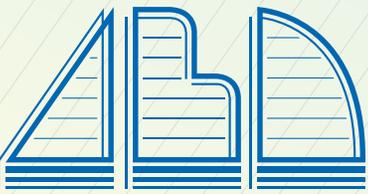
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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>

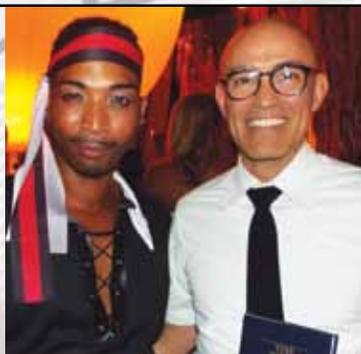
Book Reading and Signing: Another Brooklyn by Jacqueline Woodson When August runs into a friend from her past, she feels transported back in time to the 1970s, to a time when friendship was everything --until it wasn't. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-reading-jacqueline-woodson-another-brooklyn>

Presidential Debate Viewing Party Free and open to everyone. Doors open at 3pm, Debate at 8pm followed by a Special Gaga SyncIt at 9:30pm. No Cover. 8:00pm - 10:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St., Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com/>

Thursday, Oct. 20

Discussion on HIV Stigma and Combating the Epidemic Dr. Deborah Birx, Ambassador At-Large and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Howard Brown Health President and CEO, David Ernesto Munar, Howard Brown Health 63rd Street Site Medical Director, Dr. Maya Green 9:00am - 11:00am Howard Brown Health 63rd Street 641 W. 63rd St. Chicago <http://howardbrown.org/event/NoMoreShame>

Gun Violence Town Hall Joy McCormack founder of Chicago Survivors, Pride Action Tank, Windy City Times, and the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coali-

ORANGE YOU GLAD?
Saturday, Oct. 22

Howard Brown Health will hold its Big Orange Ball at Carnivale.

Photo from 2015 by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

tion join forces for education, action in response to the epidemic of shootings in Chicago, and the massacre of mostly LGBTQ, mostly Latinx individuals at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Free program. No food or beverage. RSVP at the link. 6:00pm - 8:30pm Ebenezer Lutheran Church 1650 W Foster Chicago <http://prideactiontank.org/projects/gun-violence-town-hall/>

Bi Discussion Group Every other Thursday, the group gets together to chat about upcoming bisexual events, concerns, and address questions about the community. Bring snacks or a good book to share. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.meetup.com/chicago-bisexual-queer->

meetup/events/232641252/?rv=me2

Friday, Oct. 21

Bisexual, Trans and Queer (BTQ) Book Discussion: Exquisite Corpse by Poppy Z. Brite From the author of Lost Souls, Drawing Blood, and Wormwood comes a thrilling and chilling novel that bestselling author Peter Straub says serves as a guidebook to hell. 7:00pm - 10:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/1289755091044475/>

Off Center: Live Music The night welcomes noted Chicago acts Congress of Starlings, Bridget Lyons, and Erick Deshaun Dorris. Cash Bar Available. \$10 suggested donation benefitting our Homeless Youth Initiative 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=12922>

Saturday, Oct. 22

Call to Action-Fostering Our Teens Foster our Youth! Coalition, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Pride Action Tank, Windy City Times and the Illinois Center for Adoption and Permanency hosts a free event with the goal of finding foster and adoptive families for Illinois teen youth within the foster care system 10:00am - 1:00am Great Hall, Kennedy King College, 6301 S. Halsted St., Chicago <http://illinois-cap.org/event/foster-our-teens>

Queer Ricans: a Conversation with Lawrence La Fountain Author, performer, academic raised in Puerto Rico, teacher at U of Michigan, has spent his career studying LGBTQ culture. Q&A with Emmanuel Garcia, panel discussion with area teens on Latinx life, interactive storytelling workshop with Susy Schultz of Public Narrative. Part of Home is Where The Art Is series. Free with RSVP 10:00am - 2:00pm National Museum of

Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, 3015 W. Division St., Chicago Tickets: <https://www.chicagoculturalalliance.org/events/queerricans/>

Big Orange Ball 2016 Come as you AREN'T to Howard Brown's second annual Big Orange Ball for a night of dancing, specialty cocktails, Carnivale catering, and a few spooky surprises. 8:00pm Carnivale 702 W Fulton Market, Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/CarnivaleCHI/>

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

Sunday, Oct. 23

Monthly gathering of LGBTQ Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) Christ Church of Chicago (Tri-C) and Invisible to Invincible: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago (i2i) are sponsoring meetings on the fourth Sunday of each month, a space for stories, information, resources, support. Email Chicago2i@yahoo.com or pastor@christchurchchicago.net. 3:00pm - 5:00pm Tri-C, 6047 N. Rockwell Ave.

Book Reading and Signing: Conflict Is Not Abuse: Overstating Harm, Community Responsibility, and the Duty of Repair by Sarah Schulman From intimate relationships to global politics, Sarah Schulman observes a continuum: that inflated accusations of harm are used to avoid accountability. Illuminating the difference between conflict and abuse, Schulman directly addresses our contemporary culture of scapegoating. 4:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-reading-sarah-schulman-conflict-not-abuse>

Monday, Oct. 24

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

Tuesday, Oct. 25

Game Night Bring yourself, some friends, and a board game to share! There is a TV available for anyone who prefers video games. Just bring your own system, games, controllers, etc. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/202433940169723/>

Parts & Hearts Guide to Transgender Transition Jensen Hillenbrand, in his groundbreaking book "Parts and Hearts a Kids (and Grown-Ups) Guide to Transgender Transition" answers everything with honest, accurate and appropriate information about the emotional and physical process of transition for both male to female and female to male transgender individuals. 6:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/new-events-details.cfm?ID=12838>

Wed., Oct. 26

Night of 100: Dragapalooza Two nights, two stages, dozens of queens, hunky male dancers, and burlesque entertainers will be taking over Sidetrack for a production like no other to benefit Equality Illinois. 8:00pm - 2:00am Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com/>



Elena Delle Donne hugs her sister Lizzie in the "For the Wind" Gatorade ad.

Delle Donne on All-Star First Team

Chicago Sky forward Elena Delle Donne was selected to the All-WNBA First Team.

Delle Donne makes her second consecutive appearance on the All-WNBA First Team after finishing second in the WNBA in scoring (21.46 ppg) and free throw percentage (93.5). She also averaged 7.0 rebounds, the second best mark of her career, to go with a career-best 1.9 assists.

Delle Donne, who recently made news for coming out of the closet as lesbian, earned 27 First Team votes and 162 points.

Joining Delle Donne on the first team are Los Angeles Sparks forward Nneka Ogumike, New York Liberty center Tina Charles, Minnesota Lynx guard Maya Moore and Seattle Storm guard Sue Bird.

The second team consists of Atlanta Dream forward Angel McCoughtry, Storm forward Breanna Stewart, Lynx center Sylvia Fowles (formerly of the Sky), Phoenix Mercury guard Diana Taurasi and Storm guard Jewell Loyd.

Speaking of Delle Donne, she recently took part in a new Gatorade "short film" that has her discussing her relationship with her sister. The two-minute long film, called "For The Wind," features Donne and her sister Lizzie, who deals with blindness, deafness and cerebral palsy.

MOMBIAN from page 24

memoir of her first serious adult relationship. Kaiser is writing, she tells us at the start, to try and make sense of its demise.

Kaiser first met Lior Gold in their Berkeley Hebrew school class. He left to join the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and they drifted apart until reconnecting years later, shortly after 9/11, when he was home on leave and Kaiser was home between semesters in college. Romance bloomed, and the two of them attempted to keep it alive after he returned to his unit. The problem was not just distance, but Kaiser's own struggle to balance her "peacenik" upbringing and left-wing Zionist leanings with dating an IDF combat soldier. On top of this, particularly after Lior leaves the IDF and returns to California, was the challenge of navigating the different expectations that any two people have in a relationship, especially two young people figuring out what they want to do with their lives.

Kaiser's four moms are a constant background presence: Nyna, her biological mom; Margery, Nyna's former partner; Helen, Nyna's best friend, who parented with them; and Kyree, Nyna's spouse from the time Kaiser was five until she was 18. Kaiser shows us how her upbringing imbued her with certain values and cultural touchstones, both Jewish and queer, that she carries into later life. She knows what it feels like to be marginalized, for example, and to have to speak up to defend those she loves. And in trying to get Lior to open up about his feelings, she observes, "I was used to a much higher level of emotional expressiveness. Think constant processing. Total sharing. Think raised by lesbians."

She shows us, too, how lessons from each of her moms helped her through her journey—and how the overall message they conveyed, of building their lives on their own terms, helped her find comfort and strength as she and Lior parted.

I wish she had explained a few terms that may be unfamiliar to non-Jewish readers (like "Shabbas goy," a non-Jew who helps observant Jews on the Sabbath). This is a minor quibble, though, for a compelling book that illuminates the sometimes complex interactions of identity, family, and relationships.

No review of Jewish LGBTQ family stories would be complete without a mention of Transparent, Amazon's Emmy Award-winning series that just started its third season. Most in the LGBTQ community know it as a story about a transgender woman and her family. But the Jewish Daily Forward also called it "the Jewiest show ever." Josh Lambert at Tablet observed that "it makes sense that it's a Jewish family at the center of this story" noting "Jews were crucial, ardent supporters of sexual science and minority rights throughout the 20th century ... often because, being Jewish, they understood that persecution or prejudicial treatment of any minority is actually a threat against all of us."

It seems no surprise, then, that we are seeing more stories centered on Jewish LGBTQ families. I hope we continue to see stories for all ages about the many different intersections of LGBTQ families, cultures, and religions.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (Mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.

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