

WINDY CITY TIMES

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ELECTION '16



Donald Trump (left) and Hillary Clinton.
Screen grab from C-SPAN

CLINTON AND TRUMP MAKE FINAL CASE TO ELECTORATE

SWITCHING SIDES

HRC now backing Tammy Duckworth. Interview with Duckworth inside.
Photo courtesy of Duckworth

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Windy City Times Election Guide inside
A detailed listing for candidates from president to judicial races, including a guide to the LGBTs running, and interviews with candidates

FUN HOME

A closer look at the award-winning production.
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TOM BACHTELL

New Yorker cartoonist to be inducted into Hall of Fame.
Photo by Jennifer Greenburg

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KOKUMO AND E NINA JAY

Authors discuss new collections.
Photo of KOKUMO (left) by IAMKIAM Studios; photo of E Nina Jay by Liz Baudler

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— Chris Jones, *Chicago Tribune*

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 A detailed listing for candidates from president to judicial races, including a guide to the LGBT's running, and interviews with candidates

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KAINE DO
 Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine (left) discusses LGBT issues. Official head shot

GETTING THE POINT



The Point Foundation (which provides scholarships to LGBT students) held a recent fundraiser. Photo of guests by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

'EMPIRE' STRIKES BACK



Empire co-star Taraji P. Henson was in the mix at the Chicago International Film Festival. Photo by Jerry Nunn

FIGHT CLUB

Couple Jose Cunningham and Greg Nelson are on opposite ends of the spectrum, as one supports Clinton while the other backs Trump.

FULL NELSON

Health advocate Nelson Vergel spoke at the "Older, Wiser and Stronger: Living Well as You Age with HIV" conference.

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2016 Hall of Fame inductee Kim Hunt.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

Hall of Fame looks ahead to new year

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, which will honor its new inductees in a ceremony at Chicago History Museum Nov. 9, continues to make changes that ensure the longtime organization is relevant for generations to come.

The organization, which just recently changed its name from the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame to better reflect its inclusivity and diversity, is adding new board members, updating its website and will soon introduce a streamlined online process for nominating new members, according to officials.

This year's inductees include philanthropist Robert Allerton; illustrator Tom Bachtell; police investigator Ronald E. Bogan; Association for Latin Men for Action (ALMA) co-founder Roman Buenostro; Hell in a Handbag Productions co-founder David Cerda; graphic designer David Csicsko; author Patrick Dennis; Pride Action Tank Executive Director Kim Hunt; physician Thomas Klein; activist Norma Seledon; TransLatin@Coalition President Maritxa Vidal; and filmmaker Yvonne Welbon. Organizational inductees include Amigas Latinas and Big Chicks. The John Marshall Law School and former Gov. Pat Quinn will also be inducted as "Friends of the Community."

The new inductees represent an "esteemed group of individuals and organizations," said Hall of Fame Executive Director Israel Wright. "We have personalities like David Csicsko, who has worked all over the city, and and Tom Bachtell, who does drawings for the New Yorker."

Friends of the LGBT Hall of Fame Board Co-Chair Gary Chichester added he was particularly excited about Dennis' inclusion; the author's family is expected to be in attendance. Chichester joked that Dennis' story Auntie Mame "is a 'gay starter-upper.'"

Board co-chair Mary Morten will step down at the beginning of 2017. She's been in the role for about four years and led the organization's recent round of strategic planning. The search is still on for a replacement, she said, adding, "We would ideally have a man and woman co-chair the board and we are still looking for someone from the inductee ranks to fill my role."

The board expanded its membership to eight this year and the organization changed its name from the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame to the LGBT Hall of Fame.

"There are some details we're still working

on, but for the most part it has been a smooth transition," Wright said. "It is something that has been acceptable to people we do business with. It was something we considered in order to be more inclusive. Generally, we achieved that, and we made many people happy. It's a lot of work that goes into changing your name—legalities, documents, letterhead."

Morten emphasized that the name change was put into place to properly brand the organization. "The reality is, since the organization came into being in the early 1990s, it always has had people who were bi and trans," she said.

"There were members of those communities who had already been honored, and we felt we should be more inclusive," Wright added. "This was a good way to honor their contributions."

"Times have changed," Chichester added. "We have to keep up."

Wright said the Hall of Fame is open to "reaching out to as many individuals, organizations and friends of the community as possible to let them know who we are and that we're available to provide recognition of achievements."

He added, "There is a larger effort to reach out to youth to participate. We have always had an openness about accepting and including youth. As with many organizations, you see older individuals managing something and you feel like it's not something that's relatable, until you enter it and you find out it's just as relatable as anything else."

The Hall of Fame's website will be upgraded, as will the nomination process. The organization will soon accept nominations online.

"We have certain things that need to be done, and when people previously sent in nominations they sometimes didn't include pictures or certain write-ups," Chichester said. "So that'll be 'policed' by the website itself."

Beyond the November induction ceremony, the Hall of Fame will also unveil an exhibit at Harold Washington Library in December.

"Part of the work I've been doing the last four years has been support beyond the ceremony," noted Morten. "We've added new people power and we still need volunteers. We are always looking for help."

The 2016 induction ceremony is free and open to the public. It takes place Wed., Nov. 9, at Chicago History Museum, 1601 Clark St., with a reception at 5:30 p.m. The ceremony begins at 6 p.m.

Open To Thinking

BY NICK PATRICCA



I Write: I Vote

Why I write.

For me, to write is an act of faith: in myself and in you. To write, I must believe that what I write is worthy of your attention. To write, I must believe that your reading and responding to what I write is worthy of my attention.

When I write, I try to write the best I can about what matters most to me. I have to believe that what matters most to me might also have meaning for you.

It isn't easy to write well, to be honest, to do careful, painstaking research, to think before writing—to think critically of myself and of my opinions as well as of the world and its affairs. For me, writing requires an act of faith that transcends my vanity, my pride, my

state who voted for Trump.)

The number of U.S. representative districts is determined by the population of the state with each state guaranteed to have at least one representative district regardless of population. Thus, Wyoming with a population of around 600,000 receives 3 electors in the Electoral College. Nor does your vote add to Hillary Clinton's chances of winning the election because the popular vote totals, as such, do not determine who wins the election.

Four times in the history of our presidential elections the person 'elected' president did not win the popular vote. Al Gore won the popular vote in 2000 but lost the presidency to George Bush.

And, one time in our history, the person who won neither the popular vote nor the Electoral College vote—John Quincy Adams—was 'elected' president by a vote of the House of Representatives. Aside: John Quincy Adams was a great president.

Even though our system of electing

our president is not as straightforward and as transparent as it might be and even though it is not always clear how my vote counts, I insisted that my godson vote anyway. He said he would.

My friend and mentor Daniel Berrigan, who died this past April, refused to vote. He judged both of our political parties to be hostage to bankrupt ideas and policies. Daniel Berrigan worked for a 'more perfect union' and a more just America in many effective ways but voting was not one of them. I was never able to persuade him that voting mattered.

I don't understand mathematics or statistics well enough to offer you any reasons to vote or not to vote. And, philosophically, democracy is a most problematic enterprise.

In the end, I can only say that for me voting is an act of faith. For me, my art of being a writer is conjoined with my art of being a citizen. Both arts are rooted in my faith in the human experiment, and in the experiment we call 'America.' Voting expresses my faith in the future of our nation and in the value of the individual person participating in our civil society. This isn't an argument: it is an ethic and an aesthetic of how I would like things to be. It is my act of faith in you and in me.

Read. Think. Vote.

© nicholas.patricca@gmail.com

"In the end, I can only say that for me voting is an act of faith. For me, my art of being a writer is conjoined with my art of being a citizen. Both arts are rooted in my faith in the human experiment, and in the experiment we call 'America.'"

ego, my desire for praise and recognition, my ambitions. Writing, for me, is simply too hard to sustain with only those motives. I must believe that my writing has value beyond myself, that it has value because of you. Every time I write I have to renew this act of faith. It doesn't last.

Sometimes I write—without faith or hope—because I cannot find any other way to exist. The subjects themselves command the writing—Oscar Romero, Primo Levi, Langston Hughes, Juana Inés de la Cruz. I have to believe that their stories have importance for us all, that their stories help us to understand ourselves, to understand what it means to be a human being in our world.

Often, my writing becomes an existential act in a world of absurdist theater—at least Don Quixote saw the windmills he mistook as knights errant.

Why I vote.

My godson Daniel, who lives and works outside of the U.S., posted a notice on FB that discussed why it is often 'statistically meaningless' to vote in the U.S. presidential election because of our Electoral College system. If you are voting for Hillary Clinton in the state of Illinois—usually a blue state—your vote cannot add to her electoral delegate count because that number is pre-determined by the number of U.S. senators (2) and the number of U.S. representative districts (18). (The same fact would be true for a person in a red

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



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A safe space in the suburbs

Youth Outlook provides LGBTQ youth with support

BY DAVID THILL

Fifty-five percent of students feel unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation, and 38 percent feel unsafe because of their gender expression, according to the 2013 National School Climate Survey released by the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN). This lack of safety in school seems to lead many young people to seek it after they leave.

"With more than half of LGBTQ young people [in the country] saying they feel unsafe in school, this is a place offering that space to relax and be yourself," said Rachel Maley, resource development associate at Youth Outlook. Since 1996, the social service organization has offered drop-in services to LGBTQ+ youth throughout Chicago's western suburbs.

"We are exploding," said Nancy Mullen, MSW, LSW, who has served as Youth Outlook's executive director since 1998. In the 18 years she has worked with the organization, its services

many middle schoolers. Mullen has heard from people as young as 11 and 12 years old asking to learn more.

Like many of her fellow staff, Maley, who attended Catholic school, didn't have easy access to services like these when she was younger. "It was definitely an option ... but not publicized," she said. Due to the safety risks that often face people who identify as LGBTQ, "up until recently, [Youth Outlook] did a lot of work in secret."

Now, though, thanks in large part to the shift in the public mind, Maley is working to make Youth Outlook more visible in the community. Particularly in light of current issues, most notably access to school facilities for transgender students, "we want to be as visible an organization as possible," Maley said.

Transcend

Transcend, Youth Outlook's drop-in center for transgender and non-binary youth, is the organization's largest and fastest-growing group. Since it began a few years ago, it now has locations in Palatine and Naperville, and has become the agency's biggest and busiest group,



Youth Outlook at the Chicago Pride Parade.
Photo from the organization

have grown substantially. What began as two drop-in centers in Hinsdale and Aurora has expanded to seven drop-in centers across five west suburban Chicago counties, serving LGBTQ+ youth ranging from 12 to 25 years old. Two of these drop-in centers serve transgender and non-binary individuals specifically, and there is another group for parents of LGBTQ+ youth.

Additionally, Youth Outlook offers community presentations and workshops. Representatives visit agencies throughout the Chicagoland area looking to learn more about how they can serve their LGBTQ members.

"There are shifts in people wanting to understand and get education" about serving LGBTQ youth, said Mullen, noting how much more common it is now than in the past for high schools to seek Youth Outlook's services. She has also watched the organization's clientele grow younger as people come out at younger ages. While in its early years it served primarily youth in high school and college, it now serves

said Mullen. During the summer, it sometimes brings in more than 40 people in one night.

While most of Youth Outlook's drop-in groups have a consistent base of attendees, Mullen said that it's impossible to predict who will come from week to week. "We specifically do not collect contact information," Maley noted, adding that parental permission is not necessary either: "Some kids' parents don't know that they come."

Maley also emphasized that the drop-in centers are not clinical therapy groups. Rather, "they're social, supportive, welcoming environments," where young people can go without having to worry about issues that might arise at school—for example, what bathroom they can use, or whether they will be able to play on the athletic team that matches their identified gender. In short, they can come to the drop-in center "without having to watch their backs," she said.

For many of Maley's fellow staff, "this [was] the first place they felt they could fully be themselves." Mullen said she sees many such instances of youth who receive services during their formative years and return later as volunteers and staff members.

Another notable—and positive—shift that Mullen has seen during her time at Youth Outlook is that of parents' perspectives. "There is a lot more parent acceptance of gay and lesbian kids, that we didn't see back in the late '90s," she observes. That said, there is a continued need to build acceptance for transgender youth as well, she adds.

It is partly due to this need that Youth Outlook's Thrive drop-in center for parents formed. The group, which meets at the same time and location as Transcend, is attended by many parents of transgender children. Thrive is

unique from most other family support groups, said Mullen, in that it is smaller in size and led by a social worker.

"A lot of the parents who come to us are, more than anything, confused," said Maley. "The common response is that they don't know what to do and are afraid of doing the wrong thing. This is a place where they can come and feel relaxed, and ask questions and not be embarrassed."

Spreading the word

With requests for more drop-in centers and community outreach, one of Mullen's biggest hopes is for Youth Outlook to gain more vol-

unteers to offer these services. Of course, for many people—particularly those who can't easily travel to the west suburbs—this presents a challenge.

But Maley and Mullen both stressed that readers can still help further the organization's work, simply by telling other people about it. "Any reader is welcome to reach out to us" to request a workshop at their agency, said Maley: "We are constantly going out to offices, schools, [and] churches, telling them that this is what Youth Outlook is.

"Our number-one need is to let people know that we exist."

Supreme Court to hear trans restroom case

BY ANDREW DAVIS AND
GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

The United States Supreme Court (USSC) announced Oct. 25 that it will review a Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals finding that federal anti-discrimination laws protect the right of transgender teenage boy to use the men's restrooms at his Virginia high school.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) brought the case on behalf of Gavin Grimm challenging the Gloucester County School Board's decision to force him into separate, single-stall restrooms that no other student is required to use.

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals had sided with Grimm after the ACLU argued that the school board's policy is a clear violation of Title IX, a federal law barring sex discrimination by schools receiving federal funding.

That decision had cleared the way for Grimm to start his senior year at Gloucester High School using the restroom in accordance with his gender identity rather than being singled out for it.

But the school board appealed and the USSC issued an Aug. 3 stay while the eight judges decided on whether or not the case would be reviewed.

"I am disappointed that I will have to go through more of a school year discussing where I'm going to be using the restroom," Grimm said. "But I'm not afraid and I'm not discouraged. I'm looking forward to using my platform for as much positive awareness to this conversation so that, hopefully in the future, no other kids are going to have to go through this."

ACLU LGBT Project Senior Staff Attorney Joshua Block echoed that disappointment but added that "we are going to tell the Supreme Court and tell the country the reality of who Gavin is and who trans kids are across the country."

In Illinois, those kids include a transgender student in Palatine's District 211 whose fight to use the girl's locker room led to a contentious debate in 2015 and, ultimately, a vote in her favor.

But, in May of this year, a group calling themselves Students and Parents for Privacy brought suit against the federal government and District 211.

With a ruling yet to be made, the student's rights remain unresolved.

Immediately after the USSC stay in Grimm's case, Evanston Township High School District 202 abruptly canceled an Aug. 4 committee meeting that, according to a report from the Evanston Review, was originally slated "to discuss the district's policy on transgender students."

In September, Windy City Times reported that an Elgin transgender middle school student had been granted permission to use the locker room in accordance with their gender identity. However, one member of the school board tried to raise alarm via social media indicating a clandestine attempt to keep parents and the Elgin community out of the



Gavin Grimm.
Photo courtesy of ACLU

decision and stating that objections should be voiced to the school board.

Grimm's case carries with it ramifications that are as deeply personal to his own experience as they are far reaching.

"When Gavin is forced to use a separate restroom from the rest of his peers, it's not only humiliating but it interferes with the ability to get an equal education that Title IX and our civil-rights statutes are supposed to protect," Block said. "Gavin has to plan out how he is going to go to the restroom when he's in class, he has to do everything he can to avoid drinking liquids and hold his urine as long as he can."

It was a sentiment echoed by the LGBTQ parents advocacy group PFLAG who said, in a statement, that "no student should have to choose between getting an education and their personal safety; forcing students like Gavin to use a restroom that does not align with their gender identity will put them significantly in harm's way."

A Supreme Court decision in Grimm's favor will have a positive impact on transgender students nationwide.

"Ultimately this about making sure that all people, including transgender people, are allowed to fully participate in school life," Block noted. "The [USSC] can always decide it on a narrower ground but, since 2000, we've had a steady drumbeat of court decisions holding that, when you discriminate against someone because they're transgender, you are discriminating against them on the basis of sex and this might be an opportunity for the Supreme Court to join that chorus of decisions."

However, with at present only eight justices, there seems no clear measurement of predicting where that decision will fall.

"I hope that all eight justices rule to affirm the fourth circuit's decision," Block said. "A core issue in this case is the dignity of individual trans people and Justice [Anthony] Kennedy has been very vocal in saying that protections against sex discrimination in the Constitution aren't designed to [protect] groups, they are designed to protect the individual and that the harm in classifying someone on the basis of sex is to refuse to recognize them as an individual and just treating them as a faceless class of people. That insight is equally applicable here."

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>.

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Campaign aims to end Chicago youth homelessness by 2020

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Even with some of the sheer numbers of homeless youth in Chicago and the challenges they face reinforced to an Oct. 25 capacity audience at the Chicago loop offices of Chase Bank, it was the testament of Unity Parenting and Counseling youth leader Caprice Williams who presented the most devastating and persuasive case for the unprecedented goal of the I AM IN campaign launched that morning to end youth homelessness in Chicago by 2020.

The campaign is the next step after more than five years of tireless work and engagement from The Chicago Taskforce on Homeless Youth and each of its partners. With support from the advocacy group All Chicago, The Taskforce has structured a campaign which All Chicago called "a world-class, cross-systems road map."

Williams, who has been homeless since the age of 15, is part of the campaign's youth advisory board. They will be integral to decisions made in the navigation of that map and the accomplishment of its ultimate goal.

"I ended up getting fired from my job, sleeping in my car, sleeping on the train," she said. "My car got repossessed when I was pregnant with my daughter. When I was five months pregnant, me and her father were standing outside and someone hopped out of a van, walked up on him and shot him in his neck and his arm."

"My story is not the only one like this," she added. "It's more than just us. It goes deep. It's so much more than us getting funding. I went to the Chicago Urban League. They didn't do anything for me. Whatever we are building, make sure you have people who are compassionate about it. There are some people who will take a position because they see how much the money is and they see the media attention it could bring to them but they could care less about the person they're trying to help."

"We are homeless, we have a story, we want to be heard," she concluded, struggling to contain her emotions.

Before Williams spoke, it was clear that she and her peers were joined in solidarity by everyone in the room.

They included representatives from organizations attached to the I AM IN campaign steering committee Chicago House, The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services,

Heartland Alliance, La Casa Norte, Teen Living Programs, The Night Ministry and Unity Parenting and Counseling Services.

"One of the things that's important to our work is stronger communities, stronger neighborhoods and an important part of that is addressing and ending homelessness," Office of the Mayor Neighborhood and Community Engagement Senior Advisor Roderick Hawkins said. "I have a passion for youth homelessness in particular. I know this [campaign] will lead to better coordination, communication and action that ends youth homelessness."

It was a statement energetically reiterated by All Chicago CEO Nonie Brennan.

"We know that we can end youth homelessness because we are already ending homelessness in Chicago," she said. "We absolutely have to work together. We need one list of every single homeless youth in this city. We need great data to drive our work. We need a path forward about where we are going to go and we have to be flexible."

Brennan went on to announce that, thanks to the work of the Taskforce, Chicago is "positioned to be successful" for a youth homelessness demonstration project grant made available in August this year from The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Teen Living Programs Executive Director Jeri Linas noted the four key goals the campaign intends to address which will make the City of Chicago "an amazing candidate for this grant."

They are safe and stable housing, education and employment, physical, mental and behavioral health and permanent connections.

According to Linas, Chicago boasts "a very culturally competent and diverse model of services" such as street and community outreach, drop-in centers and beds available in low-threshold overnight shelters, interim housing, transitional living and permanent supportive housing.

She noted that these services are geographically located across Chicago and take into account "the racial and ethnic diversity of our city [and are] inclusive of the LGBTQ population and trafficked youth."

"Even if HUD does not select Chicago, the work that we're doing here today and the work we're doing on this initiative is going to position us to move the needle on youth homeless-

ness," Brennan asserted.



Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond
From left: Lisa Morrison Butler, Hanke Gratteau, Avik Das, Debbie Reznick and Laura Washington.

The campaign's target date for ending youth homelessness is one matched by the federal government which, according to National Network for Youth Director of Public Policy Eric Masten, last year made the commitment on a national level by 2020.

"When we say 'end youth and young adult homelessness', we [don't] mean there will never be youth who experience homelessness, but it will be rare, brief and non-recurring," he said.

Masten noted that the nationwide commitment has support from Congress though increased funding for runaway and homeless youth programs to a record \$119 million along with initiatives such as the HUD grants.

A national policy research initiative will provide the kind of data Brennan cited as needed to propel the both the Chicago and U.S. campaigns forward.

According to Chapin Hall at The University of Chicago Executive Director Bryan Samuels, the multidimensional strategy behind The Voices of Youth Count is designed to "systematically go through and document the ways in which young people become homeless as well as to design strategies with the ultimate goal of ending homelessness."

Data collected by 27 teams led by youth who had or were experiencing homelessness yielded over 600 surveys of runaway and homeless youth in Chicago.

"We'll be able to look at what young people say they need versus what's available locally," Samuels said. "All of that data will be [forthcoming] over the next couple of months here in Chicago and also in 21 [participating] communities around the country."

Linas stressed the need of identifying and bridging service gaps such as "family engagement, resiliency and reunification, foster care conditions, juvenile justice engagement, host homes, rapid rehousing and coordinated access that is youth focused."

A panel moderated by Chicago Sun Times columnist and ABC 7 political analyst Laura S. Washington and comprised of City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) Commissioner Lisa Morrison Butler, Sheriff's Justice Institute Director Hanke Gratteau, Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services Acting Director Avik Das, Esq. and Polk Bros. Foundation Senior Program Officer Debbie Reznick not only illustrated the commitment of city and county services as well as philanthropic organizations to the I AM IN goal but also the challenges which the campaign faces.

For Morrison Butler, chief among the concerns faced by the DFSS is resources.

"We would like to have more overnight shelter beds, more capacity," she said. "Collaboration [across agencies] needs to be supported. The government by itself can't solve this problem. This is messy work and emotionally, we are all grappling to try to figure out how to do it."

Gratteau stated that the Sheriff's office interacts with homeless youth through the evictions of families from their homes, with runaways through their Child Protection Unit and in the Cook County Jail.

"That's where their homelessness becomes criminalized," she said. "The jail, too often, is hardship housing for the homeless and, while we are a point of intersection and intervention, when they land in our custody it's often too late."

Gratteau added that, on any given day, out

of the 300 individuals who are subject to electronic monitoring but have no place to stay, one third are youth.

"Unlike prison, where there's a definite day that somebody's going home, at the jail somebody could go to court tomorrow and have their charges dropped and, in a very short time, we have to cobble together a discharge plan," she said. "We're trying to do discharge planning on the first day somebody comes into our custody. But that's an enormous task. Last year, we had 52,000 people who spent at least one night in the jail before they were released. But, just because it's hard, doesn't mean we shouldn't do it."

Das said that there are approximately 3,000 young people on some form of active probation.

"One unfortunate situation [is] where you have the young person that turns 18, and the family says, 'You're done. You've got to go,'" he asserted. "The probation officer and the colleagues they work with in the community [have] to figure out what to do with that young adult."

"It's inexcusable, in a country as resourced as ours to have this issue," Reznick said. "One challenge in particular right now is our state budget and the tragic impact on the work that many [agencies] are trying to do. We have many things that are working but we need more and different models of [them]."

Morrison Butler stressed the importance of sharing data between organizations and agencies.

Gratteau presented some.

"The number of people who do say up front that they are homeless have an average of nine prior bookings when they come into our custody," she said. "We currently have a 26-year-old man in our custody. He has been with us on 51 different occasions. He was thrown out of his house by his grandma when he was 18-years-old and his crime is homelessness."

Das added that, of those involved in the court system, "About 45 percent are 18 or older. About 1,300 young people. When I'm looking at how we switch on the lights so that we're more aware of this need, I'm looking at those neighborhoods that are heavily represented in our population and the kinds of resources and agencies [who] are plugged into doing that hard work on the ground."

Yet, of all the challenges presented, it was Williams and the youth advisory board who offered the most profound if the 2020 elimination of youth homelessness is ever to become a reality.

"We want somebody to relate to us, we want somebody to feel us, we want somebody to understand what we're saying and what we're going through," she said. "It's time for a change. We just want to stand up and take everything on. It's not easy. Even if don't get this grant. Even if we don't get ending homelessness, we have our minds and we have our hearts. Money is a factor, but if we don't get it, is that going to be it?"

"Together, as a comprehensive, coordinated community response, we can absolutely set youth up for long term success, to avoid chronic homelessness and, instead, become thriving adults and member of Chicago," Linas said. "Are you in?"

For information on All Chicago and The Chicago Taskforce for Homeless Youth, visit: <http://www.allchicago.org/COC/Committees/Youth>.

Researchers: HIV source entered U.S. in '70 or '71

Researchers from the University of Arizona and the University of Cambridge claim they have dated when HIV arrived in the United States—and tracked its spread across the country.

In doing so, they claim to have cleared the name of the infamous Patient Zero (a.k.a. Gaetan Dugas), a Canadian flight attendant who was cited for bringing HIV to the States.

The researchers reconstructed viral RNA sequences from patients infected with HIV in the late 1970s in New York City and San Francisco. When the scientists analyzed blood samples from Patient Zero, they said they proved he was not the source. Moreover, they discovered that HIV entered the United States in either 1970 or 1971—a full decade before AIDS was officially initially observed.

AIDS Foundation of Chicago President/CEO John Peller told Windy City Times, "This study demonstrates further how deadly HIV can be without regular testing for people at

highest risk, and the damage it can do to a whole population over time. Sadly, we're still seeing some of these same problems today.

"In Illinois, one in six people with HIV don't know they are infected, and about one in four people with HIV are diagnosed very late, suggesting that they have been living with HIV for over a decade without treatment. The U.S. needs continued financial investment in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy to address these challenges."

In a statement, GMHC (Gay Men's Health Crisis) CEO Kelsey Louie said, "Society, and in particular the media, were all too eager to cast blame on a single person, rather than reflect on the stigma they were creating and the lack of political will to actually do something about the disease."

"The stigma created in the past is still strong today and prevents many from even getting tested for HIV for fear of being labeled a carrier. Were it not for Larry Kramer, Larry Mass, Edmund White, and the other founders of GMHC, we would not be as close as we are now to ending the epidemic and someday finding a cure."

—Andrew Davis



Larry W. Wilson.

PASSAGES

Larry W. Wilson

Larry William Wilson, of Chicago and Bourbonnais, passed away peacefully at home Oct. 18 after a long and courageous battle with cardiovascular disease. He was 70.

Larry was born July 16, 1946 in Winslow, Arizona, to Don E. and Freida E. (Mosley) Wilson.

He grew up and attended school in Holbrook, Arizona, and Phoenix before moving to Illinois in 1963, where he graduated from Johnston City High School in 1964. Larry received a B.S. in health education from Southern Illinois University in 1968. He then moved to St. Louis, where he taught middle school health and science in the Alton, Illinois, school district (which is just outside St. Louis).

Upon moving to Chicago in 1980, Larry began a second career in retail management and held positions with various Chicago-area retailers, including Carson Pirie Scott, Casual Corner, Ultimo and Bad Boys. In 1992, he embarked on a career in administrative assistance with Northwestern University's Chicago Campus. While there, he supported Northwestern's dental school and The Buehler Center on Aging.

Larry is often remembered for his quick wit and snap judgments, but his love of family, friends, travel, holidays, music and plants were his driving forces. His deep loyalty to those he loved will never be forgotten, as he always thought of others who were in need in order to help in any way that he could. Larry strived for perfection in everything he did and he will be thoroughly missed by those he touched in personal and distinctive ways.

He is survived by a sister, Elizabeth Noone of Herrin, Illinois; niece, Tamara Karnes (David) of West Frankfort, Illinois; nephew, Frank Noone of Herrin, Illinois; two great-nephews, Jordan and Seth Karnes; a great-niece, Tayler Karnes; and many longtime friends across the country. He is also survived by a very special friend, confidant and caregiver, Vincent Henrisey; and Stephen Finkelmeyer, of Chicago, life partner of 35 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother at birth, Kenneth Wilson.

Words cannot express how deeply Larry will be missed by those who knew and loved him.

Services were held Oct. 24 at Meredith-Waddell Funeral Home in Herrin, with Rev. John Annable officiating. The interment was at Masonic & Oddfellows Cemetery in Benton. The family prefers memorial donations made to Hospice of Southern Illinois, 204 Halfway Road, Marion, IL 62959; envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

To leave a message of condolence, share a life story or light a memorial candle in memory of Larry, visit MeredithWaddell.com.

CPS stops school from hosting event depicting shooting

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Far South Side grade school did not co-host a haunted house that contained, among other depictions, a representation of the June shootings at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, according to Chicago Public Schools (CPS) officials.

Fernwood Elementary School, 10041 S. Union Ave., was advertised by promoters as the location of a haunted house entitled The Room: A Journey to Hell that was scheduled to take place the evenings of Oct. 29 and Oct. 30. Fernwood was also initially listed as a co-sponsor of the event.

Nat (who asked that their complete name not be used) said that they saw a flyer for the haunted house at a restaurant at 104th Street and Torrence Avenue, adding, "I went in for some dinner, and promptly lost my appetite when I saw that."

Nat was initially intrigued by the event, "But

when I saw Pulse was mentioned, my head just about blew up. How could they depict that?"

CPS spokesman Michael Passman told Windy City Times in an Oct. 28 email that the event will not take place at Fernwood.

"The event organizers mischaracterized the true content of the event, and we did not approve any association with the activities the organizers have now advertised," said Passman. "The event will not be held on CPS property."

Advertised as a "Christian interactive experience," the event is produced by Tyrone Tappler Productions. On Aug. 31, the company asked on Facebook for volunteers who'd depict the victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting: "Club Pulse, Dancers, Victims ... CAGED PEOPLE/ SCREAMERS, Extras needed trying to escape a cage! ... SOUNDS INTERESTING? COME OUT THIS SATURDAY!!!"

Among other scenarios reportedly depicted in the haunted house were a botched abortion

and the 2015 Charleston church shooting. According to the ticket sales page, The Room "is a real-life haunted house. Guests will experience IN YOUR FACE scenes of dark reality. ... You will walk in 10 Rooms and encounter individuals who will make choices. The choice is life or death; sin or salvation; heaven or hell. The scenes will be action-packed, real and jaw-dropping."

Nat said they were particularly bothered that promoters were talking about the events "in terms of 'moral choices'—whose moral choices are we talking about? Is it immoral to just want to go out and be with your friends and dance? And what really bothered me was that this was in a public school supported by our tax dollars."

Windy City Times attempted to contact Tyrone Tappler Productions for comment at the number given on the The Room's Facebook page, but the call was not returned by press time Oct. 28. Tappler later said on Facebook that ticket sales would be refunded.

"If you want to have a haunted house with that kind of thing in it, have at it," said Nat. "But don't do it in a public school."

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What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
 - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
 - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
 - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
 - Have fewer sex partners.
 - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
 - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- ◆ **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.

- ◆ **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (EpiVir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).



What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- ◆ **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP. **Pregnancy Registry:** A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about

TRUVADA for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

visit start.truvada.com

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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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Windy City Times General Election Guide

Welcome to the 2016 Windy City Times General Election Guide.

Many of the races have already been decided locally—although there are a few tight ones still up for grabs (such as the Senate race between Mark Kirk and Tammy Duckworth; and the Congressional battle involving Robert Dold and Brad Schneider).

This Windy City Times Election issues features LGBTs in the Mix (page 22), which lists LGBT candidates. There are several still in the running for everything from Illinois state rep-

resentative to Berwyn aldermanic posts.

As always, there are political charts that show recommendations and endorsements from various organizations and associations as well as candidates' scores on our questionnaire. (Windy City Times does not usually endorse any candidates, although this year the publication has endorsed Hillary Clinton for president.)

And be sure to vote. Regardless of your choice of candidate, it is important to have your voice heard.

Election Eve bash to benefit Project Vote

Clandestina Chicago, Alma Izquierdo, Brooke Webster, Monica Raymund and Sophia Bush present an Election Eve Bash Dance for Democracy, Monday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m. to midnight at Thalia Hall, 1807 S. Allport Ave.

Featuring DJ Samantha Ronson, Sophia Bush, Monica Raymund, The Fly Honeys, DJ Sandra Suave and \$3 drink specials 7-8 p.m. General admission \$25/\$20 with voter registration card, VIP balcony \$35 or \$30 with voter registration card, Opera Box: \$310 includes a bottle of bubbly.

The event is a benefit for Project Vote, and has Henkell Brut, Beam Suntory and the Human Rights Campaign as sponsors.

Send them a photo of you and your crew with your voter registration card and get a coupon code for \$5 off your ticket price. See clandestinachicago@gmail.com; [@clandestina_chi](https://twitter.com/clandestina_chi).

NGMA member papers endorse Clinton for president

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

The 12 are members of the National Gay Media Association (NGMA), a trade association of the nation's major-market legacy LGBT newspapers. NGMA members have a combined circulation in print and online of more than 1 million readers per week.

This is an unprecedented joint announcement from the newspapers because several do not engage in political endorsements: Thirty-one-year-old Windy City Times has endorsed just once in 16 years, and the Dallas Voice has never endorsed for any race in 32 years.

"This race for president is showing this country a clear choice of moving backward or mov-

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

"Hillary Clinton has spent her career fighting for social justice," Baim said. "While she came late to some LGBTQ issues, so did most mainstream politicians. In this presidential race, there is a clear choice to keep this country moving forward in the footsteps of President Barack Obama, the most pro-LGBTQ president in U.S. history. That choice is Hillary Clinton."

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

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

See NationalGayMediaAssociation.com/.

Log Cabins withhold Trump endorsement

On Oct. 22, the LGBT group Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) announced it would withhold endorsing GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump.

It is the first time in 12 years, the organization has not backed the Republican nominee.

On its website, LCR stated that "Mr. Trump is perhaps the most pro-LGBT presidential nominee in the history of the Republican Party." However, the organization added, "But Log Cabin Republicans have long emphasized that we are not a single-issue organization, nor are our members single-issue voters."

"Log Cabin Republicans will spend the remainder of the 2016 election cycle committed to preserving and growing GOP majorities in the United States Senate and House of Representatives."

See LogCabin.org.

Election board programs for Asian-Indian voters

Shobhana Johri Verma is the Chicago Election Board's first-ever liaison with the city's Asian-Indian voters and community organizations.

Her work with the election board involves coordinating language-assistance in the polling places for Asian-Indian voters, as well as community outreach to Asian-Indian community groups. Johri Verma's work involves recruiting bilingual judges of election who are fluent in English/Hindi, English/Gujarati and English/Urdu.

Johri Verma's experience includes defending and promoting human rights, including advocacy for rape victims, legal research to combat human trafficking, and film and print-media work in Chicago, Los Angeles and India on a variety of vital gender issues. Johri Verma is part of an Election Board Community Services team that provides language assistance to Chicago's Latinx, Chinese and Polish communities.

Johri Verma may be reached at 312-269-7990 or hindivote@chicagoelections.net.

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	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	RC	CNOW	GPAC	PP		WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	RC	CNOW	GPAC	PP		WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	RC	CNOW	GPAC	PP		
58TH SENATE DISTRICT Sheila Simon (D) Paul Schimpf (R)			Y	Y				Y		27TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Monique D. Davis (D)			Y			Y	Y		66TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Nancy A. Zettler (D) Allen Skillicorn (R)			Y	Y				Y	
1ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Daniel J. Burke (D)			Y					Y		28TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert "Bob" Rita (D)			Y				Y		67TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Litesa E. Wallace (D)			Y	Y				Y	
2ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Theresa Mah (D)			Y		Y		Y	Y		29TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Thaddeus Jones (D)			Y			Y	Y		68TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Tricia Sweeney (D) John M. Cabello (R)			Y					Y	
3RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Luis Arroyo (D)			Y					Y		30TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT William "Will" Davis (D)			Y				Y		69TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Angelique A. Bodine (D) Joe Sosnowski (R)			Y				Y	Y	
4TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Cynthia Soto (D)	19/23		Y				Y	Y		33RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (D)			Y				Y		71ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mike Smiddy (D) Tony M. McCombie (R)			Y	Y				Y	
5TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Juliana Stratton (D)	22/23		Y		Y		Y	Y		34TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D)			Y			Y	Y		72ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael W. Halpin (D) Brandi McGuire (R)			Y	Y				Y	
6TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sonya Marie Harper (D)			Y				Y	Y		35TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Frances Ann Hurley (D) Victor Horne (R)			Y				Y		75TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Martha J. Shugart (D) David Allen Welter (R)			Y					Y	
7TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D)	21/23		Y				Y	Y		38TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Al Riley (D)	20/23		Y	Y			Y		77TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kathleen Willis (D) Anthony Airdo (R)			Y				Y	Y	
9TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Arthur Turner (D)			Y				Y	Y		39TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Will Guzzardi (D)			Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	78TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Camille Lilly (D)			Y					Y	
10TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Melissa Conyears (D) Mark Spognardi (R)			Y							40TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jaime M. Andrade, Jr. (D)	22/23		Y				Y	Y	80TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anthony DeLuca (D)			Y						
11TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Ann M. Williams (D) Gary Mandell (R)	23/23		Y	Y			Y	Y		42ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kathleen V. Carrier (D) Jeanne M. Ives (R)			Y	Y			Y		81ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Greg Hose (D) David S. Olsen (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	
12TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sara Feigenholtz (D) Gene Witt (R)	23/23	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		43RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anna Moeller (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y	83RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Linda Chapa LaVia (D)			Y					Y	
13TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Gregory Harris (D)	22/23		Y	Y				Y		44TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Fred Crespo (D) Kathy Dolan Baumer (R)			Y				Y		84TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Stephanie A. Kifowit (D) Mike Strick (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	
14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kelly M. Cassidy (D) Arthur Noah Siegel (I)	23/23	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		45TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Cynthia Borbas (D) Christine Jennifer Winger (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	85TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emily McAsey (D)			Y					Y	
15TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT John C. D'Amico (D) Jonathan Edelman (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y		46TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Deb Conroy (D) Heidi Holan (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	86TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lawrence "Larry" Walsh, Jr. (D)			Y						
16TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lou Lang (D)	23/23		Y	Y			Y	Y		48TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Steve Swanson (D) Peter Breen (R)				Y			Y	Y	88TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT John Curtis (D) Norine K. Hammond (R)	17/23								
17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Laura Fine (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y		50TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Valerie L. Burd (D) Keith R. Wheeler (R)				Y			Y		92ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jehan Gordon-Booth (D)			Y					Y	
18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robyn Gabel (D) Jessica Tucker (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		55TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Martin J. Moylan (D) Dan Gott (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	93RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Bobby Pritchett (D) Randy E. Frese (R)						Y			
19TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert Martwick (D)			Y					Y		56TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michelle Mussman (D) Jillian Rose Bernas (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	94TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Natalie A. Manley (D)			Y				Y	Y	
20TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Merry Marwig (D) Michael P. McAuliffe (R)	18/23		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		57TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elaine Nekritz (D)			Y				Y	Y	98TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Carol Ammons (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y	
21ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Silvana Tabares (D)			Y					Y		58TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Scott Drury (D) Martin (Marty) Blumenthal (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	103RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Dennis F. Malak (D) Reginald "Reggie" Phillips (R)8/23			Y	Y			Y	Y	
22ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Madigan (D)			Y	Y			Y			59TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Carol Sente (D) Dawn Abernathy (R)			Y	Y			Y		110TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Katie Stuart (D) Dwight Kay (R)			Y	Y				Y	
23RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Zalewski (D)			Y					Y		61ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Nick Ciko (D) Sheri Jesiel (R)			Y				Y		112TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jay Hoffman (D) Katherine L. Ruocco (R)						Y			
24TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez (D) Andy Kirchoff (R)			Y					Y		62ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sam Yingling (D) Rod Drobinski (R)			Y	Y			Y											
25TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Barbara Flynn Currie (D)			Y				Y	Y																				
26TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Christian L. Mitchell (D)			Y	Y	Y		Y	Y																				

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

FOR ADDITIONAL ELECTION COVERAGE, INCLUDING INTERVIEWS, GO TO
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Windy City Times Editorial Board Endorsement for U.S. President, 2016:



Hillary Rodham Clinton

ELECTIONS 2016:
STATE COMPTROLLER

Susana Mendoza talks budgets, Mike Madigan

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

In every election recently held Illinois, it seems there is always one race that involves a record amount of campaign spending.

Ironically, this year it is the face-off for comptroller between Chicago City Clerk and former Illinois House District 1 Rep. Susana Mendoza (D) and Leslie Munger (R) who was appointed to the office by Governor Bruce Rauner in 2015 following the death of Judy Baar Topinka.

The Munger campaign has nearly four times the budget of Mendoza's, but Mendoza says she is a woman who has been fighting all her life.

The comptroller's office is therefore one she intends to win—a victory she believes is essential for a number of reasons she discussed with Windy City Times.

Windy City Times: Take us behind your decision to run for comptroller.

Susana Mendoza: The office is in fiscal disarray and our state is going through the worst fiscal crisis in its history. I feel like I have the level of executive management experience along with the relationships I built over ten years in the legislature that are great on both sides of the aisle.

I could really bring some value to Illinoisans at a time when they need an independent voice down there who knows how to get things done. Running the second largest office in the City of Chicago has been a great training ground for me in terms of being able to create efficiencies. To take an office that was once seen as an office that shouldn't even exist and turn it into today what is widely seen as a model in government efficiency wasn't easy to do and I did it in less than five years when we'd had over 100 years of men running the show, basically showing up, turning on the lights and that's it.

Under my tenure, I have eliminated the long lines that used to exist at City Hall for, primarily, poor people. Not only were they paying for the most expensive [city] sticker in the country, but they had to take time off work to pay the tax. I vowed to change that when I ran for City Clerk and, if you go by the clerk's office today, you'll see that the lines are gone. I did it with 10 percent less payroll than when I started. I've come in under budget every single year that I've been Clerk. I cut my overtime expenditures by over 70 percent and we've actually generated over \$50 million in new revenue for the City of Chicago without asking tax payers

to pay more for their sticker. We don't charge outrageous administrative fees that I think is nickel and diming people. We run a better operation now and it is fair to give those savings back to the taxpayers.

People deserve an independent, fiscal watchdog who will be a truth-teller as to what's going on in state government. In my opinion, they do not have that degree of that independence at all coming out of the comptroller's office. It might as well be Comptroller Rauner whose name is on that office.

WCT: Munger has said that you are tied to Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan and special interests and so not an independent voice. How do you answer those accusations?

SM: What else do you expect her to say, right? I know my opponent certainly isn't interested in the facts. If she were, she wouldn't have omitted the fact that I got to the legislature by taking on Speaker Madigan's endorsed candidate who was, at the time, an incumbent. I lost by 55 votes but I didn't give up and I came back. [Madigan] doubled down against me the second time but I won with 55 percent of the vote.

I didn't get there by being appointed by the speaker, so it's interesting that [Munger] would say that coming from someone who was literally appointed by the governor and who lost her State Rep. race before that. I've never been appointed to anything ever in my life. I've had to work hard for everything.

It's an easy narrative to create that I just belong to the speaker which is what they say about anybody who serves in the Democratic Party. They even say that about Republicans who oppose the governor. Sam McCann is a perfect example. He opposed the governor on an issue regarding labor and then all of these commercials, the millions that they spent against this poor guy, all tied him to Speaker Madigan. It's the same script that they use in every election.

I am a Democrat, so clearly the speaker is going to be supportive of me but also because he's seen over the years how much of a fighter I am for causes I believe in. I've opposed the speaker on many policy issues in the House of Representatives. I've always been virulently pro-choice and the speaker is not. I voted against every single pay raise for legislators but that doesn't fit [Munger's] narrative.

WCT: Munger has suggested a No Budget, No Pay policy. Where do you stand on that?



Susana Mendoza.
Official photo

SM: People are genuinely frustrated and apathetic towards politicians for good reason but I can tell you that the comptroller's office already has the power to put legislators at the end of the pay line and that's exactly what I'm going to do when I'm comptroller. I absolutely agree that legislators should not be prioritized, especially when you see the pain and suffering that's being experienced by social services in this state.

Comptroller Munger has had this power from the day she was sworn in. But she did not bother to use it or even talk about it until it was campaign season. She should have done this 10 months earlier at least, when the legislature went through the entire year which ended without a budget. What took her so long? She made a choice to continue paying legislators instead of paying folks who are the most vulnerable in our state. You pick your social service provider and they had to wait before the legislators.

I have a hard time believing that [Munger] had no choice but to wait until 10 months after she could have taken action. I'm going to continue the policy of keeping legislators at the back of the line but the concept of a law that is No Budget, No Pay is not even necessary because she has the power to do that now. It's a perfect little gimmick that she's going to use as a campaign tool from now until election time.

WCT: But if you prevail, would you make No Budget, No Pay a policy?

SM: What I would do is make sure that legislators have to wait in line until the very end. They're not getting paid right now because, like everyone else, they have to wait their turn and they're not at the front of the line. [Munger] knows that No Budget, No Pay will be dead on arrival. It's something Gov. Quinn tried to do and it was found to be unconstitutional but it plays very well in the press and with people.

WCT: She's also criticized you for voting in favor of tax increases. Would you still be for that or, instead, see where we can trim some excesses?

SM: You hear the concept that we don't have

a revenue problem, we have a spending problem. The reality is that we have both. I have a strong responsibility to protect the taxpayer's dollar. So how much money can I save? Where can I cut costs? Where can we trim the fat? That's how I'm going to approach this office.

My opponent and the governor are on the record acknowledging that we're going to need to increase revenues in this state and that means increasing taxes. But I truly believe that a responsible budget should include cuts to programs that are bloated or not essential. The budget is just a list of priorities for both parties. You've got to be able to come to the table and negotiate out what's going to stay and what's going to go.

Having said that, my opponent and the governor are both in favor of a flat tax. I am not. I am 100 percent in favor and a vocal proponent of a progressive income tax. When I was in the legislature, there was very little political will to get that done. But I believe it's a different time right now. The majority of states that surround us have progressive income taxes. Gov. Rauner talks all the time about how his political mentor was [Wisconsin] Gov. Scott Walker and Wisconsin has a progressive income tax that's working very well for them. [Illinois] Rep. Lou Lang had introduced a great piece of legislation that basically provided a tax cut for 99 percent of the population and a significant increase for those making millions of dollars every year.

Obviously, my opponent and the governor are adamantly against that. They happen to fall within the one percent so it makes sense that they would look out for their self-interests, but my job isn't to look out for them. It's to look out for the other 99 percent who really have been carrying a disproportionate amount of the tax burden.

For more information on Susana Mendoza's campaign, visit: <http://susanamendoza.com>.

Windy City Times reached out to Leslie Munger's campaign but, as of press time, there has been no response.

Grace-period voting, registration

Grace-period (in-person) voter registration is taking place through Nov. 7.

This is for those who missed 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 for the first time, or file an address update, or file a name change, visit an early voting/registration site:

—Now through Nov. 7 at the Loop Super Site at 15 W. Washington St.; or

—Now through Nov. 7 at the 50 ward sites for early voting & registration

Those who need to register or update their registration on Election Day must register at their home precinct for ballots to count. A voter who needs to register, or file a change of address, or file a change of name during early voting/registration needs to show two

forms of ID, one of which shows the voter's current address.

See ChicagoElections.com/en/grace-period-registration-and-voting.html to determine the precinct.

Early voting info

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

Through Oct. 23, early voting took place in Chicago only at 15 W. Washington St. at the new Loop Super Site. Now, through Nov. 7, 51 sites will be open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Voters do not 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.

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POLITICS

Michael Forti becomes newest openly gay Cook County Judge

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The Illinois Supreme Court appointed Michael A. Forti to the 8th Subcircuit vacancy recently created by the passing of Justice Laura Chayu Liu, making Forti the latest member of the LGBT community who is now a Cook County judge.

Forti's appointment became effective Sept. 30 and ends Dec. 3, 2018. He ran in 2012, but lost to Jessica O'Brien.

Forti recently talked with Windy City Times about the appointment, LGBT issues and hypothetical cases.

Windy City Times: What do you feel is duty, first and foremost, as a judge?

Michael Forti: Well, the area that I've been assigned—like most judges—is in the municipal district. I assume we'll be handling traffic matters in circuit court, and that's where I'll begin my substantive assignment.

WCT: You were deputy corporation counsel for the city of Chicago for 14 years. Give me



Judge Michael Forti.
Photo courtesy of Forti

some idea of what you handled there.

Forti: It was a very, very interesting job. I served first as a chief and then a deputy for a division that changed its name many times, but I think the best way to describe it was a division that handled complex litigation—and some of the most interesting cases involved the Constitution.

So there were individuals who challenged city ordinances, alleging constitutional violations—those cases came to us. And some of the most interesting—one of which went to the U.S. Supreme Court—[involved] defending the city's gun ordinance. So we were at the forefront of addressing Second Amendment concerns, and the U.S. Supreme Court found there was an individual right, pursuant to that amendment.

I was fortunate enough to have some great bosses during the time I was there, and we worked on cases involving redistricting challenges to the closure of Meigs Field, so it was very exciting.

WCT: Did you deal with police-misconduct cases?

Forti: My division touched on that, but we were primarily focused on other constitutional matters. There was a separate division that was formed that handled those cases, which are very challenging. I think people are overwhelmed—that is, they've had tremendous case loads. However, that's no excuse for not being on top of your cases, but I empathize with some of those folks.

WCT: You also were chief counsel for the Illinois Department of Transportation, which would seem to be a nice segue for what you'll do as a judge.

Forti: Well, that was probably the most interesting and challenging job I've ever had. Coming from Chicago, having gone to Northwestern for law school and having lived in East Lake View and having worked for the city, many of us end up thinking that the entire state is synonymous with Chicago. But there is a big, big state south of [Interstate] 355.

Working in Chicago and Springfield was the breadth of Illinois, and I came to appreciate that. I helped that I'm originally from St. Louis, so I was familiar with the east side of downstate Illinois. That job was fascinating because I was really responsible for all of the legal issues, on some level, for the department. And at that time, under Gov. Quinn's leadership, the department was very active, whether it be high-speed rails, improvements in the railway system or dealing with the highway system. It was a very exciting time to be in IDOT.

WCT: Moving back to your judicial post, how did you find out you'd be appointed?

Forti: I had been in discussions with [Supreme Court Justice Charles] Freeman, and I needed my evaluations by the various boards to be updated. I was confident I'd be found qualified; at the end of the day, I was actually traveling on the bus when I got the good news. This, of course, is something that I've wanted to do for many years. This is the culmination for a more-than-five-year journey.

WCT: What do you think of election of judges, versus appointment?

Forti: As a policy matter, I think it's a very interesting question—and I know that Illinois is different from other jurisdictions in terms of elections versus appointments. I think, in the end, it's best to look at Illinois as somewhat of a hybrid system—so appointments fill vacancies, but ultimately anyone who is appointed to the circuit court must run on their own.

I think there are advantages and disadvantages to both systems. Some understandably [ask] if we're getting the most qualified in elections when the electorate may not be familiar with judges. On the other hand, people say perhaps the appointment system is best—but then, you may question who is making the appointments and if there are political agendas to that. So, at this moment, this hybrid system works. I'm honored to be appointed, but I'll have to prove to voters in 2018 that I'm worthy of remaining in my position.

WCT: I received an email this very morning from Lambda Legal about a report, "Justice out of Balance," that discusses the lack of LGBT judges throughout the country, among other things. On finding, for example, said there are only two transgender and zero openly bi judges in the United States. What, in your opinion, can be done to increase the



From left: Michael Forti's aunt Sarah Zicardi; Forti's mother; Forti; Justice Charles Freeman; and Forti's partner, Dan Joseph.
Photo courtesy of Forti

number of LGBT judges?

Forti: That's a really good question. I recognize that when I was thinking about my run in 2012 and this journey, there have been great strides with the LGBT community—with marriage equality being the most prominent—but that, in the legal profession, some of those issues have been lagging. For example, even though I greatly admire [current Cook County Judge] Sebastian Patti and [former Cook County Judge] Tom Chiola, they are back in the '90s—that's 20 years ago. I can't think of many judicial appointments in the Eighth Subcircuit of LGBT individuals, so I'm honored that it's time for a qualified LGBT candidate to be appointed.

Now, fortunately though, in the Eighth, there are several judges who have been elected, and I count those individuals as my colleagues. Judge Ehrlich is someone I've worked with, and he ran and won, so I think the Eighth is open to electing openly gay candidates. I encourage lawyers who are openly LGBT to go into

the law and seek out appointments, because we are lagging in that area. Being qualified is the number-one criterion, but it's a bonus if you bring a different perspective—and I think LGBT judges do that.

WCT: Here's a hypothetical: If you, as a judge, could've sat on any case throughout history, which one would it be?

Forti: [Smiles] That's a really tough question. I think one that comes to mind, around the time I was born, was the Supreme Court decision in [Brown v.] Board of Education; that was a critical case that changed the trajectory of the country. I also believe that Thurgood Marshall was one of the lawyers on that case, and seeing him as a practicing attorney would be very interesting.

I think *Loving v. Virginia* would be very interesting. The movie [Loving] was at the Toronto International Film Festival, and it did very well. That case, too, was the precursor for those who advocated for marriage equality for the LGBT community.



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**ELECTIONS 2016:
STATE REP**

Sara Feigenholtz seeks to continue record of service in the 12th

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Illinois state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D) has prided herself on the over two-decades of service she has provided to the diverse people of the 12th District and her history of listening to their needs and taking action on them.

Republican challenger Gene Witt claims he offers voters their first choice in six years. In what is being called a “change election” both up and down the ballot, Witt is hedging his campaign on the belief that voters are frustrated with the Democratic majority in Springfield and what he calls the “political game.”

Feigenholtz talked with Windy City Times about the accusations Witt has leveled at her and addressed some of the issues paramount to her constituency and the LGBTQ community should she prevail Nov. 8.

Windy City Times: There’s been a lot of frustration on the Illinois budget stalemate. Your opponent has called you one of Speaker Mike Madigan’s “top lieutenants” and says the state’s financial issues are on you both. How do you respond?

Sara Feigenholtz: I think that Mr. Witt has a very bad sense of history. Before Bruce Rauner took office, we were on a path to right the ship after the 2008 recession. We cut Medicaid by \$1.3 billion. We began to reform pensions by trying to pass a pension reform bill that was subsequently rejected by the court but, at the same time, we created a two-tiered system for new employees coming in to all parts of the budget whether they were teachers or state workers. We knew we would have latitude without constitutional considerations so that we could remedy the problem.

We also removed some barriers to bill paying, we stopped the bad habit of cycling our Medicaid liability, we cut budgets and trimmed fat everywhere we could and we were paying our so bills. We were heading in the right direction. We had a temporary income tax increase that helped us do all of this and we were doing zero-based budgeting. Mr. Witt doesn’t know that we would responsibly take a look at the revenue estimates that came in, not only from the Bureau of the Budget, but also from the Forecasting and Accountability Office. We would come to an agreed number that we had as revenue. It was divided in the House into five separate committees who went through our budget line by line. If there was an initiative that a bipartisan committee of legislators agreed needed to be funded, we would trim from another line. We had a capitated number and we could not spend through it. If that’s not responsible budgeting I don’t know what is.

Everything changed when Bruce Rauner tried to interject his turnaround agenda into the budget process. In the years I’ve been in the General Assembly, I have never met a governor who didn’t know when a bill filing deadline was for substantive bills, who held social services, care for the disabled and the elderly, kids going to public schools and higher education hostage because of a greedy agenda that had no place in the budgeting process. If you take a look at all of the things that are on Bruce Rauner’s turnaround agenda, in the context of budgeting, what is the dollar value of the passage of each of those items as far as the impact on our budget? When we have a capitated number and a bottom line, where do we plug in his agenda? Nowhere. There is a zero-dollar value to his agenda. He wanted a quid pro quo, he never sat down with leaders. He just hoisted it out to the media and made it divisive.



State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz.
Photo courtesy of Illinois House Democrats

This is the third Republican governor I have worked with. There has never been a governor like this. Every other Republican governor sat down and compromised, had respect for the branches of government, did not call the Supreme Court “corrupt,” did not start launching attacks on House Democrats on television in the middle of a legislative session creating an environment of hostility. [Rauner] governs only by chaos and has cut a path to destruction. He does not understand the branches of government or the legislative process and, if he does, he disrespects them.

WCT: There’s a lot of discussion right now about the importance of down-ballot races. On the top of the Republican ticket, Trump wants to rid the U.S. of establishment politicians. Your opponent seems to be running on that. Why should voters stick with you?

SF: Gene is making a presumption that anyone who’s been in office for X number of years is entrenched, corrupt, stale or lazy. I’m sure there are some elected officials out there who deserve that. There are 110,000 people who live in my district who I represent. If they want me to do something contrary to what the Democratic leadership ask me to do, I vote with my constituents because they’re the boss. I am constantly connected to them. I am listening to what my community needs. I get things done. I deliver for my community. I change things for the state and my record speaks for itself. I have the energy, knowledge and wherewithal to be effective.

WCT: The LGBTQ community has come together to address gun violence. Should you prevail, where do you see Springfield going on the issue?

SF: When [former Chicago Police Department Superintendent] Garry McCarthy came to Springfield with his mandatory minimums bill, he wasn’t very familiar with the politics of Cook County and the City of Chicago. Had I been the chief of police, I would have spent a great deal of time with the representatives who represent the communities who are being affected by gun violence and with legislators who struggled with his proposal. We at the General Assembly were not ready for it. I believe that people who are in possession of illegal guns should serve more time and be taken off the streets.

But the fact that some our criminal code will put people in prison if they steal a packet of hot dogs longer than illegally possessing a gun is a problem. We are trying to carefully craft

a piece of legislation that takes a step in the right direction and I am very optimistic because you have prosecutors and public defenders who are inside the General Assembly who are trying to pass a law. I’m 100 percent for gun control but I am, also very weary of how our jails are stacked with minorities. We need to begin to take people out of jail for petty offences and not put them in there in the first place. Mandatory minimums became a very racial issue. So much work is being done now by every legislator and I’m holding out hope that some of the folks who are ardent gun lobby supporter will come to the table on this one because we’ve hit a tragic number of homicides in this city.

WCT: Your opponent is against the ability for transgender people to change birth certificates without surgery. We still have massive unemployment and violence problems in that community. What’s your opinion of Mr. Witt’s stance on birth certificates and what do you see Springfield doing to address transgender rights moving forward?

SF: The bottom line is that Gene is very out of touch with the community. For him to have such an insensitive, uneducated, ill-informed position is reflective of how he would fit in rep-

resenting this community. You have to get it. You have to understand and be part of a community for a long time to fight for things and not reject them. I tried to explain to him that for him to even allude to the fact that people may want to change their gender to get minority contracts was really, really offensive. I tried to explain to him how it happens in real life.

In our office, we just had a mother who has a child who is transitioning. When she came in to see me, she asked me for help and told me it was important for the future of her child. Had she walked into Gene Witt’s office, he would have summarily turned back the clock. Out history and legacy in Lake View is tolerance and you would think he would have figured that out.

I sponsored the bill with the ACLU many years ago. I think people have evolved. The [LGBTQ] community has a lot to be proud of. They are the examples everybody uses on how to organize and band together to fight which is why they will be so effective on the gun issues. They will be formidable and I know where my money is. It’s not on the gun lobby.

For more information on the Sara Feigenholtz campaign, visit SaraFeigenholtz.com.

**ELECTIONS 2016:
STATE REP**

Gene Witt sets sights on longtime incumbent Feigenholtz

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

As the owner of a financial advisory firm and an active volunteer in Lake View, Republican Gene Witt believes that he can give residents of the Illinois 12th District a choice that will unseat incumbent Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D), who has held the office for over two decades.

Witt talked with Windy City Times on why he believes that choice needs to be made given the state’s financial woes alongside a devastating rate of gun violence homicides and why he would be the best option on Nov. 8.

Windy City Times: You’ve talked a lot about the Illinois budget impasse. Democrats say the problem is Rauner’s insistence on a turnaround agenda. Rauner wants lawmakers to compromise. How do you bridge this division and get a budget balanced?

Gene Witt: I’m looking at this from a financial perspective and we have to prioritize and do a better job of evaluating where waste is going. Our deficit is staggering, and translates to about \$45,000 per taxpayer. Because of that, the next generation is going to find themselves with unbearable debt. More people are leaving Illinois which reduces our tax base and forces both sides to have to increase the tax rate.

The governor presented a budget that I was not in agreement with because it was still \$4 billion off balance. The Democrats presented budget that was \$7.5 billion. This isn’t a solution. We have to find ways of cutting expenses in order to be able to meet our obligations. With the tax base reduced, we’re going to have a spiral because the tax rates are going to have to keep going up.

I think we have to prioritize some of the social services. Education is obviously important to be funded but we have to look at the way it is operated because there’s a lot of waste and there’s more efficiency that can be brought to the table to provide better education with not such high, wasteful spending.

We don’t have proper services for people who struggle or suffer from mental illness. That’s pretty sad. You walk almost anywhere



Gene Witt.
Photo courtesy of Witt

in Chicago and you can find a homeless person. Our money is not being prioritized properly. At the end of the day, if we get into a standoff, we lose sight of our responsibility. I want to find a solution that is logical and makes sense.

WCT: The plight of the homeless is a massive concern. There’s a campaign to end youth homelessness by 2020. But a lot of the advocacy organizations are suffering because of the budget and Democrats say Rauner is the problem.

GW: We have to step back a second. Where’s the money going to come from? We have such a big obligation on pensions, Medicaid, on so many different areas. I don’t have a relationship with the governor. I don’t know much accuracy there is in the information I have access to but we have to look at the amount of money we’re pulling in. If we’re going to continue funding all these projects, we’re going to have to raise taxes to a point that we’re going to end up reducing our tax base.

We’re not putting cuts in the places that

**ELECTIONS 2016:
STATE REP**

Ann Williams talks budget, gun violence and LGBTQ rights

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Illinois state Rep. Ann Williams (D) faces a number of issues should she be re-elected to serve the 11th District on Nov. 8.

They include resolving the state's budget crisis and ensuring the safety of her community in an increasingly violent city.

But, first, she must overcome the challenge presented by Republican Gary Mandell, who says he holds career politicians "responsible for their policies that that have led to the financial disaster now facing our state."

Williams spoke with Windy City Times about how she would go about addressing the state's finances and other key issues should voters send her back to Springfield.

Windy City Times: One of the principal issues on which your opponent Gary Mandell is running is balancing the state budget. If people were to vote you in for another term, what would be your strategy in getting the state's financial house in order?

Ann Williams: Until the past year and a half, we've always had a state budget in place. What has changed is our leadership at the top. The governor said this to me directly: He refuses to negotiate the budget unless and until his political agenda is passed. Some of the items in his turnaround agenda are certainly viable and worth discussing.

The problem is that putting your political agenda ahead of actually governing is not doing your job and that's what created the impasse. Republicans and Democrats can easily go through the budget and disagree about certain line items but, at the end, of the day, they come together. But we're not even getting to a discussion about priorities because the governor is demanding his agenda first.

WCT: If you came up with a compromise that Speaker Michael Madigan didn't agree with, would you be prepared to go against him?

AW: I wasn't supported by the speaker when I first ran and I have frequently gone against both the speaker and the mayor in order to advance what I thought was in the best interests of my constituency. But for the governor, for example, to hold human service agencies, community mental health programs and higher education hostage while he pushes his political agenda through doesn't make sense and is not what any of us should be doing.

WCT: You opponent also says that increasing revenues by increasing tax rates is flawed logic. The high income-tax rate is a concern for a lot of people in Illinois.

AW: He's not hearing the facts. He's using a lot of talking points and generalizations. Before I was in office, they raised the income tax to 5.25. It was rolled back in 2015. So it's on the low end of income taxes. What could solve the budget crisis as well as providing an updated and more fair tax structure would be to provide for a graduated income tax. Illinois is one of a very small minority of states that still utilizes the flat tax. So-called, pro-business, red states like Illinois and Wisconsin utilize a graduated income tax. They have an updated code that provides for taxing of services rather than goods.

If you layer Indiana's tax on Illinois' economy, we would have something like \$4.7 billion in revenue. So that's what we should be advancing but the Republican caucus won't even mention it. Even the governor has said that we need to increase revenues, but he is using it as



State Rep. Ann Williams.
Photo courtesy of Illinois House Democrats

a bargaining chip.

I've voted for a lot of cuts and I'm sure that more there's more that need to be made. But, when pressed, [my opponent] was unable to give me one program, service or line item that he would suggest to be cut.

WCT: One of the other key issues Mr. Mandell raises is one of safety. Gun violence has been something the LGBTQ community has taken up since the Orlando massacre. Where do we begin to start curbing gun violence and how would you hold your own against an organization like the NRA?

AW: It's the issue I'm hearing most about from constituents. The NRA does a report card on the issue. I got an "F" rating and I'm very proud of it. On my Facebook page, there were a few pro-NRA voices who could be quite threatening. It's an issue where there's no gray area. The NRA is incredibly powerful. The Illinois House passed a bill to legalize silencers. The argument used was that it was to provide security and protection to hunters. I'm not concerned about going up against the NRA. Although we passed concealed carry, I joined a number of my colleagues to push for common sense restrictions.

The item I was not able to get included but which I am partnering with the Republican leader on is banning the carrying of a concealed weapon in a restaurant that serves alcohol. The bill says you can't have one in a bar but you can get just as drunk in a restaurant. It's a matter of getting a critical mass of legislators that are going to respond to these violence issues.

WCT: Mr. Mandell's solutions include increased police funding but that does not mean a safer LGBTQ community because of the profiling that happens. If we are to go down that road, how do we ensure that the community is respected?

AW: Gary didn't fill out the NRA, the Equality Illinois or the pro-choice questionnaires because he doesn't want the public to know where he stands. It also shows someone who is very out-of-step with our community; one that is very strong for equality, choice and against the NRA's positions. I would agree that we have a lot of work to do about educating and extensive training for law enforcement and personnel in prison and jail settings. You have to ensure that there's monitoring on how these

policies are being implemented.

WCT: If things go the Republican's way at the top of the ticket on Nov. 8, there are a lot of people in your district who will be facing Mr. Trump's threats of deportation squads. How do you keep their families intact?

AW: We can do lots of things on a local and state level to ensure that people have services, that they are welcomed. They are human beings who are part of our culture and economy. To pick on the fears of uneducated individuals just to move your agenda forward is very harmful. If, God forbid, that did happen, we're going to have to take steps on a state level just to show people they are valued.

WCT: What are some of the next LGBT-rights issues in a post marriage-equality world?

**ELECTIONS 2016:
STATE REP**

Gary Mandell talks solutions to budget impasse, inequality

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Gary Mandell is a Republican who marches in the Gay Pride parade but he is also one who follows the party line of putting a stop to what he calls "more of the same 'tax and spend' policies the Democratic Party has offered."

It is why the founder of the personal financial planning firm The Mandell Group wants to unseat 11th District incumbent Rep. Ann Williams (D) on Nov. 8.



Gary Mandell.
Photo courtesy of Mandell

Mandell spoke with Windy City Times about alternative solutions to the Illinois budget crisis, while offering his take on gun violence, employment and LGBTQ civil rights.

Windy City Times: The budget is high on your list of issues to be addressed but Rep. Williams says you are not very specific, for example, on line items you would eliminate. So, how would you go about balancing the budget and what line items would you address?

Gary Mandell: There are two ways to balance the budget: increase revenues and decrease spending. I believe there's a lot of wasteful spending, fraud and corruption going on so I can't really specify line items without there being an audit or a review. Last week, there was a task force put together to review Medicaid expenditures.

They found something like \$230 million of expenditures that were mainly to dependents of Medicaid recipients who may or may have not been entitled to those benefits. There are hundreds if not thousands of line items in the budget. There are many areas that probably are more ripe for cost savings than others. We need to take a 10,000-foot view of

AW: Of course, at the top of the list are issues pertaining to the transgender community. I'm one of the sponsors of Greg Harris's bill about birth certificate modifications. The fact that it's still a discussion in Springfield shows that we've got a ways to go. There's nobody left in the entire Republican caucus who supported marriage equality. That shows that we still have a substantial challenge in terms of equality whether it applies to adoption or financial situations. The fact that we're still talking about what bathroom people can go to, I mean, come on. It's 2016. I don't see why it matters and why we are spending time trying to pigeonhole people.

For more information on the Ann Williams campaign, visit VoteAnnWilliams.com.

it first before we get down to the minutiae. If, in four weeks, they found almost \$300 million in savings, I believe there's probably plenty more in there.

WCT: Rep. Williams says it is Gov. Rauner who is holding things like social services and higher education hostage in order to advance his agenda. Do you agree or can there be a meeting in the middle?

GM: She has continually said that Governor Rauner will not discuss until his turnaround agenda is completely passed which is totally untrue. Two years ago, they carved out the education budget so that could be passed irrespective of anything else. [Speaker] Mike Madigan didn't like the fact that they passed an education budget without Mike Madigan being able to hold it hostage so, when they passed a \$7 billion, out-of-whack, so-called budget, Madigan did not separate out the education part. Gov. Rauner agreed to a property tax increase with the promise that there would be negotiations on pension reform.

I'm not here to support or even promote Governor Rauner's programs but for Ann Williams to say that nothing can get done until everything [the governor] wants is passed is totally ridiculous. If that were true then the last two years of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) wouldn't have been funded. Mike Madigan and Ann Williams (who votes with him 84 percent of the time) is not willing to negotiate anything. Rauner was even willing to talk about a temporary income tax increase. Madigan didn't want to do that nor did John Cullerton in the Senate because it was an election year and it would cost them votes. So, they are clearly more interested in promoting themselves for political reasons than they are in doing what's best for the citizens of the state.

WCT: You don't like tax increases, either. Rep. Williams has said she is for a graduated income tax. Is that a fair solution?

GM: Until we can get a handle on how much wasted spending is going on in the state, we really don't have any idea how much extra revenue we need. If we tried to pass a budget like they did last year and we didn't take a look at cost savings that would be unfair to the tax payers whether it's a graduated or a flat tax. Under my program, we would be expanding the tax base by making Illinois a better place to operate a business, to employ the many unemployed people in the state, to try to bring back the million or so tax payers who have left over the last ten years and bring back the people who are diving to Illinois and Wisconsin to work and paying income taxes to those states. Are there ways to save money so we don't need to raise as much revenue? If we cut expenses that are wasteful, fraudulent or corrupt and we also make Illinois a better place to operate a business, we will have a surplus. But Ann Williams and Mike Madigan have never brought up a revenue raising proposal other than raising taxes for two years.

ELECTIONS 2016

LGBTs in the mix

The next general elections, to be held Nov. 8, feature a number of openly gay and lesbian candidates. The following individuals have publicly stated that they are members of the LGBT community and were on the ballot as of late February.

—Catherine Schneider

Race: 11th Subcircuit, Cook County (Kelly Vacancy)

Website: SchneiderForJudge.com

The skinny: Judicial candidate Schneider has more than two decades' experience as an attorney and is a recognized expert in civil litigation. In addition, she is co-chair of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois' Access to Justice Committee. She is unchallenged in her race.

—Kelly Cassidy

Race: Illinois state representative (14th District)

Website: RepCassidy.com

The skinny: Cassidy, who defeated another lesbian candidate, Paula Basta, in March 2014, is this time running unopposed in the Democratic primary—and she has no Republican challenger, either.

—Sam Yingling

Race: Illinois state representative (62nd District)

Website: SamYingling.com

The skinny: What's old is new again. Yingling is running unopposed in the primary for his third term. He is the first openly gay House member from outside metropolitan Chicago. And Republican Rod Drobinski of Wauconda is, again, Yingling's opponent for the general election; Yingling prevailed in 2014.

—Greg Harris

Race: Illinois state representative (13th District)

Website: GregHarris.org

The skinny: Harris—who was chief co-sponsor of SB10, the legislation that brought about marriage equality in Illinois—has a district that includes several North Side neighborhoods. He was first elected in 2006 and, like Cassidy, is currently running unopposed, ensuring his re-election.

—Andy Kirchoff

Race: Illinois state representative (24th District)

Website: AndyFor24.com

Kirchoff is an openly gay Republican, and he's seeking to represent the 24th District, which includes Berwyn, Cicero, Riverside, Brookfield, Stickney and Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. Kirchoff, a healthcare professional, spent several years discerning the priesthood with the archdiocese of Chicago before earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Loyola University Chicago. Kirchoff supports LGBT rights and immigration reform, but is also staunchly pro-life and backs the state's concealed-carry law.

(Note: The elections in Berwyn are not until February. The mayoral election in Evanston is in January.)

—Scott Lennon

Race: Berwyn alderman (1st Ward)

Lennon has said that he is running for several reasons, including an infrastructure that needs improvement. (An interview is at WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Scott-Lennon-runs-for-Berwyn-aldermanic-post/56816.html.)

—Jeanine Reardon

Race: Berwyn alderman (3rd Ward)

Website: BerwynUnited.com/alderman-3rd-ward

Reardon is a hospital chaplain who is running to replace Marge Paul in the 3rd Ward.

She is ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and is a rostered leader in the Chicago Metropolitan Synod. (See a profile at WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Building-Berwyn-LGBT-candidates-on-Feb-election-slate/56739.html.)

—Joe Johnston

Race: Berwyn trustee

Website: BerwynUnited.com/copy-of-township-trustee

Johnston, who works for a renewable energy company, is running for a township trustee post. (See a profile at WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Building-Berwyn-LGBT-candidates-on-Feb-election-slate/56739.html.)



Marge Paul.

Photo courtesy of Paul

—Marge Paul

Race: Berwyn city clerk

Websites: "Marge Paulf for Berwyn City Clerk" (Facebook) and BerwynUnited.com/Clerk

Paul is relinquishing her aldermanic seat to run for city clerk. She has called her city clerk candidacy "an important first step in terms of visibility for LGBT residents. I've represented the 3rd Ward for two terms. I handily won the election the first time, and was able to increase that in the second election." (See a profile at WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Building-Berwyn-LGBT-candidates-on-Feb-election-slate/56739.html.)

—Jose Ramirez

Race: Berwyn alderman (2nd Ward)

Website: BerwynUnited.com/alderman-2nd-ward

Ramirez is advocate for various changes, including putting recordings of city council meetings online. "That way everyone [in the community] can participate," he added. "Let's face it, everyone in the community has a different life and different hours." He and his partner, Thomas Stebbins, have been together more than 25 years and were married in November 2015. (See a profile at WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Building-Berwyn-LGBT-candidates-on-Feb-election-slate/56739.html.)

—Mark Tendam

Race: Mayor of Evanston

Tendam is currently an alderman (6th Ward) in Evanston, joining the race alongside Ald. Brian Miller (9th) and businessman Steve Hagerty. Tendam, a 1978 graduate of the University of Cincinnati, is a retired graphic designer, having worked in the field for 35 years. He's served on the boards of Better Existence with HIV, the McGaw YMCA and the Democratic Party of Evanston. Tendam—who lives in northwest Evanston with his husband, Neal Moglin—is the first openly gay politician elected in Evanston.

ELECTIONS 2016:
U.S. REPDuckworth speaks
on LGBT issues;
HRC now backs her

BY MATT SIMONETTE

U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth—who's running to unseat incumbent U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk in the Nov. 8 general election—said that the LGBT community has to be vigilant about widespread and persistent right-wing attacks on legislative and legal victories that they've enjoyed in recent years. Basic struggles, she added, are "still there."

"I feel like the LGBT community may feel like the struggles have been won, but I really think the struggles are just now starting at a low level ... where those people who oppose LGBT issues and the reality of what it means to be equal are going to work at [a local] level to change the system and introduce new laws," Duckworth said. "If we don't pay attention to them, they will spread across this country. It's the same as what we saw with reproductive rights—they've been going through state by state, enacting laws and regulations."

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), on Oct. 29, reversed its controversial endorsement of Kirk following a remark about Duckworth's heritage during an Oct. 27 debate, and endorsed Duckworth instead.

"Leadership is about more than the legislation one sponsors and the votes one casts," said HRC President Chad Griffin in a statement. "On [Oct. 27], Senator Kirk's comments about his opponent's heritage were deeply offensive and racist. His attempt to use Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth's race as a means to undermine her family's American heritage and patriotism is beyond reprehensible. Yesterday, Senator Kirk tweeted an apology that failed to adequately address the real harm and magnitude of his words."

Duckworth, for her part, accepted Kirk's apology on Twitter on Oct. 28: "Thanks, Sen. Kirk. Let's honor my family's service—and your own—by sticking to the issues for the final week."

But Duckworth adamantly maintained that Kirk has sat on the fence when it comes to major issues. (Windy City Times was, as of press time, unable to coordinate an interview with Kirk's election campaign.)

"He's not really done much of anything," Duckworth explained. "He's been a senator for six years and you haven't seen much of anything that he's done. When it's an election year, he shows up and gets his photos taken. He may even cast a vote or two along the lines of what he needs to maintain his image, but never when those votes were tie-breaker votes, never when those votes were significant to get anything done. I, on the other hand, have been out there working on issues from my first days in the House."

One example she gave about an issue she's been passionate about is the Department of Defense's family-leave policy. "Because my husband was still [on] active duty when I had when we had our baby girl, he only got 10 days' leave. I asked, 'Is that true for all men in the military?' It turned out it was. If you gave birth to the child, you had six weeks' leave, and even that's not enough."

She worked on the issue for a long time on the issue, but said that the issue would be especially pertinent in the wake of Don't Ask Don't Tell being struck down.

"What are you going to do when there are two fathers?" Duckworth asked. "What about service members who are married and serving openly. If they adopt or have a surro-



Tammy Duckworth.

Photo courtesy of Duckworth

gate child, are they each only going to get 10 days? Is the army going to discriminate against the child because of the fact that the parent didn't give birth to the child? That's one of the things I'm working on right now—to change maternity and paternity leave policies to a family leave policy, which I think would be about 12 weeks combined."

Although marriage equality is the law of the land, Duckworth said the LGBT community must remain vigilant about defending their legal freedoms, citing Township High School District 211, which is in her legislative district, as an example. In that episode, a transgender girl fought for the right to change in the girls' locker room, and the district nearly lost federal funding when the school was found not to be in compliance with Title IX regulations. The district reached an agreement with legislators, but that deal has now been challenged in federal court.

"The solution was not the ideal one, that the student could change in a curtained off area," Duckworth said. "I didn't feel like she should have to do that, but the student agreed to the compromise, which showed the level of maturity that she had. Yet, you had people from outside issuing court challenges against it, people with no skin in this other than opposing this child."

Duckworth also calls economic development a "huge issue. As I travel the state, people say that the economy is getting better but they're not seeing it in their home town. We must get the economic revival in manufacturing and medium- and small-businesses, because those are the ones that keep jobs here. ... Tied to that is investment in education. If we don't have an educated work force, we don't have companies that can compete on a global scale."

She added that she would demand both a vote and a hearing on Merrick Garland's nomination for the U.S. Supreme Court. "I think the Senate needs to do its job in demanding hearings and demanding that leadership do its job," Duckworth said. "I don't know if Hillary is going to continue that nomination of Garland, but the president's nominee, regardless of whether that's Hillary or Donald Trump, deserves a hearing."

See TammyDuckworth.com.



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can afford to have cuts and social services and schools are getting beaten up. We're more than 120 days behind in our bills. We have to do a better job of evaluating all of the different segments of the budget and make some serious cuts so that social services do get the funding that they need and that education is a priority. We have to find ways so that we can afford to do the right thing for the people who cannot take care of themselves.

Over the summer, we found a number of [prison] inmates who were collecting food stamps and it translated to 50 or 60 million dollars. There's a whole black market for people selling their Link Cards. Don't get me wrong, I want to help people who need to feed themselves but, when tens of millions of dollars are being given to people in prison, that's money that could be going to help people who are homeless.

WCT: You've called Rep. Feigenholtz one of Speaker Mike Madigan's "top lieutenants." She has said that she votes against the speaker on issues that affect her constituency. Can you name specific areas where you would be a better choice for reining in Madigan?

GW: I don't think Mike Madigan is doing a good job as speaker of the House. He controls the agenda and Sara has voted to keep him as Speaker for the last twenty-some years. I think we need a new speaker.

One of the challenges with the way our system is set up is that, in order to go and look at somebody's voting record, it's very opaque to find the details: to click on a House bill that refers to another House bill that's an amendment, it's very difficult for somebody like me

without a staff to get accurate information on somebody's voting record. Sara's got 22 years in the House so I can't give you specifics, but the budget's a pretty big one. It was \$7.5 billion out of balance. Where was that money going to come from? Mike Madigan pushed that for a reason that was probably to intimidate the governor. If the state is in the financial mess that it's in, you don't vote on something that is that far out of whack.

WCT: Where are you in terms of gun violence in Illinois and people who buy guns at a gun show in Indiana and sell it to someone in Chicago?

GW: If somebody is caught with a gun that is illegal or unregistered, the penalties have to be really severe. But our prison system is overcrowded and there are people who are in prison who really shouldn't be. The prisons have to be cleared out so that we can put real criminals in them. Regarding the secondary market, there's a problem with that. The law has to apply across the board. In a situation like that, the person who sold the gun also has to be held accountable for the crime that's involved. If they choose not to do a background check on someone, there's a consequence to that. But if you and I were friends and I wanted to buy you a gun for your birthday, to have to go through a background check in a situation like that adds to administrative work and we start increasing expenses that the state can't afford at the moment.

I would hope that we could create better communication with surrounding states. With all the technology we have, we need to be more efficient with being able to get information more quickly and more accurately.

WCT: The NRA want more 2nd Amendment

freedoms. They don't want gun manufacturers held civilly accountable or gun sellers. Doesn't this bring you at odds with them?

GW: When the Constitution was written, we lived in a completely different world and our society has evolved and changed. We have a problem with gun violence, but if you take away the guns you would still have a problem with violence. You have to understand where it stems from. I don't have a problem with being at odds with the NRA or the Republican Party. When it comes to making laws, you have to be logical, fair and do what's in the best interests of society. I do not believe in taking away people's rights to own a gun but, at the same time, I don't know where you draw the line on the sale of semi-automatic weapons. It's a balancing act.

WCT: In terms of the LGBTQ community, were you for marriage equality?

GW: It's fair. It's the right thing to do. Two people who are in love and want to spend their lives together have the right to do that.

WCT: But you are not in favor of transgender people being able to change their birth certificates without surgical-confirmation procedures. These surgeries are unaffordable to most. Insurance companies won't cover them. So how are transgender people supposed to have their gender identities reflected on official documents?

GW: I don't understand a lot of the mean-spirited judgement on the community. It's a whole lot easier to get along with people than it is to fight and criticize them. We talk about America being a free country, but freedom isn't just my definition. If somebody is comfortable doing something that doesn't harm anybody physically or financially, what is the problem?

With respect to birth certificates, the law builds upon itself and, when you start allowing people to change birth certificates, it opens up a Pandora's box and more things will start being changed. Eventually, people can change everything on their birth certificates. I don't have a problem with somebody changing their gender on a driver's license or a passport, but going back and changing a document from way, way back, I have a problem with across the board. I don't believe in changing an official, legal document from the past.

WCT: The man at the top of your ticket has divided your party. Voters are going to the polls looking at who is or is not supporting Donald Trump. Where are you on him and his candidacy?

GW: Mr. Trump's popularity came about because he's an outsider from Washington and I think that a lot of America is upset with Washington, as I think a lot of people from Illinois are upset with Springfield. Honestly, I thought Donald Trump's entrance into the race was a publicity stunt. I never took it seriously. I was really surprised that he resonated with so many people.

A lot of the comments he made that were offensive, especially towards the Latin[o] community, scare me that they resonated with as many as they did. The Latin[o] community is not all full of criminals and drug dealers. I think that the Latino[o] is the most family-oriented community I have ever engaged with. We should have a president that has more class and I'm not in agreement with a lot of his comments and views, although I will tell you I am equally concerned about Hillary.

For more information on the Gene Witt campaign, visit WittForIllinois.org.

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viewpoints



**Dana
RUDOLPH**

MOMBIAN

Magazine uproar offers lessons on representation

The recent responses of two different children's publishing companies when asked about LGBTQ inclusion in their magazines offer us several takeaways about representation of our families.

It started when Kara Desiderio wrote to Highlights Magazines to express disappointment that her daughter did not see two-mom families like hers in the pages of Hello, Highlights' title for toddlers. Her spouse, Kristina Wertz, followed up with a note on Highlights' Facebook page, saying in part, "There is a deep need for books that positively reflect back the diversity of the world around us and I hope that Highlights embraces that diversity because we would love to keep it in our little one's life as she grows."

Highlights' initial response, however, seemed focused more on the fears of straight parents than on including the children of same-sex ones: "We understand your wish to see your family's situation represented in Highlights Hello. For much of our readership, the topic of same-sex families is still new, and parents are still learning how to approach the subject with their children, even the very little ones. We believe that parents know best when their family is ready to open conversation around the topic of same-sex families."

The first takeaway, then, is that 37 years after the first children's book in the U.S. to show a lesbian relationship (Jane Severance's *When Megan Went Away*, 1979) and 44 years after the first television movie to depict a gay dad (*That Certain Summer*, 1972), media companies should stop worrying so much about offending the sensibilities of those who still want to pre-

tend LGBTQ families don't exist, or think that talking about us means talking about sex.

Highlights added that it was important to them "that every child feels that Highlights is truly for them. We will continue to think deeply about inclusion—specifically, how to address it in developmentally appropriate ways for our broad audience."

Cue hundreds of further comments on Highlights' Facebook page urging representation of LGBTQ families. Author Megan Dowd Lambert (who has written several lesbian- and gay-inclusive children's books) launched the #HighlightLGBTFamilies hashtag to aid the effort.

One could see Highlights being dragged along the learning curve. In one response to a Facebook commenter, they said, "It has always been a discussion of 'when'—not 'if'—Highlights would feature a LGBTQ family in our magazines." They eventually issued an official statement saying, "We know that there are many ways to build a family, and that love is the essential 'ingredient.' This conversation has helped us see that we can be more reflective of all kinds of families in our publications. We are committed to doing so as we plan future issues." The second takeaway, then, is that companies can change, especially if we offer them constructive feedback and personal examples of the effects of their actions.

I decided to do some comparative investigation, and reached out to Cricket Media, another children's magazine powerhouse. The difference was clear. Stephanie Hoaglund of Cricket's media relations department told me, "We have indeed shown LGBTQ families and stories. Our magazines continually feature content that tries to honestly represent the experiences of kids today." She noted that Cicada, their magazine for teens, "continually strives to represent teens in the LGBTQ and other underrepresented groups," and that Cricket Magazine, for kids nine to 14, "also has many examples." She pointed out a January 2015 letter to the magazine from a girl who proudly noted she had two moms.

Additionally, a family tree activity in Cricket, while it showed a traditional mom-dad tree, also made provision for other structures, telling readers, "What if your family has two dads or two moms? Just draw them in!" That's a

start—although I think saying "Parent" and "Parent" from the beginning would have been better. This brings us to takeaway three: Even allies can still learn. And while Cicada and the company's online teen forum have published many LGBTQ-inclusive pieces, including one about drag queens and another about a bisexual teen, the LGBTQ content for younger ages is still sparse, despite the above examples.

Daniel Resner, associate editor of Cricket Media's Spider magazine for six- to nine-year-olds, later left a comment on my blog, noting, "I very much agree our younger magazines have room to improve. The first step is acquiring the content—and we welcome writers from all underrepresented groups, including LGBTQ-IA+ folks, to submit stories, poems, etc.!"

He added via e-mail that Spider "would love to see age-appropriate stories featuring families and gender identities of all kinds" and "I would be thrilled to see manuscripts directly or indirectly featuring non-heteronormative families in thoughtful, graceful ways."

The final takeaway, then, is that herein lies an opportunity. Over the past decade, I've seen many LGBTQ parents try to self-publish children's stories that reflect their families. Some are great, but many could benefit from an editor and/or a professional illustrator. Others don't have the resources to market widely. Rainbow Rumpus, an online magazine for children with LGBTQ parents, seems to be on hiatus. And while we want stories for and about our families, many of us also want quality, engaging reads that also build literacy skills. If mainstream publishers like Cricket are willing to reach out to us for our stories and help us bring them to life, then it's a win-win all around.

Put pen to paper or fingers to keys, then, or turn on a recorder the next time you tell your child a bedtime story. Let's help publishers like Cricket and yes, Highlights, make sure they have the content to reflect our authentic voices and our diversity.

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

letters

Against the grain

Dear Editor:

I am writing regarding your article about Andy Kirchoff, a gay Republican running for the Illinois state House seat in District 24, which covers parts of Cicero, Berwyn, Riverside, Brookfield and the West Side of Chicago. I interviewed Andy in May for the BUNGALO (Berwyn United Neighborhood Gay and Lesbian Organization) Facebook site.

Andy told me that he would have voted against legalizing state recognition of same-sex marriage if he had been in the Illinois state legislature at the time. Andy has also stated that he believes for-profit businesses such as caterers and bakers should be able to discriminate against gays and lesbians if the owners of those for-profit businesses have deeply held religious beliefs against homosexuality or same-sex marriage. Finally, Andy has stated that he believes that organizations such as Catholic Charities should be able to discriminate against gay couples seeking adoption services, even when the taxpayers for the state of

Illinois are paying Catholic Charities for those services.

What worries me is this: If Andy is elected, he may introduce a religious-freedom bill similar to the one passed in Indiana a few years ago. Because Andy is gay, it would give cover to homophobes trying to take away the gains in civil rights laws that were passed in Illinois in January of 2005.

While Andy is openly gay, his political views are definitely anti-gay, despite his protestations to the contrary.

Ted Korbos

Making decisions

Dear Editor:

It was bad enough that Center on Halsted management decided to nix the name SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) from LGBT programming for us senior patrons of the Center on Addison.

We were never consulted. Many of us are up and arms over that. We should not be shut us

off from the decision-making process if the Center on Halsted and the Center on Addison bill themselves as institutions that truly embrace community.

Now that Troy Johnson is leaving as senior services manager at Center on Addison, it would be great if we seniors could be included in the decision-making process in finding a replacement. We have nothing against the young, and certainly Mr. Johnson will be missed, but in choosing someone more our age, that person will already know what is like to be LGBT senior. Let us have a hand in who works with us next.

Craig Teichen
Chicago

Center on Halsted CEO Modesto "Tico" Valle responded:

Center on Halsted is a large, very well-connected organization with a long history of doing much of what SAGE offers to its affiliates.

WINDY CITY TIMES

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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Green Zebra.



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Halsted's Halloween parade.



Seeing the 'light'

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WCT talks with the minds behind the acclaimed film *Moonlight*.

Photo of *Moonlight*'s Alex Hibbert and Mahershala Ali by David Bornfriend

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

A 'Fun Home' appreciation

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

You have to hand it to the creators of the ground-breaking Broadway musical *Fun Home*. If ever there was a musical that shouldn't have worked, it would have been one based upon lesbian cartoonist Alison Bechdel's award-winning 2006 graphic memoir *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*.

But to my pleasant surprise, the stage version of *Fun Home* more than met my high expectations when I saw it on Broadway not long after it won five well-earned Tony Awards including Best Musical in 2015. Now, Chicago audiences will get a chance to see the melodic and theatrical brilliance of *Fun Home* for themselves courtesy of a reconfigured national tour playing at the Oriental Theatre through Sunday, Nov. 13.

I was an instant fan of Bechdel's revealing memoir about her own coming-out process and uncovering the painful truth of her closeted bisexual father's contradictory life and likely suicide. It helped that I was already a voracious follower of Bechdel's syndicated lesbian comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For*, which ran in several LGBTQ newspapers like *Windy City Times* until 2008.

So I was very apprehensive when I read a 2012 item in *The New York Times* about *Fun Home* being transformed into a musical by playwright Lisa Kron (*Well, The Secretaries*) and composer Jeanine Tesori (*Shrek The Musical, Caroline, Or Change*). My first thought was: "How in the world are they going to make that work?"

Fun Home is a very personal-is-political piece of history that documents the amazing shifts in attitude and acceptance of lesbians and gay men in America. It's also very notable for its non-linear and intensely introspective storytelling which is intelligently and densely packed with so many references to great 20th-century literature. It's this latter aspect that probably explains in part why *Fun Home* is increasingly being taught as part of college curricula beyond the expected ghetto of gender studies.

In adapting *Fun Home* into a 90-minute intermission-less musical, Kron and Tesori carried through with the book's non-linear structure. Yet they also came up with the brilliant dramatic framing device of having Bechdel herself looking back on her life while illustrating the panels that make up *Fun Home*. In a casting

coup, former Miss America and Northwestern University alumna Kate Shindle plays the grown Alison on tour.

Fun Home the musical also features two other actresses portraying Bechdel as a child (Alessandra Baldacchino as "Small Alison") and a college student (Abby Corrigan as "Medium Alison"). The shifts in Alison's time periods provides for a very eclectic score with folk and pop-influenced songs that ape the sounds of the Jackson Five and *The Partridge Family*.

Kron and Tesori also crucially flesh out Bechdel's parents. Bechdel's mother, Helen (played by Chicago actress Susan Moniz), is given a heartbreaking song near the end called "Days and Days," while the father, Bruce (former Chicago actor Robert Petkoff), isn't quite

made out to be the controlling malevolent force he often is in the book.

When asked about her own reaction to the musical, Bechdel has been full of nothing but praise when quoted.

"I find myself a little bit envious of what musical theater can do. It's a very emotional medium," said Bechdel following a keynote presentation of a 2015 Queers & Comics conference in New York. "I've watched both of my brothers, like, crying at this play when they didn't cry when they read my book."

Fun Home also has the distinction of being the first Broadway musical to put a lesbian front and center as its central protagonist. Previously in Broadway musicals like *Falsettos*, *Rent* and *If/Then*, lesbians were just supporting characters.

Fun Home also broke barriers for Kron and Tesori as the first all-female writing team to win Tony Awards for Best Book and Best Score of a musical. Unfortunately, Kron and Tesori's wins and full speeches were not seen on network TV because CBS opted not to feature the musical writing categories on the Tony Awards broadcast that year.

When it played on Broadway, *Fun Home* was

seen in a theater-in-the-round staging at the intimate Circle in the Square Theatre. But for the national tour, Tony Award-winning director Sam Gold has re-staged *Fun Home* to fit into the many massive proscenium arch theaters across North America.

So LGBTQ theater fans and their allies have much to celebrate now that *Fun Home* is going to have a wider audience across the country. Who knows? Maybe some day *Fun Home* might be adapted into an animated film in the same way that the graphic novel *Persepolis* made the leap to the big screen in 2007.

"I'm very happy that young lesbians had *Dykes to Watch Out For* and didn't have to read *The Well of Loneliness* like I did," said Bechdel when asked about her influential legacy in depicting LGBTQ life in comics and graphic novels like *Are You My Mother?* and *Fun Home*. "I'm being a little glib, but it's a weird honor and great responsibility."

The national tour of *Fun Home* continues through Sunday, Nov. 13, at the Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St. Tickets are \$22-\$95; call 800-775-2000 or visit Broadway-InChicago.com.



Kate Shindle in *Fun Home*.

Photo by Joan Marcus

THEATER REVIEW

East Texas
Hot Links

Playwright: Eugene Lee
At: Writers Theatre, 325 E. Tudor Ct., Glencoe IL
Tickets: 847-242-6000 or WritersTheatre.org; \$35-\$80
Runs through: Jan. 22, 2017

BY SEAN MARGARET WAGNER

Fine performances have the ability to keep you delighted for a short time, and more nuanced performances may inspire you to alter your thinking.

But truly astounding theater, like Writers Theatre's *East Texas Hot Links*, does something remarkable: It forces you to reassess who you are. When you see Eugene Lee's deceptively small masterpiece, whether you realize it or not, your sensibilities are being scrutinized. The artistic team is willing you to see beyond their crew of Black Texans in a rural watering hole in 1955, and discover the corruption that lives closer than they know, and still plagues us over 60 years later.

In *East Texas Hot Links*, oddly, there are no more hot links. Charlesetta (Tyla Abercrombie) has taken up her father's helm at the family's roadside stop, and pared down the menu to beer and pickled pigs feet. The old spirit of extending a hand to the hungry has dried up, except maybe for Columbus (Alfred H. Wilson), a forgiving landlord and Adolph (Willie B.),



Luce Metrius, Antoine Pierre Whitfield, Willie B., Kelvin Roston Jr., A.C. Smith and Tyla Abercrombie in *East Texas Hot Links*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

spouting endless philosophy.

To the rest, this hilltop sanctuary is a waypoint on their journey. Delmus (Luce Metrius) is young and impatient to make a success of himself, and XL (Namir Smallwood), has taken uncharacteristically selfless action to help him find employment. Roy (Kelvin Roston, Jr.) can't stop asking Charlesetta for a little affection, and like a pair of tarot cards, Boochie (A.C. Smith) brings knowledge of the future and Buckshot (Antoine Pierre Whitfield) administers rewards on some and punishment on others.

Rumors of missing Black men grow to flood the sacred hideaway, but to describe how would take away from the thrill of this theater experience. Just go, and know that this story is important. Everything you see onstage has been somebody's devastating reality.

So much credit is due to set designer Jack Magaw for the gorgeously po-dunk environment, and director Ron OJ Parson and the incredible acting ensemble that bring this production to life. Author Eugene Lee has an uncanny knowledge of how audiences will align to these characters, and it is revelatory when you realize that Lee, Parson and ensemble members have foreseen and subverted your expectations.

When Abercrombie and Roston ratchet up Charlesetta and Roy's sexually tense arguments, you don't expect the come-ons might be the only thing to bring you solace when their world is rocked. When Metrius puffs up his chest as Delmus, annoying his elders with promises to leave them in the dust, you don't anticipate that you might rally to him when he

becomes a target of violence. You might feel kinship, like I did, with Smallwood as XL, the odd man out, who can't seem to control his provoking nature. And you might regret that impulse when you see exactly what XL is capable of. The heart of *East Texas Hot Links* lies with the unassuming Wilson as Columbus; in a way, the story centers on how far his forgiving nature will stretch before it snaps.

There is something truly affecting to be shown that you don't exist apart from an active brutality that still thrives in the open. Hate is easy to compartmentalize when acts of violence and racism are distant blips on a social landscape far from you. But *East Texas Hot Links* brings the blood of Black men and women close enough to stain your dress shoes, and dares you to look away.

THEATER REVIEW

The Bottle Tree

Playwright: Beth Kander
At: Stage Left at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: \$20-\$30
Runs through: Nov. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Its publicity claims the subject of Beth Kander's play to be "gun culture"—a summary akin to declaring *To Kill A Mockingbird* a study of Alabama law practice. However titillating it is to speculate on a killer's motives, or emotionally satisfying to weep for slain victims, these options are open only to survivors like those at

the center of Kander's contemplative narrative.

What this means is that the day, 10 years earlier, when Doug Mason died from a policeman's bullet after arriving at East Maple High School armed with his great-grandfather's civil war musket and proceeding to open fire on his fellow students, is less important as his half-sister's struggle to endure the hostility of their rural Mississippi townfolk. Assisting Allison in her recovery are a genial therapist, a classmate with a personal connection to the fatal event and a long-deceased family ghost whose wisdom continues to influence her kinswomen, chiefly through the presence in the front yard of a "bottle tree"—a protective talisman against menacing spirits hearkening to slave beliefs often found in Southern regions.

Strict adherence to individual experience—

outside editorializing is supplied by the framing device of a documentary filmmaker conducting interviews with the characters a decade later—frees Kander from agenda-fueled restrictions to instead introduce audiences to a wide spectrum of ballistic imagery: weapons serving as memorials to ancestral heroes in distant wars, as deterrents to unwelcome predators, as acknowledgment of entry into adulthood and, yes, as a deadly adjunct to an irrational mind. By the time Allison affirms her advocacy of firearms regulation, the instruments under scrutiny have been divested of their mythical aura to be exposed as once-ubiquitous utilitarian objects.

Director Amy Szerlong's microcosmic approach to Allison's recollections and subsequent conclusions likewise rejects stereotypes—don't expect any shiny automatic weapons or stealth

cannons in this Stage Left production. While the lessons of great-aunt Myrna (played by the always formidable Kathleen Ruhl) may reflect attitudes outdated today, there is no denying their validity as a response to their times. Whether you regard firearms as evil destroyers of innocents (sometimes true) or noble guardians of the meek and oppressed (also sometimes true), whether you shudder at the thought of teenagers operating shooting irons—while making exception for combat soldiers and Ralphie Parker's Daisy rifle—if you wear your opinions like body armor, you do well to leave them at the door of this latest in the 30 world-premiere plays making their debut in Chicago this fall.

THEATER REVIEW

Resolution

Playwright: Nancy Nyman and Heather McNama
At: Pride Films and Plays at Rivendell, 5779 N. Ridge Ave.
Tickets: \$25-\$30
Runs through: Nov. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Were it not for its decidedly modern attitude toward a topic until recently couched in silence, audiences might be forgiven thinking that Pride Films and Plays had stumbled upon a lesser-known work by Eugene Scribe or Victorien Sardou, founders of the "well-made" school of drama in the 19th century, or perhaps a stage adaptation of an early 20th-century novel by Edith Wharton or Henry James.

This impression is testimony to the expertise evidenced in Nancy Nyman and Heather McNama's replication of "vintage" literary conventions for their award-winning play (dubbed a "thriller" by the authors, but more reminiscent of a pioneering exercise in social-conscience realism).

Our story opens in the sumptuous New York City apartment of Jack and Hannah Buchanan, a well-to-do African-American couple, admired in the community for their philanthropy and civic enterprises. On this New Year's



Edward Fraim, Aneisa Hicks and Tiffany Mitchenor in *Resolution*. Photo by Lynn Sorrentino

Eve in 1892, the servants have been sent home with generous holiday bonuses, among them housekeeper Margaret O'Malley and her husband Harrison (who narrates our story). When the pay envelope is inadvertently left behind, Margaret returns later that night, intending to retrieve it undetected, only to discover that her employers—thinking themselves alone for the evening—have divested themselves of their disguises and are revealed to be, in fact, both women.

History, myth and fiction are rife with examples of females adopting male attire in pursuit of the economic advantages conferred upon that gender, so Jacqueline/Jack Buchanan's masquerade is not outside the realm of possibility, nor is that of her finding a like-minded consort in Hannah. Also plausible is the affluence enjoyed by citizens of color in cosmopolitan urban centers during the Gilded Age. Cross-dressing and same-sex unions, however,

were still regarded as dangerous perversions, punishable by imprisonment, under the law. To what lengths will the devoutly Catholic Margaret take her disapproval? Will she overlook what she has seen, or quietly tender her resignation, or surrender the distraught lovers to prosecution by the authorities?

A director mistrusting playgoers' attention spans might have opted to present this material as camp melodrama, replete with DelSarte posturing and shrill vocals. While the progress of Nyman and McNama's narrative may strike us today as wordy and slow-paced—though actually running a mere 75 minutes—Diana Raiselis has done her homework, as has her cast (billed in gender-neutral period style), who deftly navigate their museum-accurate text with unwavering conviction to generate sympathy and suspense right up to the surprise twist concluding the steadfast lovers' adventures in the best classic tradition.

CRITICS' PICKS



Life Sucks, Lookingglass Theatre, through Nov. 6. Is too much love a good thing? What do you see without rose-colored glasses? The spirit is warm, autumnal and hilariously sad in this Americanized, modernized take on Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. It's Chekhov-lite, but lovingly written and brilliantly played in rich comic style. JA

Merge, The New Colony at Den Theatre, through Nov. 13. Spenser Davis' theatrical take on the rise and fall of Atari is a frenetic nostalgia trip for audiences in their 40s. It's backstabbing creative and corporate tale filled with lots of sound and fury. SCM

The Room, A Red Orchid Theatre, through Nov. 13. In Pinter's world, what you don't know might not kill you, but since we all have secrets, it can still get pretty damn scary and nobody does silent menace better than Red Orchid. MSB

Starting Over, MPAACT at Greenhouse Theater Center, through Nov. 11. When Shakespeare extolled true love's constancy despite obstacles engendered by changes in circumstance, he never anticipated gender fluidity becoming one of them. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan



Mykele Deville and Ryan Hallahan in *Octagon*.
Photo by Joel Maisonet

THEATER REVIEW

Octagon

Playwright: Kristiana Rae Colon
At: Jackalope Theatre, Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway
Tickets: JackalopeTheatre.org; \$5-\$25
Runs through Nov. 30

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Kristiana Rae Colon's super-energized 2014 play explores the subculture of hip-hop slam poetry with the richest, sharpest language this side of Hamilton.

Octagon lacks a strong dramatic structure and becomes preachy at times, but sweeps past its weaknesses with high style and charisma. Colon's recent world premiere at Oracle Pro-

ductions, *Good Friday*, was a realistic play so improbable as to be unbelievable, but *Octagon* is far more successful, perhaps because it isn't realistic. It's a work of verbal and emotional impressions which frequently breaks the Fourth Wall to directly engage viewers as a slam club audience, as physically realized by Shaun Renfro's eight-sided, pit-like scenic design.

The story concerns six young hip-hop poets, all regulars at the Octagon, a slam club that sends a four-person team to an annual slam championship. The racially diverse poets (I assume Colon's play dictates this vs. the whim of a director) go by nicknames only, such as Chimney (Mykele Deville), Chad (Will Kiley), Palace (Eric Gerard) and Jericho (Tina Munoz Pandya), who is controversial because she takes her political protests to the streets.

At the center of the story is Prism (radiant Kiki Layne), who exercises magnetic power over men and enjoys potentially dangerous kinky sex. At first, she's having a none-too-committed affair with fellow poet Tide (Travis Delgado), but that changes late in Act I with the arrival of Atticus (Ryan Hallahan), a bad-boy rookie poet who's willing to take on Prism without a safe word. Over them all is Pen (Sydney Charles), a mother figure who runs the Octagon and emcees the slams.

The heart of the play isn't the thin story about who will make the four-person slam team. (Frankly, you won't care about that.) Rather, it's the individual performances of the poets, for each of whom Colon has written one or more exquisite solo arias. I can't begin to convey the richness of her language, the wonderful rhythms, the deep emotions these raps

touch, the sharp social commentaries which suddenly jab you and quickly flow to the next potent image. "How secure are your borders when the enemy is you?" Atticus asks us at one point, while at another Tide declares that loving Prism "is unlearning the fear of losing her, and that's all the religion I need."

Under director Tara Branham (who also directed *Good Friday*), the performers are powerful, passionate, playful and sharing. The ensemble physical work alone (drumming and stomping rhythm) demands unity and focus, and no performer fails. The individual characterizations exude intensity each in a different way from the others, thereby making every character memorable. In addition, sound (Jeffrey Levin), lighting (Claire Sangster) and costume (Mieka van der Ploeg) contribute greatly to a unique production.



SPOTLIGHT

The touchy issue of depression and the stigmas attached to seeking help color the lives of a standup comedian, an ad executive and a young girl preparing to do a presentation on astronomy in Ronan Marra and Elsa Hiltner's world-premiere drama *The Mars Assignment*, for Collaboraction Theatre Company. Panelists from the National Alliance on Mental Issues will participate in post-show talkbacks, while a special post-show comedy night is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 12. *The Mars Assignment* continues through Sunday, Nov. 20, at Collaboraction's Pentagon Theatre in the Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. Tickets are \$20-\$30 and \$10-\$15 students; for more information, call 312-226-9633 or visit Collaboraction.org.



Caption: Joe McCauley plays Eric and Justin Wade Wilson is Jeff in the world premiere of Collaboraction's *The Mars Assignment*. Photo by Joel Maisonet

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Tere O'Connor Dance dancer Eleanor Hallahan. Photo: Julieta Cervantes

MOVIES

Jenkins, McCraney on their powerful film, 'Moonlight'

BY JERRY NUNN

The new movie *Moonlight* has some of the year's best performances and, if there is any justice in the world, it will make a clean sweep come awards season.

It tells the story of a gay protagonist named Chiron in three different stages of life in Miami. *Moonlight* stars Trevante Rhodes, Andre Holland, Janelle Monae, Ashton Sanders and Naomie Harris.

life turned out. It was a Jimmy Stewart moment of thinking about what I could have done differently. I wrote the original script here in 2003, when I graduated from DePaul.

Friends of Barry's gave him the script in 2012. We had not met before despite the fact that we went to some of the same schools together. We lived within blocks of each other and both our mothers struggled with crack cocaine addiction, depicted by Naomie Harris in the film.



Moonlight director Barry Jenkins (left) and writer Tarell Alvin McCraney. Photo by Jerry Nunn

Director Barry Jenkins collaborated with writer Tarell Alvin McCraney to create an unforgettable masterpiece in character study.

Jenkins first project was 2008's *Medicine for Melancholy*. *Moonlight* is his second effort and is already earning rave reviews.

McCraney is a member of Teo Castellanos/D Projects Theater Company in Miami. He became a resident playwright at the Royal Shakespeare Company and an ensemble member of the Stepwolf Theatre.

Windy City Times: You both grew up in Florida?

Tarell Alvin McCraney: Miami, yes. We have known each other for about four years.

WCT: How did you meet?

Barry Jenkins: Through a group called Borscht Corp. They have a mission to take artists who have moved away to come back home to tell stories. They knew Tarell and I were from the same neighborhood. They assumed we had a common experience and holy hell we did.

WCT: So the story of *Moonlight* was very autobiographical for you, Terrell?

TAM: Yes. It chronicles portions of my life in the original piece called *In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue*. It deals up to a certain point where I was trying to track and deal with things poetically. I wanted to iron out how my

WCT: How did you find the actors? Were many from Florida?

BJ: No; it was a mixture. We had a casting director based in L.A. It was about 60 percent from Miami and the rest from everywhere else. For the character that Naomie plays, Paula, we needed a very skilled actor to play that part. She did all the heavy lifting.

For the main character I was open to fresh faces. We scoured the country and the UK. Piece by piece we built it out.

WCT: I heard Naomie shot her scenes quickly.

BJ: In three days. It wasn't meant to be that way because we shot the movie in sequence. We had to shift the whole schedule because of problems with her visa. It yielded some interesting results. Mahershala Ali worked for 30 straight days because he was filming *Luke Cage*. He flies back and forth from Miami to New York.

WCT: Andre Holland just told me you made the decision to not have them watch other scenes. What is the story behind that?

BJ: I didn't want people to mimic the other actors. One of the things that struck me in the source material is how each character was shaped by this lack of nurturing. I felt these things were so heavy that they reshaped the

character into a different person. I wanted them to be their own being from story to story. Myself and the editor would do the work to unite them.

WCT: I have seen Janelle Monae perform live, but this was very different for her, as an actress.

BJ: I didn't know why Teresa was in the piece. It could have been a grandma or an aunt.

TAM: I did have several women in my life who were really kind to me. They would drop off clothes or cook for us. It was interesting that they would never overstep boundaries or talk bad about my mother.

There were women as well as men who were not biological blood to me but they found a space for me in their life.

BJ: The cool thing about working with Janelle is she understood that, not as an actor but as a person.

WCT: You bring up a good point that, as gay people, we have other forms of family sometimes. This is not shown in movies often.

TAM: We don't see communities that are oppressing us can also nurture us. Sometimes it is the scary part that they do it at the same time. I always ask Barry when can we go back and do something for the community. The same com-

munity that threw rocks at me down the street. That was the same community that gave me free dance and acting classes.

WCT: For the emotional scenes, how did you prepare the actors?

BJ: I approached it all the same way. From how an actor puts a pot on the stove to two guys making out. Everything is sacred and nothing is sacred.

The last five minutes of the film were filmed on the last day. I had respect for that. It was the farthest the character was going to go.

WCT: Are there frontrunners for Oscar time, with this being such an ensemble piece?

BJ: I love them all equally. There were no egos on this film. I never expected awards for the film. What I love about it is that there are people now that wouldn't have heard about it otherwise. The more we can spread the word about it will allow someone to see themselves in it.

WCT: Do you think it will have a big crossover appeal?

BJ: I was in New York last week and screening it. There was no crossover needed. The audiences were all ages and all races. Everyone was there to receive the characters and give themselves over to the story. This movie is reaching people!



Roger Brown's "Peach Light" (1983)

Image copyright The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Brown family

'Art AIDS America' coming Dec. 1

Art AIDS America—a groundbreaking exhibition that underscores the presence of HIV in art in this country—culminates its U.S. tour at the Alphawood Gallery, 2401 N. Halsted St., Dec. 1-April 2, 2017.

This temporary space has been created in a former bank by the Chicago-based Alphawood Foundation to bring the exhibition to its only Midwest venue.

This is the first exhibition to explore how the AIDS crisis forever changed American art. Since the first reports of mysterious illnesses in the early 1980s, HIV and AIDS have touched nearly every U.S. resident in some way. While acknowledging and honoring the enormous anger, loss and grief generated by the epidemic, the exhibition refutes the narrative that AIDS is only a tragic tangent in U.S. art. Instead, Art AIDS America offers a story of resilience and beauty revealed through the visual arts, and of the communities that gathered to bring hope and change in the face of a devastating disease.

The Chicago presentation of Art AIDS America will feature more than 100 significant contemporary works in a wide range of media—from oil on canvas and photography to three-dimensional installations and video. The artists represented include Judy Chicago, Chloe Dzubilo, Karen Finley, Robert Gober,

Félix González-Torres, Keith Haring, Jenny Holzer, Derek Jackson, Kia Labeija, Annie Leibovitz, Robert Mapplethorpe, Kiki Smith, Joey Terrill, David Wojnarowicz and Martin Wong. Added to the traveling exhibition exclusively for its Chicago presentation will be works by a variety of other artists, among them major works by famed Chicago Imagist Roger Brown.

Racial and ethnic minorities have historically and presently not benefited from the same visibility as white male artists in shaping the narrative of the epidemic. The Chicago presentation of Art AIDS America will include additional works by artists, as well as programming, focused specifically on expanding the exhibition's inclusivity. Related programming in the form of panels, discussions and performances will explore how the underlying issues of race, politics, culture and institutional practice have created barriers to more equitable representation.

Admission to the exhibition will be free with timed tickets; it opens on World AIDS Day. Prior to Chicago, Art AIDS America will have appeared at the Tacoma Art Museum in Washington state, the Zuckerman Museum in suburban Atlanta and the Bronx Museum of the Arts in New York City.

Major support for the exhibition and catalogue has been provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. Additional support for the U.S. tour was provided by the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art and by Gilead Sciences.

Tickets will be accessible this fall by visiting ArtAIDSAmericaChicago.org.

Married authors at W&CF on Nov. 3

On Thursday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St., Flannery O'Connor Award winner and LGBT author Anne Raeff (*The Jungle Around Us*) will have a reading/conversation with her wife, LGBT award-winning author Lori Ostlund, who is releasing the paperback edition of her novel *After the Parade*.

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

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

See WomenAndChildrenFirst.com.

MANDELL from page 21

WCT: One of the other things Illinois suffers from is gun violence. Your solutions talk about neighborhood watches, more funding to police. Where do you stand on the issue of guns?

GM: I have been very consistent in strengthening and enforcing existing gun laws. I believe that most of the violent crimes committed with guns are with those that aren't properly registered, maybe were never registered or are in the hands of the people they weren't registered to. I don't think the majority of gun-related crimes are being committed by people who are the lawfully registered owners of guns.

We have gun laws on the books. They just need to be enforced. In New York, where they have stop-and-frisk, there's an issue about whether it violates civil rights and that needs to be discussed. It's not necessarily that the police are doing a bad job. You can't go into every house and you can't stop everybody. The problem is the in-flow of illegal or unregistered weapons.

WCT: To be clear, is stop-and-frisk something you want to see discussed as policy in Illinois?

GM: No, I'm just saying that, for the most part, we don't know until after the fact that a crime was committed by someone who had a gun he shouldn't have had. I can guess that the numbers are very high.

WCT: You've talked about high school graduates finding jobs or getting into college. Can you go into detail about employment programs for youth or college affordability in the state?

GM: Let's talk about the ninth-grader who goes to school and he's not learning a lot of skills that can be applied immediately to the job market. Even if he was, jobs aren't available. If we made Illinois a batter rate to operate a business and someone in ninth grade could get trained for these jobs when they get out of high school, they won't drop out, join a gang and be a part of a violent culture. I'm a big supporter of increasing vocational education in high schools. It will reduce violence and increase the graduation rate. If we reduce violence that will reduce the amount of policing that we need.

For the child that wants to go to college, we have to fund these MAP grants. It's terrible what's happening at Chicago State and the University of Illinois. Under my program, there's more of a surplus that will provide the money for these grants and all the other social services that the Democrats claim are being cut out of animus.

WCT: But there are problems of hiring discrimination that are faced by people of color and particularly transgender community members. It's very hard to prove it, so how do you get employers not to engage in it?

GM: As a financial planner, I've been dealing with forms of discrimination such as sexual orientation for 35 years. You could not take

advantage of estate tax laws, your partners insurance or filing a joint married tax return. Fortunately, some of that has been changed. I'm not sure what you do to prove that somebody wasn't hired because of their sexual orientation or because they were transgender or due to the color of their skin. If you see a pattern from a specific employer, there are certainly civil penalties.

WCT: So it's fair to say you're for full LG-BTQ equality, then.

GM: Absolutely. Always have been. The civil rights act in the United States was passed 51 years ago. Is anybody seriously going to claim that there's not racial discrimination? Of course there still is. To the extent that we can fight for equal employment opportunities and equal treatment, we absolutely have to. Society has to be based on that.

WCT: There's a lot of talk about down ballot races given the man who is at the top of your ticket. Mr. Trump has split the Republican Party. Which side did you end up on?

GM: I've never supported him. I came out with a very strong message on Facebook when the recent tapes came out. In the strongest words I could use, I disavowed any connection with him. I never supported him from the beginning and I've been very transparent about that.

For more information about Gary Mandell's campaign, visit: <https://www.mandell-forstaterep.com/index.html>.



U.S. Reps. John Lewis and Robin Kelly.
Photo by Hal Baim

Lewis helps Kelly's re-election

Civil-rights pioneer U.S. Rep. John Lewis came to Chicago to help stump for Democratic Congressional candidates, including U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly. The duo are pictured here at an event hosted Oct. 29 by the Serbian Social Center, 18550 S. Stony Island Ave., in Lansing, Illinois.

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BOOKS

KOKUMO becomes 'Reacquainted with Life'

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Chicago poet, activist and performer KOKUMO is celebrating publication of her first book.

Reacquainted With Life is a raw, performative work in which KOKUMO details her history with abuse, rape and violence, and critiques the culture of activism. Yet at times, a dark sort of humor breaks through, making an already incredibly engaging work even more so.

"I feel like sometimes you just gotta laugh or blow your brains out," KOKUMO said, about the relationship of humor to trauma and outrage.

Windy City Times spoke with KOKUMO shortly after the book's publication.

Windy City Times: In the beginning of the book, you have a manifesto of things you believe, and you also turn the author's note into a poem. Why did you choose those forms?

KOKUMO: I just wanted to be creative, and I just wanted to make the entire book a poem. I wanted this to be my For Colored Girls, I want-



KOKUMO.

Photo courtesy of IAMKIAM Studios

ed this to be my Push, I wanted this to be my book that discussed those issues that I believe are pertinent to me. Being plus-sized, being dark-skinned, being intersex, being femme, being a survivor of a life of sexual abuse and physical abuse—I just wanted something that could talk, that could attest.

WCT: Have you always written poetry?

KOKUMO: I've always sung and written poetry. I've always loved the rawness of poetry. I've always loved how I was able to say whatever I needed to say in poetry. The process I went through with this book was that at the actual moment of processing the actual experiences, I wrote the pieces. That's what makes many of them so visceral. It's like the words were burning off of my tongue and singing through my skin. Most of it was free-written. Like, I just experienced the pain of trauma and then I just wrote.

[Reacquainted with Life] was birthed out of another project I was working on called "Beauty is My Revenge," which was supposed to be about four Black trans women who were all doing sex work. It was originally written as a

play. And so I wanted the poems to be tandem with that concept.

WCT: What was the hardest poem for you to write?

KOKUMO: I guess it would be the poem "My Desperation Road," because that poem comes from being fat, from being dark-skinned, and from feeling like I could never be loved, and letting what the world has told me about myself seep into me to the point where I don't take care of my body.

I've had points in my life where I didn't take care of my body because I didn't care about it—because I disassociated from it via all the abuse. And so the poem "My Desperation" is about wanting someone to love you even though you don't love yourself. Wanting someone to love you in lieu of yourself. And I guess what was so difficult about that is that it came from a really true place. A place of not always feeling worthy of love, or even possible to have it or know what it is.

WCT: Which is most important to you: language, image or emotion?

KOKUMO: Sometimes one is more important than the other, but I feel like for the most part they all work together for me. I can't write a poem about envisioning what it feels or what it looks like to be in a specific type of pain. And then, I guess it's a chain reaction. First, I feel it, then I think about the image, then I think about the way in which I can convey the image on paper. And then, the emotion—that's a given. It always has to play a part. That's what I love most about poetry, making people feel me. We live in a world where people don't want to feel. We're trained to not feel. So for like, as a poet, as a musician, as an artist, that's my job, is to make people feel.

WCT: As an artist viewing an audience, how do you know when you've connected with people?

KOKUMO: I feel like when I perform live and I can no longer hear people breathing, that's how I know I've done my job. There's always that ebb and flow of a live performance where the audience or the speaker or the artist is giving the art, and then the audience is receiving it.

WCT: What artists or inspirations have been with you over the years?

KOKUMO: I honestly would say Push and For Colored Girls [were] the two biggest. I wouldn't say obsessed, but they were like my compass. Those entire pieces were those type of pieces that are the type of pieces where people stop breathing. Because it's so honest. I wanted to write like Ntozake Shange and Sapphire. I wanted to write poems that would make people literally cry. Or literally, you know, like, want to commit suicide. Or literally—it had to be that visceral for me. And so those two, they were like my Biggie and Tupac.

WCT: What was something you needed to learn while writing this book or to write it?

KOKUMO: One, everything doesn't have to rhyme. I feel like poems are better when they don't rhyme. Two, it doesn't always have to make sense, just write it. Sometimes, it's not gonna make sense, because it's not coming from a logical place. It's just coming from the place of pain, and pain has its own language.

Sometimes, the job of the artist is to be a conduit to other people's pain. Like, give people the tools to feel their own pain. As an artist, that's my job, to not always feel but be a conduit, a platform, a catalyst to which other people can feel their own pain. And see that there's nothing to be afraid of. Emotions are fun, once you get control over them.

Reacquainted With Life can be found at Topside Press at TopsidePress.com.



E Nina Jay.

Photo by Liz Baudler

BOOKS

In new collection, E Nina Jay takes back her body

BY LIZ BAUDLER

For Chicago poet E Nina Jay, her book *Body of Rooms* is a reclamation of herself.

"For a long time, I didn't have myself," said Jay. "For so many years I wrote a lot of poems about friendships and flowers, and all this shit I thought people wanted to hear about. The writing was a vehicle, I had never used it, but I had to learn to use it for myself. I didn't know it was mine yet, or what that meant."

In *Body of Rooms*, Jay's using her voice to take on issues like sexual violence and rac-



ism, pen poems of deep passion and love, and address her own considerable trauma. Often, she said, her work comes from a place of loss. "That's the part I acknowledge and that's where I stay, which keeps me from getting to a lot of places," she said. "Part of that process with the book was to let go of that."

The body as symbol is personal for Jay. "I'm so tired of being locked in my body with my emotions," Jay said. "I mean, physically. I love winter. I was just saying to someone the other day that I was so glad that winter was coming because you can wear as many clothes as you want and it makes sense. You can hide, and

it doesn't look like hiding. I'd go to Michfest when it was going, and one of my goals was to go topless. I went for 13 years and I did it for five minutes until one person noticed, and then I put my shirt back on. I don't enjoy those kinds of freedoms and I just covet it."

Jay intersperses her poems with long prose meditations. "For me, the book is the room, the journals could be the hallways," she said. The first of these journal entries continues the tone of the initial poems, talking about how Jay overheard a Black male speaker at a bonfire talking about the armor he wore to get through the white world, and segueing into an exploration of that armor's function with rape survivors and personal trauma and insecurity. "I wanted to leave those journals exactly as they were, and that informed what I really wanted to say," Jay said. "I struggled to leave it exactly like it was, and I'm still struggling with it."

Some of Jay's most memorable poems are dialogues. Her poem "colorb(l)ind" interrogates a white woman who refuses to truly acknowledge Jay's Blackness, claiming "she doesn't see color." "do you see white?/do you think white?/you sure think white?/i know you're white," Jay writes. Another piece, "dear this fucking poem" is one that Jay says she sometimes can't stand to look at. It takes the form of Jay's argument with a piece that creeps up on her as she's washing dishes, about a breakup that left Jay standing naked as her lover drives away.

Both pieces, while very different, have the feel of conversation. "That's what poems are, conversations," Jay said. "Sometimes I'm having them with myself, sometimes I'm having them with other people. Usually I'll just say, let me pick up the pen and have the conversation however I'm having it, that's just how it comes out."

All of the book's poems were written in the past year, and Jay remembered being roused by current events like Black Lives Matter, but hampered by her own needs to process. This conflict inspired the poem "i need to talk about rape."

Jay will read *Body of Rooms* Monday, Nov. 7, 6-8 p.m. at Affinity Community Services, 2850 S. Wabash Ave., #108.

A copy of *Body of Rooms* can be obtained for \$20 (plus shipping) by emailing Jay at enajay@yahoo.com.

Drawing on instinct: New Yorker cartoonist Tom Bachtell



Tom Bachtell.
Photo courtesy of
Jennifer Greenburg

BY LIZ BAUDLER

"I just always wanted to be well-rounded," said New Yorker cartoonist Tom Bachtell. "At least in the way I'm informed about the world, and the way that I connect to the world, particularly since professionally I'm doing stuff that is culturally and politically observant."

Bachtell's work at the New Yorker has him contributing weekly to the Talk of the Town section and doing illustration work throughout the publication. "This is a magazine where everybody wants to get into it, but everyone who works there is talented and smart, and there are all kinds of people who are feeding their opinions back to me, and I have to please a lot of people, and I have to do it on deadline," said Bachtell. "I have to remove myself from the reality that all of these people are waiting for me to get something done and I can't freak out. And I still have to get it done, and kind of calm myself down."

Deadlines aided Bachtell as he grew artistically. A self-taught cartoonist working in Chicago throughout the '80s, his New Yorker break came in the late 80s when an editor noticed a caricature of Tom Wolfe that Bachtell had done in Advertising Age.

"My career sort of took off almost a little faster than I could keep up with it at first," Bachtell explained. "It was a very steep learning curve, and it was really helpful for me to working with another artist, sharing space, because I knew nothing about production and materials, about composition. You learn a lot of that stuff by simply practicing it. I wasn't very fast, but there's nothing like a little deadline to focus the mind. And I also learned that I may not be completely happy with what I've done, but I wanted to do the best that I could up until the point where I had to turn something in."

Bachtell also finds the idea of audience helpful, whether the audience is readers or editors. He recounted his recent experience drawing Hillary Clinton for the magazine's endorsement issue. "I knew that it was going to be kind of a challenge, because I remember doing the Obama endorsement issue in 2008, and it just had to be kind of an idealized drawing because they were endorsing him. I couldn't be satirical in the usual sense," Bachtell said.

His editors were not thrilled with his initial attempts at drawing Clinton. "I knew that I wouldn't get it right the first time," said Bachtell. "The deadline is really tight, but in a compressed period of time, I realized the edi-

tors did not like what I was doing, and I also recognized what they were looking for. I had to kind of go to that look she had onstage where she was sort of exuding something—for lack of a better word, presidential. It's revealing a slightly different side of her. It wouldn't have worked if I hadn't had that outside influence."

Still, he enjoys drawing the former Secretary of State. "There are certain people I really never get tired of drawing, and I think that part of it is if it's a person in particular who you can always get to know a little bit more," Bachtell said. "Her eyes, there is so much going on in her eyes. She's very difficult to know, she has so many layers, and I think that's kind of one of the things that makes subjects interesting. You can keep peeling it away. It's like be-

ing in a relationship with somebody. There are people who are simply hard to draw, and there are other people who maybe don't have quite as much to look for. Like, really sort of blandly attractive people are horrible to draw."

Bachtell said one of the struggles he's had is to keep the spontaneity of his work obvious while becoming more technically skilled. "My drawings tend to have more detail now, there's more finish," he explained. "The challenge is to keep it from being a stiff-looking drawing. I want the drawings to look as spontaneous as they can. Technically—I can't believe it—but I'm just better at drawing varied kinds of lines, and I feel that I'm always trying to look at everything fresh everytime I draw a person, so I'm always trying to look at different aspects of

Kartemquin film fest Nov. 2-4

Kartemquin Films will mark the culmination of its 50th-anniversary year with The Kartemquin Fall Festival, to be held in partnership with ArcLight Cinemas at the ArcLight Chicago NEWCITY location, 1500 N. Clybourn Ave., on Nov. 2-4.

The event will feature two Chicago premieres, sneak previews of three works-in-progress and new work from emerging Midwest documentary makers who have graduated from Kartemquin's filmmaker development programs.

Among the films to be shown are America To Me, which covers a year in Oak Park and River Forest High School; and The Dilemma of Desire, which examines female sexual desire.

See KTQ50.org/fall-festival and ArcLight-Cinemas.com.

SOFA expo Nov. 3-6 at Navy Pier

The Sculpture Objects Functional Art and Design (SOFA) CHICAGO expo returns to Navy Pier's Festival Hall Nov. 3-6, with nearly 80 national and international galleries.

SOFA CHICAGO will kick-off with an opening-night preview on Thursday, Nov. 3, offering the public, collectors and the art and design community a first look at this year's fair.

Among the expo's highlights will be the Corning Museum of Glass hot glass road show; special exhibits; the Connect Design competition; and a lecture series, among other



Jim Petrakis.
Photo courtesy of SOFA CHICAGO

events.

Another notable occurrence will be a "living room" for HIV/AIDS survivor Jim Petrakis that designer/DIFFA Chicago Executive Board member Richard Cassis and designer/dedicated volunteer Jake Theisen have created in the "LIFE : FIGHT : LOVE" exhibit.

See SOFAExpo.com.

Capathia Jenkins to head 'Sensational' Nov. 7 at Uptown

Pride Films and Plays' annual fall benefit, "Simply Sensational," celebrates the great-

est songs written for women in the Broadway canon, with Broadway great Capathia Jenkins headlining.

Music and dance, always inspired Bachtell, and it took him a long time to see their connection to his cartooning. "I thought I should just keep exploring them, there's obviously a reason why I'm doing it," Bachtell said. "Movement's really important to me. I need to move. And, of course, I'm inspired by music, drawing to it. Ultimately the common denominator is rhythm. I love rhythm, and I like attaining some kind of rhythmic life in my drawings and vitality. I like them to sort of look like they're alive."

For many years, Bachtell's partner was Andrew Patner, the Chicago arts and cultural critic who worked with WFMT. Patner passed away suddenly in 2015. "I fell in love with Andrew like that," Bachtell remembered. "I swear to you, Andrew started to open his mouth to speak, and I fell in love with him as the sounds started coming out."

Bachtell appreciated how his extroverted partner helped him observe and connect to the world. "If he couldn't get to you on the radio, he'd go door to door," he joked about Patner. "It was so great just to be with him and observe people, observe events, concerts, political events, read the news together, and talk about it, and laugh together. He was giving me a front-row seat to the world, and that's kind of a remarkable thing."

Like many of his artistic associates, Bachtell has insecure moments, although his occur with regular frequency due to the nature of his work. "I almost feel as though I'm only as good as my last drawing," he said thoughtfully. "I'm really grateful to be able to do what I do. In some ways, I kind of landed in it, and in other ways I think my instinct sort of pushed me toward it. I'm kind of an introvert, though I love people, and I love the world, and this has given me the opportunity to connect to the world, and I'm not isolated, and I'm not alone in the world."

Along with his artistic studio partner, David Lee Csicko, Tom Bachtell will be inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame on Wed., Nov. 9, at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St. The ceremony starts at 5:30 p.m.; visit GL-HallFame.org.

It will take place Monday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m. at Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway.

Jenkins was featured in the NBC live telecast of The Wiz. On Broadway, she has appeared in Newsies, and Caroline, or Change, among other productions.

Also, it has been announced that American Idol veteran Rayvon Owen (who made the top four in season 14) will join the show.

A select number of VIP tickets are available for the benefit at \$150, and include a pre-show reception with appetizers and open wine bar at 6 p.m. General-admission tickets are \$75 each, and include the performance and a post-show dessert reception. Call 800-737-0984 or visit PrideFilmsAndPlays.com.



Rayvon Owen (left, with Jussie Smollett).
Twitter photo



Donna Quinn.
Photo by Liz Baudler

Activist nun Donna Quinn has the floor in Chicago

BY LIZ BAUDLER

The Chicago Women's History Center was excited to bring renowned activist Catholic nun Donna Quinn to the Cenacle at 513 W. Fullerton on the afternoon of Oct. 23. Mary Ann Johnson, the Center's president, placed Quinn's work in the context of the organization's recent focus on women community organizers. Quinn recently published a memoir about her work with Chicago Catholic women and signed copies of the book after the event.

The event began with a presentation by academic Heidi Schlumpf, entitled "Holy Mischievous: Donna Quinn, Chicago Women's Religious and the Rise of Catholic Feminism." As a child, Schlumpf said she had absorbed many of the stereotypes about nuns. She added that it was only after she began working in the field as a reporter for a Catholic publication that she realized that "religious women are some of the strongest, most independent, feminist women."

In response to an audience question about why nuns in the United States are so outspoken, Schlumpf described early nuns as attracted to religious life because they didn't want to be held back by social conventions such as raising a family. She explained that in the '40s and '50s, religious orders ended up sending many nuns to college to keep them qualified to teach in schools. This created a generation of educated nuns who were exposed to second-wave feminism in the 1960s and '70s. Organizations like NCAN, or the National Coalition of Catholic Nuns, and Chicago Catholic Women, an organization of both nuns and outside Catholic women, fought for abortion rights and an increased role for women in the church.

In an interview with Maureen Hellwig, a CWHC board member, Donna Quinn, a NCAN member and CCW's founder, said she was influenced by what was going on around her in the 1970s: "Vietnam, Vatican Two, and Civil Rights," she remembered. Quinn grew up in Chicago's Canaryville, into a religious family. Her brother later became a priest, and Quinn

constantly looked to his example as she entered a religious order, often surprised by the conservatism she found.

Schlumpf and Quinn explained that the genesis for CCW was partly in lack of women's representation. At a huge religious meeting in Detroit in 1976, of 17 people going to represent Chicago Catholics, only one was a woman, Schlumpf said.

"Over 100 women would appear at our meetings," Quinn remembered about the early days of CCW. Both Schlumpf and Quinn recalled lots of protests on the steps of Holy Name Cathedral, and Quinn remembered sneaking into Catholic conferences—which didn't allow the women's group—with media passes. Male reaction, Quinn said, "just gave the group more validity."

In a separate interview with Windy City Times, Quinn recalled speaking to NCAN about LGBT rights and working with CCW to get counselors in Catholic schools an education about LGBT issues. "The counselors were happy to get anything about it. They were just looking to absorb it, hear a different message from the one that's in the books," she said.

Quinn calls herself an activist. "That means, to me, working for justice wherever it is found. I don't think we've moved much at all in the church issues," she said. "Now, in societal issues, thank god, like the issue of racism, at least it's on the books. At least we got the marriage equality, and semblances of equality out of Springfield and across the United States. But as far as the church goes, I think it should hang its head in shame, because it has not responded to the needs of the people. The cry of the poor, the most downtrodden."

Quinn criticized the current Pope while acknowledging that under his reign, the Church is less likely to go after outspoken nuns.

"Francis does not do enough enough for women," Quinn said. "Women are not allowed to vote in the church. Women should be able to elect the next Pope. We should be able to be at synods, the Bishop's meetings. They take on appropriate issues of our day, and so they

discuss it, but in the end the pope takes what they've said and makes up new pronouncements or policies. We need to have that right to set policies, to discuss them, to say how it's meaningful to us."

In both her Windy City Times interview and her chat with Hellwig, Quinn saw expanding women's role in the church as crucial to its survival. "I mean, the church is just going to die away. 39% of people do not go to church. Young people don't pay any attention to it, it's lost its meaning for them. Until they call women equally, I don't see a lot of change in that," she said.

Quinn also alluded in both interviews to the ongoing election. "I was happy in the last debate, at the end of it Hillary did say reproductive rights, but also the rights of the LGBT community," Quinn told Windy City Times. "I was thinking the issue was almost becoming invisible. Now we've got marriage equality ... ho hum, let's take a break. Well, like racism, it's on the books, but it's not in the hearts. And we see that so often in this election."



Steven Strafford in *Methtacular!*
Photo by Kevin Thomas Garcia

'Methtacular!' Nov. 11-12

Methtacular!—Steven Strafford's autobiographical account of his three years as a crystal-meth addict in Chicago—will return Nov. 11-12 as part of Steppenwolf Theatre's LookOut Series.

The production will take place at Steppenwolf's 1700 Theatre, 1700 N. Halsted St.

Methtacular! was honored with a Jeff Award nomination for Best Solo Performance following its 2014 run with About Face Theatre in Chicago. It has also run in New York, Cincinnati, Sacramento and Portland as well as colleges across the country.

Tickets are \$20 each; visit Steppenwolf.org or call 312-335-1650.

Chicago Podcast Festival Nov. 17-19

The Chicago Podcast Festival announced that comedian Bob Saget will be one of the featured celebrity guests at the first annual Chicago Podcast Festival, happening Nov. 17-19.

Some of the other guests will be Scott Adsit (30 Rock), rapper Che "Rhymefest" Smith, actress Kirsten Vangsness (*Criminal Minds*) and K. Todd Freeman, of Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

As for LGBT aspects of the show, Tyler Greene, who's openly gay, is the artistic director of the event. Podcasts with LGBT hosts

In her interview with Hellwig, Quinn expressed frustration with nuns who want to go back to more traditional ways and who don't advocate for change. "Oftentimes, I'm in tension with nuns when they don't speak up," she told Hellwig.

"I think we have to have people that speak up, and we have to have a voice without being called in for dissent," Quinn told Windy City Times. "That's what they call it in the church, dissenting from those core pronouncements made by males only."

Quinn ended both interviews by reiterating the importance of women's participation in church processes and beliefs, such as giving women the right to vote in papal elections and respecting women's reproductive autonomy.

"I mean, we have to have a core of moral values," Quinn told Windy City Times. "And they have to recognize women's moral authority on these issues. We have to preach the right message, and that right message is on the side of justice for everyone."

include *Minority Korner* (with gay co-host James Arthur), *Risk!* (gay host Kevin Allison) and *Tomefoolery* (with gay host Cody Melcher). Also, there are several podcasts that are part of Postloudness, which is Chicago "collective of independent audio shows by people of color, women, and queer-identified hosts."

Saget will be interviewed by Kevin McDonald of *Kids in the Hall* during a live recording of McDonald's podcast, *Kevin McDonald's Kevin McDonald Show*, on Friday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave. Tickets are \$30 for general admission and \$45 for premium seating.

Other parts of the festival are \$20-\$45; see ChicagoPodcastFestival.org.

Frank Lloyd Wright tour Nov. 5-Dec. 17

The Wright Around Chicago bus tour, by the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust, has been extended and will be offered on Saturdays only from Nov. 5 to Dec. 17 (except Dec. 3).

In addition to visits to The Rookery lobby, which Wright remodeled in 1905, and Wright's Oak Park Home and Studio, Wright Around Chicago includes a comprehensive tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District in Oak Park. The group will stop for lunch at Oak Park restaurant Winberie's before heading to Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood to see Wright's Frederick C. Robie House.

A ticket to the Wright Around Chicago guided bus tour is \$150 and \$125 for Frank Lloyd Wright Trust members; visit cal.flwright.org/tours/WACBustour or call 312-994-4000.

Pet Shop Boys at Civic Opera Nov. 5

Longtime duo Pet Shop Boys announced the first leg of the act's "Super" world tour, which starts Friday, Oct. 21, in Las Vegas. The 27-day run includes shows in the United States, Canada, Germany, Holland, Denmark and Russia.

The stops include a show at Chicago's Civic Opera House, 20 N. Upper Wacker Dr., on Saturday, Nov. 5.

Their latest album, *Super*, is out on x2 Records via Kobalt; it recently entered the UK album charts at number three, marking the duo's 16th UK top 10 album. In addition, the new single "Twenty-something" will be released on digital and CD formats June 17, with the official video premiering on Univision.com.

Among the act's many hits are "West End Girls," "Go West," "Being Boring" and "What Have I Done To Deserve This?"

See LiveNation.com for tickets.



LGBTQ

Wedding Guide

Download our new Windy City Times LGBTQ
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www.windycitymediagroup.com/pdf/WCMG_weddingguide_20160803_web.pdf

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SHE SAID 'YES'

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PLUS

Frankly speaking

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Wedding planner educated in LGBT events by father

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Business listings

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catering@congressplazahotel.com

www.congressplazahotel.com

The Duck Inn

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312-724-8811

www.theduckinnchicago.com

Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa

Galena, IL

800-892-2269

www.eagleridge.com

Galena JDC

www.galena.org/weddings

Glessner House Museum

1800 S. Prairie Ave., Chicago

312-326-1480

www.glessnerhouse.org

rentals@glessnerhouse.org

Grand Geneva Resort & Spa

7036 Grand Geneva Way,

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800-558-3417

www.GrandGeneva.com

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www.redfieldestate.org

Hilton Orrington

847-556-7940

www.orringtonevanston.hilton.com

lisa.lauren@hilton.com

Keith House

1900 S. Prairie Ave., Chicago

'Out of the Bars' voting effort, Sat., Nov. 5

In this tempestuous election year, having our voices heard is more important than, perhaps, ever before. Chicago's bar community is aiding in that effort with **Out of the Bars and Into the Streets**, an organized effort to get people together to talk, to dance, and, most importantly, to vote.

This first-of-its-kind event, presented by Chicago Votes and Organized Grime Crew, will begin at noon, **Saturday, November 5**, gathering at **Replay**, 3439 N. Halsted St. in Boystown. At 1 p.m., there will be a **march from Replay to the polling facility** at Merlo Branch Chicago Public Library, 644 W. Belmont Ave. An afterparty will be held at 3 p.m. at **Hydrate**, 3458 N. Halsted St., with DJs Harry Cross and Cindel. "Political realness" looks are encouraged for the entire event.

The event derives its name from a quote by instrumental gay politician Harvey Milk and is being organized by Derek Elliott Bagley, development director of Chicago Votes, a local non-profit tasked with registering, educating, and activating young voters across Chicagoland.

"Our community has a history of marching for our rights," states Bagley. "It has been our greatest tool to make our presence known in the public arena. After the unprecedented tragedy at Pulse Orlando this summer, it is clear that our visibility is key to ensuring our ability to be who we are this election year. We encourage all people—queers and allies alike—to join us in this effort as we stand our ground for our rights."

Windy City Times is a proud sponsor of this event.



nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

**Mister International
Rubber (MIR) 20**



**Thu., Nov. 3 - Sun., Nov. 6
Berlin,**

954 W. Bemont Ave.

The 20th anniversary weekend includes an array of events, including:

MIR Welcome Party

Thu., Nov. 3, 11 p.m.

Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

Welcoming MIR 20 attendees with a bar night filled with surprises for all in attendance. No cover charge. Featuring MIR 19, Chicago's own Jeffrey "Gumbärchen" Basile (pictured).

Rubber Hole

Fri., Nov. 4, 11 p.m.

Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St.

A party in The Hole for MIR attendees. Cover charge possible.

Meet the Contestants

Sat., Nov. 5, 4-5 p.m.

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Get to know the contestants through one-on-one conversation in the social zone or watch them go to town in the demo pit.

MIR 20 Contest (two nights)

Fri., Nov. 4 and Sat., Nov 5, 9-11 p.m.

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Night one begins with fun and erotic entertainment, with competitions in "Rubber Image" and "Rubber Fantasy." The contest concludes on night two, with the ever-popular judging of the on-stage question, a "mystery bag" and the opportunity to vote for the new Mister International Rubber.

3rd Annual Puppy Brunch

Sun., Nov. 6, 11 a.m.

Cell Block, 3702 N. Halsted St.

Hosted by Sir Justin and Pup Tork.

For a full schedule of events, see mirubber.com/attend/schedule-of-events/.

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Green Zebra

BY ANDREW DAVIS

When I first went to **Green Zebra** (1460 W. Chicago Ave.; GreenZebraChicago.com) several years ago, I came away with a new appreciation of vegetarian/vegan cuisine—and the room that makes your coats toasty during the winter was a nice touch as well.

A recent visit to the Shawn McClain-led eatery, which opened in 2004, did nothing to dispel said appreciation, as I was continuously dazzled by appetizing selections.

Chef de Cuisine David Chapman (an affable, incredibly funny fellow) started things promisingly with an amuse bouche of squash, reduced apple cider and pecans (just in time for fall), followed by hen of the woods mushroom pate, served with raspberry mostarda and shaved watermelon rad-



Beet tartare (left) and corn cake from Green Zebra.
Photos by Andrew Davis

ishes.

I heartily recommend the fermented beet (not beef) tartare, delicately balanced with borscht yogurt, candied pistachios, dill pollen and raspberry powder. And my favorite item was probably the pumpkin pot stickers (with sesame soy dipping sauce), although the apple pierogis weren't far behind.

Fresh spring rolls were tasty and refreshing; they're filled with snow peas, pickled shiitake mushrooms, Ruby Streak mustard greens, cucumber, mint and apricot soy sauce. And I have to give props to the poached duck egg dish, which

is served with smoked potato puree, parsley and country sourdough.

And please take time for dessert. Although the olive-oil cake was not there (I remembered that from my previous experience there), tantalizing items such as fried apple pie and dark chocolate cake are available.

To make sure you have a filling experience (physically and otherwise), I'd recommend getting at least three dishes apiece. That way, you can have a more well-rounded experience at this incredible space.



DRAGAPALOOZA @ SIDETRACK

This year's "Night of 100" was on fire for Equality IL, Thu., October 27.
Photos by Jerry Nunn

Sidetrack Election Day Party



**Tue., Nov. 8, 3 pm
Sidetrack,**

3349 N. Halsted St.

Join Chicago's LGBT community after you cast your vote. The event is free and open to everyone 21+. Doors open at 3 pm. No cover. Results all day and night on the Sidetrack Big Screen until 2 am. Party sponsored by Chicago LGBTQ for Hillary.



"I don't want to say it was big, but I believe it had an elbow!"—Nathan Lane discusses seeing John Slattery naked back in 1989, when the two appeared off-Broadway in *The Lisbon Traviata*. The two are currently appearing on Broadway in a revival of *The Front Page*, where, I believe, all elbows are covered.

The Saturday matinee performance of Rossini's opera *William Tell* at the Metropolitan Opera in NYC was stopped before the last act, and the audience was ushered out while local police and federal agents investigated. During the intermission, a suspicious-looking man walked down to the front of the theatre, reached into a black bag and then sprinkled some powder into the orchestra pit. An orchestra member reported this activity and the theatre worried about a possible terrorist attack—because if there's one thing ISIS hates more than Hillary Clinton, it's opera! Turns out, the culprit was Roger Kaiser, a 52-year-old opera buff from Dallas who had flown up to NYC specifically to go to the Met and scatter some ashes of his friend and mentor. While leaving ashes in special places like Broadway theatres, sports arenas, etc. is a common occurrence, it's foolish in these hypersensitive times. Thus far, Kaiser is not being charged with any crime. Met head honcho Peter Gelb said, "We appreciate opera lovers coming to the Met; we hope that they will not bring their ashes with them."

Carol Burnett has had one helluva week! On Monday, it was announced that she's headed to ABC to star in a sitcom created by Amy Poehler. The next day, I was at the grocery store and saw the front cover of *The Globe* tabloid that exclaimed "Carol Burnett, 83—THE END! Brave farewell to fans." So, what's the truth? While I believe Burnett is in fine health, ABC may have hedged their bets just a tad. The plot of the new sitcom is as follows: A young couple gets a great deal on their dream house, but it comes with one condition—they must live with the current owner, an older actress, until she dies. Guess who plays the actress?

It was announced that, for the first time in their 111-year history, the Spiegel catalog will feature a transgender cover model. Can I see a show of hands who thought the Spiegel catalog WAS history? Keep those hands up. Now, can I see a show of hands of people who never heard of Spiegel? Wow, I expected more hands—I'm playing to an older demographic than I thought. That's why you never complain about all those Marilyn Maye stories!

Great Britain was on the brink of making history when Parliament considered passing the Alan Turing Law, which would pardon thousands of men who were convicted of being gay. It was named after the famed English mathematician and scientist, who was portrayed by Benedict Cumberbatch in *The Imitation Game*. It was Turing who broke the Nazi code in World War II and is credited with helping the Allies defeat Germany. Four years after this accomplishment, he was prosecuted for "homosexual acts." Two years later, he committed suicide. Although Queen Elizabeth II granted him a posthumous pardon in 2013, close to 50,000 other men were also prosecuted. The proposed bill would allow the government to expunge all criminal records for people who were found guilty of "solicitation by men", "gross indecency between men", and "buggery." This would only apply if the people involved were over 16, did not engage in the act in a public lavatory (sorry, George Michael), and if the act is not still illegal. You'd think that would cover everything, but you'd be



Billy gets into legal waters this week, discussing British codebreaker Alan Turing.

wrong.

The first phase of the parliamentary process is an open debate on the floor. Conservative government Minister Sam Gyimah spoke first. He felt that pardoning everyone across the board would lead to some people who are actual criminals being cleared. He proposed amending another bill which would pardon only people who died. Those who are still alive could go through a "disregard process" to have the matter stricken from their records. Gyimah used all of the 25 minutes allocated for the debate—killing the possibility of the bill even being voted on. Writer of the bill, MP John Nicolson, said, "It's great to forgive all the people who are now dead, but it's kind of sentimental. I'm more interested in forgiving the people who are still alive, and have lived with this for decades."

Tom Hanks is all for the remake of *Splash*. And he'd like to be involved ... as Channing Tatum's lover! Hanks said, "Look: I think if they were really going to be bold, I would come back as Allen Bauer, and I would go off with Channing Tatum. That would be a bold move. And I am suggesting it right now." I guess while you can take the fish out of the man, you can't take the man out of the fish!

After swearing they'd never reunite, ABBA was on stage together in June to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Benny and Bjorn meeting—Agnetha and Anni-Frid sang "Me and I." (You can see the video on BillyMasters.com.) That event thawed the quartet to the possibility of working together, and they've just announced a partnership with Spice Girls mastermind Simon Fuller for a "groundbreaking venture." Benny said, "We're inspired by the limitless possibilities of what the future holds and are loving being a part of creating something new and dramatic here. A time machine that captures the essence of who we were. And are." More details will be announced next year, but we hear it will be some sort of virtual reality—kinda like when they wouldn't turn on Posh Spice's mike!

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Randall in London. "Have you checked out *The Young Pope*? It's really great. And you get to see Jude Law's ass!"

Do people actually want to see any pope nude—young or otherwise? I suppose for Jude Law, we'll consider it. The show also has Diane Keaton playing a nun, which intrigues me. It started airing in England last week, and will be on HBO in February. But why wait? You can see the important parts of the first episode on BillyMasters.com.

When we're promoting a pope's posterior, it's time to end yet another column. As usual, all faiths are welcomed to check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that doesn't discriminate. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Tom Hanks reveals if he prefers fish or chicken. So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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Scream, Queen, Scream!

The annual Northalsted Halloween Parade turned 20 on Oct. 31 this year. Judges Dixie Lynn Cartwright, Miss Foozie, and Trannika Rex hosted the evening on the microphone where contestants won awards for creative costumes such as a Hodor from Game of Thrones with an actual door strapped to his back. Stranger Things and the singer Sia were spotted multiple times in the neighborhood. Superheroes are always popular choices along with video game characters such as a Pokemon and Super Mario Bros. There was lots of drag of course adding to the Scream, Queen! theme this year.

Police were on hand with barricades set up along the parade route to control the large attendance. Salvation Army handed out hot dogs and hot chocolate at a booth for mobs of people. The judging panel was placed in front of Roscoe's this year for a change with competitors strutting from Belmont to Addison on Halsted Street.

Afterwards many lined up for the bars while city crews cleaned up the surrounding area. Visit www.northalsted.com for upcoming events in Boystown.



Photos by Jerry Nunn



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Nov. 2

Fun Home opening night Based on Alison Bechdel's best-selling graphic memoir. Nov. 2-13. 7:30pm Ford Center Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St., Chicago <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com/show/fun-home/>

Ruby Western's Quite Right Tonight closing night Hour-long female queer variety show each Wednesday through Nov. 16. \$8. 8:00pm Annoyance Theatre 851 W Belmont Chicago 773-697-9693 <http://TheAnnoyance.com>

KPMG+ Pride Chat one on one with Pride, KPMG's network of LGBT professionals. KPMG LLP, audit, tax and advisory services, networks LGBT employees, partners, straight allies, nearly 1300 members and 14 chapters for opportunities to participate in career development programs, broaden professional experiences, and build career-enriching relationships, both within and beyond the firm. 2:00pm - 3:00pm https://app.brazenconnect.com/?utm_medium=Partner&utm_source=WERQ&r=1477849919510#eventLanding;eventCode=ay2rR

Thursday, Nov. 3

SOFA CHICAGO—Life : Fight : Love This living installation animates the truths of HIV/AIDS and challenges the perception that the disease is "over": Survivor and Ambassador Jim Petrakis lives in this intimate space throughout SOFA and will discuss his LIFE, his FIGHT with the disease, and his LOVE for all who helped restore his health. Booth SE122. Through Nov. 6 1:00pm - 2:00pm Navy Pier <http://www.sofaexpo.com/special-exhibits/life-fight-love>

OH, BOY!
Thursday, Nov. 3

Boy George (above) and Culture Club will perform at Waukegan's Genesee Theatre. Photo from 2015

Anne Raeff, author The Jungle Around Us Flannery O'Connor Award winner and LGBT author Anne Raeff, *The Jungle Around Us* will read/conversation with her wife, LGBT award-winning author Lori Ostlund who is releasing the paperback edition of her novel *After the Parade*. Christine Sneed, *The Virginity of Famous Men* will also read and host their conversation. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

New Town Writers' Workshop Writers are invited to bring printed copies of the work they will be reading so that other participants may follow along. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Ar-

chives 6500 N Clark St Chicago
Culture Club with Boy George One of the biggest 80s bands with *Do You Really Want to Hurt Me* and *Karma* Chamelion 7:30pm Genesee Theatre, Waukegan, IL Tickets: http://www.ticketmaster.com/event/07005113957126E1?brand=genesee&camefrom=CFC_GENESEE

Friday, Nov. 4

I Am My Own Wife Based on the true story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf (born Lother Berfelde) who, against all odds, hid from the Nazi and Communist regimes in East Berlin in plain sight dressed as a woman. Feature transgender actress Delia Kropp and three additional actors. The new production will frame Charlotte's story through a transgender lens. Through Dec. 10. About Face Theater 7:30pm Theater Wit 1229 W Belmont Ave. Chicago Tickets: <https://www.theaterwit.org/tickets/productions/291/performances#top>

Resolution - A Queer Vintage Thriller! World premiere from Pride Films and Plays. New Year's Eve, New York City, 1892. High-society husband and wife Jack and Hannah make their resolutions for the coming year -- but a discovery may change everything. Through Nov. 20 7:30pm Rivendell Theater, 5779 N. Ridge Ave., Chicago <http://pridefilmsandplays.com> Tickets: <http://bit.ly/resolutiontix>

Saturday, Nov. 5

"Epic LGBT Door Knocking Road Trip to Iowa" Battleground states like Iowa need our help. Meet at the Center, arrive in Davenport around noon, meet at the local Hillary for America Office, hit the doors, and persuade people that we're stronger together. Bus transportation will be provided, but space is limited so RSVP is mandatory. 8:00am - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/>

events/view/X4HAE4SPFD2YAN2Q/
Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ) Support meeting to talk about illnesses, symptoms, treatment, doctors, and personal issues such as dating, relationships and work. Every Saturday. 11:00am - 12:30am Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

Pet Shop Boys Longtime duo begin "Super" world tour 12:00pm Lyric Opera Civic Opera House 20 N.Wacker Dr. Chicago Tickets: <http://LiveNation.com>

TransReelization: A Celebration of Transgender Film Celebration of transgender film hosted by Lana Wachowski (director of *The Matrix* movies and *Sense8*), which raises money for our TransLife Center. Proceeds benefit Chicago House and Social Service Agency's TransLife Center, which provides housing, employment, legal, and healthcare services. Doors open at 1pm. 2:00pm Music Box Theatre 3733 N Southport Chicago Tickets: <http://bit.ly/2daZlIm>

Sunday, Nov. 6

aChurch4Me Sunday Worship Service A place to find peace, comfort and prayer 11:00am aChurch4Me, 7366 N. Clark St., Chicago <http://www.achurch4me.org>

She100 Fall Social/Fundraiser An engaged, active LGBTQ women's community whose work, presence and advocacy seeks to strengthen and support the greater LGBTQ community in Chicago by pooling resources (minimum \$100 annually per member) and making grants. Time:TBA TBA <http://she100.org/>

Asians & Friends Dim Sum Each first Sunday of the month 12:30pm Furama 4936 N. Broadway Chicago <http://www.afchicago.org>

Monday, Nov. 7

Raise Your Hardhats! Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT) 35th anniversary

Benefit for CWIT. \$35-\$70 includes light refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages. Beer sales, raffle-ticket proceeds benefit CWIT. 5:30pm - 8:30pm Lagunitas Brewing Company, 2607 W. 17th St., Chicago Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/raiseyour-hardhats-a-benefit-for-chicago-women-in-trades-tickets-28156276180>

PFP's Simply Sensational: Legends and Divas Celebrates the greatest songs written for women in the Broadway canon, with Broadway great Capathia Jenkins headlining and including American Idol's Rayvon Owen. 6:00pm Uptown Underground 4707 N. Broadway St., Chicago 800 737 0984 <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>

Election Eve Bash Dance for Democracy Clandestina Chicago, Alma Izquierdo, Brooke Webster, Monica Raymund and Sophia Bush present DJ Samantha Ronson, Sophia Bush, Monica Raymund, The Fly Honeys, DJ Sandra Suave and \$3 drink specials 7-8 p.m. General admission \$25/\$20 with voter registration card, VIP balcony \$35 or \$30 with voter registration card,

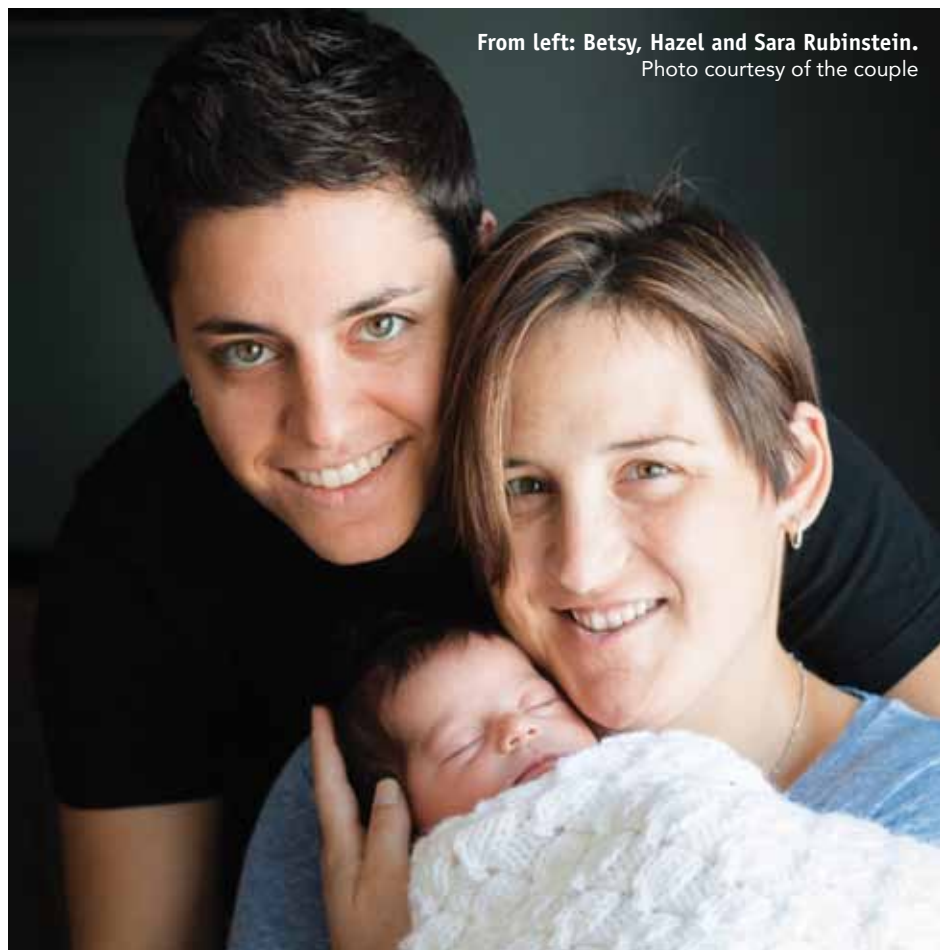
Tuesday, Nov. 8

OPALGA Election Returns Party OPALGA will provide appetizers. 6:00pm Tratoria, 225 Harrison St., Oak Park

Wed., Nov. 9

LGBT Hall of Fame induction ceremony Twelve individuals, two organizations, and two friends of the community have been selected for induction into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, the organization which honors and celebrates notable members of Chicago's LGBT communities. Reception 5:30pm. Program 6pm. Free and open to the public. 5:30pm - 7:30pm Chicago History Museum 1601 N Clark Chicago <http://chicagoLGBTHallofFame.org>

From left: Betsy, Hazel and Sara Rubinstein. Photo courtesy of the couple



BIRTHS

Hazel Grace Rubinstein

Betsy and Sara Rubinstein are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Hazel Grace Rubinstein.

Hazel was born Sept. 14, weighing 7 pounds 10 ounces, and measuring 20 inches long.

Betsy is the associate director of strategic development at Heartland Alliance as well as the board chair at Chicago Women's Health Center, and Sara is a certified orthotist at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Sara and Betsy will have been together eight years in January, and have been married for three years.

Photo courtesy of the couple

Chicago Sky not retaining Chatman

After six seasons, the Chicago Sky has decided Head Coach and General Manager Pokey Chatman will not be retained.

Under her direction, the Sky had an overall regular season record of 106-98, including an 18-16 campaign in 2016, during which they made the playoffs.

Chatman's tenure was highlighted by two important franchise firsts: a first-ever playoff appearance in 2013 and a trip to the WNBA Finals in 2014.

"I want to thank the incredible fans of Chicago, my staff and all of the players for their hard work and dedication in helping to grow the franchise," said Chatman in a statement. "I am proud of what we were able to accomplish, and appreciative of the opportunity given to me by Michael Alter."

LETTERS from page 24

We found that our ability to fund our work—and, thus, provide excellent services to our community—was better served by being independent of SAGE in terms of affiliation. We continue to be involved with SAGE opportunities such as SAGEWorks and to partner with them on public policy efforts locally and nationally and consider SAGE a partner.

Regarding our newly open staff position, as many people in historically oppressed communities will appreciate, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has worked hard to ensure that employers adhere strictly to a set of guidelines when hiring. Within these

Santa Speedo Run Dec. 3 in Boystown

The Santa Speedo Run—an annual holiday event to benefit local LGBT charities in Chicago—will take place Saturday, Dec. 3, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Participants run one mile through the heart of Chicago's Boystown neighborhood wearing only a Santa hat and Speedo (as well as running shoes, of course). All are welcome.

The sign-in will begin at 12 noon, and the run will start at 2 p.m. There is a \$25 requested donation.

See "Santa Speedo Run - Boystown" on Facebook, or visit <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/Speedo>.

parameters, we also understand that there are unique needs within our LGBTQ community including finding someone who has knowledge of LGBTQ aging needs and who has the credentials to meet these needs.

Britta Larson, director of senior services, will be meeting with patrons to talk about the hiring process and to receive feedback from them so that we are certain to have a well-informed, community engaged process. While the Center cannot discriminate in the hiring process, given how integrated this person will be in the living and social spaces of our residents, we also want to ensure that we have the best possible fit for the range of residents and patron in our Senior Service Program.

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