

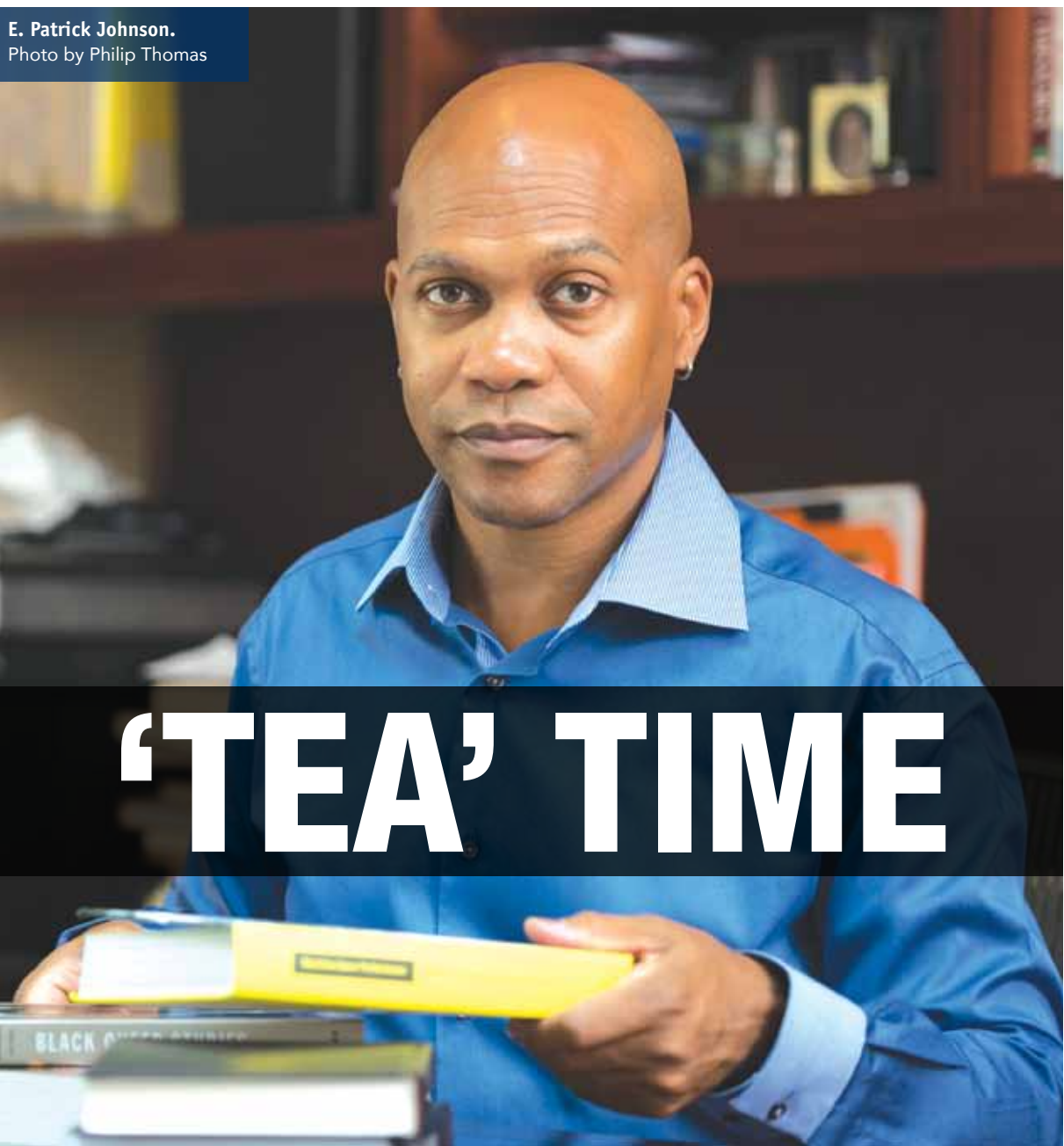
WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 32, NO. 9 NOV. 16, 2016

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E. Patrick Johnson.
Photo by Philip Thomas



'TEA' TIME

Book of essays speaks Black queer truths of the next generation

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

E. Patrick Johnson's book, titled *No Tea, No Shade: New Writings in Black Queer Studies*, reveals tactful truth from the next generation of scholars and activists about the Black queer experience.

Johnson is chair of the Department of African-American studies and the Carlos Montezuma Professor of Performance Studies and African-American studies at Northwestern University. He is a Southerner in the truest sense, having grown up in North Carolina, graduating from University of

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DUMP TRUMP

Chicagoans protest president-elect.
Photo by Andy Thayer

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Educator writes about history of Black gay men.
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GETTING YOUR PHIL
WCT talks with longtime LGBT-rights activist Philip Raia (left). Official head shot

KEEPING IT 'REAL'



Real Housewives of Atlanta's Cynthia Bailey discusses gay fans, her modeling line and more. Photo by Mark Hill/Bravo

ELF CONTROL



Wesley Edwards plays the elf Hermy in Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical. PR photo

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Chicago's Featherproof Books gets heavy with post-election activism.

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Find out the latest about Rosie O'Donnell, Giorgio Moroder and Wanda Sykes.

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ELECTIONS 2016

How LGBT candidates fared across the nation

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Kate Brown became the first openly LGBT person to be elected governor, winning the office in Oregon Nov. 8. Elsewhere in the nation, there were only a few scattered "firsts" to be celebrated, and 61 percent of 188 openly LGBT candidates this year won their races.

By comparison, in 2012, out of 152 LGBT candidates on the ballot, 77 percent (118 candidates) won, while 22 percent (33) lost.



Oregon Gov. Kate Brown.
Official photo

In addition to Brown, the winners included Leslie Herod, the first openly LGBT African-American elected to the Colorado House; Carlos Guillermo Smith, the first openly LGBT Latino to be elected to the Florida state legislature, representing Orlando; and Sam Park, the first openly gay man to be elected to the Georgia legislature.

All six incumbent LGBT members of Congress won re-election Nov. 8, but other candidates for federal office had tough fights: None of the 12 newcomers seeking seats in Congress won. Two sought U.S. Senate seats, and 10 sought House seats. Businesswoman Angie Craig was expected to beat a Trump-like radio talk-show host for Minnesota's 2nd Congressional district, but fell short—45 percent to Jason Lewis' 47 percent. Eight percent of the vote went to an independent candidate.

Candidates for state House and Senate seats fared much better: Seventy-four percent of the 89 candidates won. Among the winners were newcomers Daniel Hernandez, the aide who helped save the life of then-U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords during a 2011 shooting incident in Tucson; Hernandez won a seat to the Arizona state House. Toni Atkins, who was term-limited out of her position as speaker of the California Assembly, won a seat in the state Senate. Among the incumbents to win re-election was Minnesota state Rep. Karen Clark. Clark was elected in 1980 and has now been re-elected 18 times, representing the south Minneapolis area.

In local office elections, 33 out of 60 LGBT

candidates won. Among them was newcomer Jimmy Flannigan, who unseated an incumbent for a seat on the Austin, Texas, City Council.

And half of 16 LGBT candidates for elective judicial seats won election on Nov. 8. Kim Ogg beat out an incumbent to become Houston's new district attorney. And, in Washington state, lesbian Mary Yu won re-election to her seat on the Washington Supreme Court.

But the biggest victory by far Nov. 8 for the LGBT community was that of Kate Brown, in her first run for governor of Oregon. Brown won with 51 percent of the vote. Her Republican challenger took 44 percent, and three other candidates took the remaining 5 percent.

"Kate Brown's win in Oregon is one for the history books," said Aisha C. Moodie-Mills, president of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund.

Brown, a bisexual married for almost 20 years to her husband Dan Little, is the first openly LGBT person to be elected as governor anywhere in the country. (The first LGBT person to serve as governor was Jim McGreevey, who

National reactions to Trump victory

A wide variety of pro-LGBT organizations issued responses after Donald Trump's Nov. 8 victory as the newest president of the United States. Many groups and individuals have seemingly approaches that include vigilance and defiance.

What follow are excerpts from organizations' and individuals' press releases:

—**National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs:** "Now more than ever in light of the results of the presidential election, we are committed to speaking out against injustice and to caring for those in our communities who have experienced violence and discrimination. ... We will work tirelessly, continuously moving ourselves toward the fight for justice and acceptance everywhere. This week, we are tested again, as we have been so many countless times before, and just as many of us feel drained, tired, and overwhelmed, may we all find that our capacity to love and to care may well be limitless."

—**Freedom for All Americans and Trans United Fund (joint release):** "This election represents a serious setback for transgender people and our allies. ... Now more than ever, it's crucial that trans leaders and our allies redouble our efforts to better understand and support one another, to struggle through our differences together, and to bring our collective wisdom and experience to bare in building a movement and a strategy that can make that vision a reality."

—**One-time presidential candidate U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders:** "Donald Trump tapped into the anger of a declining middle class that is sick and tired of establishment economics, establishment politics and the establishment media."

"To the degree that Mr. Trump is serious about pursuing policies that improve the lives of working families in this country, I and other progressives are prepared to work with him. To the degree that he pursues racist, sexist, xenophobic and anti-environment policies, we will vigorously oppose him."

—**Victory Fund President & CEO Aisha C. Moodie-Mills:** "I am heartbroken that racist, xenophobic, sexist and transphobic demagoguery won last night's presidential election. The devastating results hit the LGBT community particularly hard because we are unique



New Arizona state Rep. Daniel Hernandez.
Photo from Hernandez

came out as gay after being elected governor of New Jersey and then resigned office.)

Brown has been elected a state representative, a state senator, and Oregon's secretary of state (twice) but stepped into the governor's position in 2015, after then-Gov. John Kitzhaber resigned following an ethics scandal.

Brown, 56, embraces the opportunities she has to help the LGBT community. She told the Washington Post Nov. 9, "I will, within my role



U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders.
Photo by Tim Carroll Photography

in spanning all the demographic groups targeted by the president-elect throughout his campaign.

"Build the next generation of diverse LGBT candidates so we can cement our gains and further equality for all people. But let's not kid ourselves. We made huge strides these past eight years, and last night we took steps back. Now our community and allies need to rally and demand all elected lawmakers—not just LGBT elected officials—unequivocally stand on the side of equality for all people."

—**NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendall:** "By a slim margin, this nation has elected a demagogue who trafficked in bigotry, stoked racist hatred and normalized misogyny. The election of Donald Trump as president threatens basic principles of human dignity and justice. Many of our most cherished values— inclusion, honoring difference, embracing equality, dismantling oppressive systems—are in jeopardy, but we will not be deterred. This is the moment we are called to resist."

"We are about to be tested as never before, and speaking for myself, and NCLR, we will not stand down, sit idle or be silent in the face of oppression, bullying or threat. This election result is devastating for our nation and especially for the most vulnerable. But we will fight on and will never give up. We must be the ones we are waiting for. Together, we fight on and we fight back. We must harness our grief, fear and outrage and serve justice."

—**National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund Executive Director Rea Carey:** "Millions of people here and around the world will be

at the National Governors' Association and other organizations like the Western Governors Association, continue to use that voice and my experiences as a member of the LGBT community, as well as my female voice to help us push forward as a nation."

The 188 LGBT candidates spanned 36 states plus the District of Columbia. California had the greatest number of LGBT candidates by far, with 50; followed by Washington State with 10, and Georgia with nine. Illinois had five LGBT candidates, four of whom won: Kelly Cassidy, Greg Harris, and Sam Yingling won state House seats, while Catherine Schneider won a judge position on the Cook County Circuit Court. Republican Andy Kirchoff lost his bid for the 24th District seat in the House.

One candidate this year came out during his re-election campaign: North Carolina state Rep. Cecil Brockman of Greensboro publicly acknowledged being bisexual in an interview with his local paper Nov. 3. Brockman, 32, was running unopposed for his seat in the General Assembly.

Brockman told the News & Record, "I always felt that I tried to stick up for the LGBT community, even when I wasn't 'out.' I want to do more of my part, to be stronger and admit to the world that I'm actually a member of this community as well."

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shocked, disappointed and frankly frightened by the election of Donald Trump. His remarks over the course of the campaign including his sexist, racist, and xenophobic comments, as well as his mocking of people with disabilities and his dehumanization of Muslims leave many of us deeply disturbed.

"Make no mistake about it: This will also give us a roadmap for fair-minded, moral, compassionate people to come together like never before and fight. It will take longer, it will be harder, but rest assured that united and working in partnership with people of good conscience, we will get there."

—**CenterLink CEO Terry Stone:** "While some celebrate and others commiserate, we, as an LGBT community, must remain resilient and strong. We must renew our commitment to listen to and learn from each other, to speak out against injustice, and to be a voice for those who have no voice."

"We must speak loudly in protest against homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, racism, sexism and all other forms of oppression. And as they have always done, our LGBT community centers will continue to be a place of gathering, caring and support."

—**Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin:** "Throughout our nation's history, we've faced devastating setbacks in our pursuit of a more perfect union. But even in the darkest of moments, Americans have summoned the courage and persistence to fight on. The results of tonight's presidential election require us to meet tomorrow with the same resolve and determination."

"This is a crucial moment for our nation and for the LGBTQ movement. The election of a man who stands opposed to our most fundamental values has left us all stunned. There will be time to analyze the results of this election, but we cannot afford to dwell. We must meet these challenges head on."

—**GLAD Executive Director Janson Wu:** "The full, devastating impact of yesterday's election is yet to be known, but I woke up this morning knowing that, first, we must take care of each other."

"This is not business as usual. The rhetoric of racism, misogyny, and Islamophobia that we endured during the campaign cannot become policy, and cannot become who we are. All of our collective efforts will be more vital than ever."



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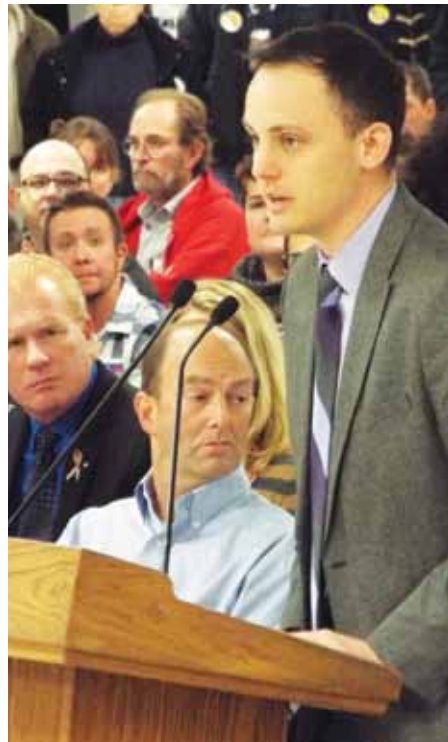
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Local reactions to election: Fear, hope and defiance

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

The reactions from the Chicago LGBTQ community and its allies to Donald Trump's electoral college win Nov. 8 was initially included shock, revulsion, sadness and fear. However, in the best traditions of the community, those feelings were quickly followed by a defiant resolve to wage a battle against the toxic hatred and



From left: Imani Rupert-Gordon and Owen Daniel-McCarter.
Photos by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

despotism a Trump administration represents.

In a letter to the organization's supporters, Equality Illinois CEO Brian C. Johnson stated that the election was "so devastating because we have elected to the presidency a man who has publicly targeted immigrants, children and grandchildren of immigrants, Muslims, the disabled, women, and many others."

The organization also noted the danger represented by Vice President-elect Mike Pence given the former Indiana governor's alliance with radical Christianity and his accompanying desire to eliminate LGBT individuals through legislation.

"We have elected to the vice presidency a man who served as a key architect in an attempt to legalize religious discrimination against the LGBTQ community in every facet of our public lives," Johnson added. "Even more alarming, these candidates, now our President-elect and Vice President-elect, have whipped up and legitimized a fear-based world view which pits a large base of Americans against many historically marginalized groups in our country."

That fear is especially palpable from individuals in the transgender community whose battle not only for civil rights but the recognition of their personhood has been one already plagued by setbacks including anti-transgender legislation passed in states like North Carolina and an unprecedented high in the murders of transgender individuals and violence against transgender women of color.

Greta Gustava Martela is the co-founder and executive director of the Chicago-based Trans Lifeline—a transgender crisis hotline staffed entirely by transgender people.

She told Windy City Times that, between Nov. 9 and Nov. 12, the organization fielded 1,200 calls from transgender individuals across the United States.

"This is about five times our normal busy call volume," she said. "I'm really proud that our volunteers were able to answer so many calls in one day. It's beyond my wildest expectations about what they could achieve."

Gustava Martela noted that callers were "worried about losing their healthcare. It's something we just won recently. Under the Obama administration it was difficult enough

norities."

"Our lives as diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning people matter. Our fight against oppression, stigma and discrimination matters," he added. "Our mission to support health and wellness among the people in our community remains at our core."

"We are AIDS advocates. We FIGHT BACK," AFC Director of Communications Brian Solem asserted. "We fight for women to be treated with respect. We fight for Black lives, trans lives, Latinx lives, and Black gay men's lives. We fight to support immigrants. We fight for the National AIDS Strategy. We fight for the Affordable Care Act. The AIDS Foundation of Chicago is committed like never before for fighting for equity and justice for people living with and vulnerable to HIV and related chronic diseases."

In her statement, Affinity Community Services Executive Director Imani Rupert Gordon offered a few solutions as to how that fight should be conducted.

"More than ever before, it is important that we work in coalition with one another, as indi-

viduals and as organizations," she wrote. "We need to support groups doing the work that needs to be done in this world. We need to give what we can. Our time, our money, our expertise. We need to join the boards of organizations that mean something to us. We need to be active on the boards that we are on. We need to support our friends, families, communities and networks to do the same and contribute to their communities. We need to mentor. We need to listen. This work is not cheap. It's not easy. There are no short cuts. And it cannot be done alone."

U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley, D-Illinois, who is vice-chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus on Capitol Hill, may face an uphill battle beginning Jan. 20, but his statement echoed the community's resolve.

"To those who still don't think their voices are being heard by those who represent them, we must keep fighting for what is right," he wrote. "The work to promote opportunity and ensure equality and justice for all continues."

Transgender individuals in crisis are urged to contact the Trans Lifeline at 877-565-8860.

LGBT community takes first steps in fighting back against Trump

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

It was eerily similar to meetings held by underground movements in countries across Europe during World War II as they discussed strategies for fighting back against Nazi tyranny.

In the backroom of a small bar in Chicago's Wrigleyville neighborhood Nov. 11, a small group of people representing the LGBTQ umbrella began to create actionable steps in ensuring the safety of the community, undocumented immigrants, Muslims and other minority groups now under threat from a Donald Trump administration, while also drawing up the blueprint designed with the goal of ensuring that neither Trump nor his policies prevail.

"This is a meeting for all of us to collectively get together and pool our resources so that we can stave off the national crisis that we're about to enter," presiding officer Derek Elliott Bagley told Windy City Times. "Over the next four years, we need to make sure that we are governing and protecting ourselves, make our presence known and activate all of the networks we share."

Unlike the "I alone can fix this" totalitarian mantra of Trump, the movement against him began with every person in the room having a voice.

"We can't allow this to be normalized," Bagley said. "We can't allow the media to tell us 'It's going to be OK. Don't worry.' On Tuesday I perceived that the country I knew and its systems of government had been cheapened and destroyed by the election of Donald Trump. As a white, cisgender male, the feeling of unease and terror [are ones] that so many members of our community, especially folks in the trans community, women and people of color have felt for their entire lives."

"This is a wake-up call," he added. "This is not a moment of mourning for what we have lost but what we have exposed about ourselves as Americans. This is the America we've always lived in. At this point, we should be looking at this as an opportunity to come together in solidarity and action. This is our clarion call-to-arms as an LGBTQ community that we have to put aside our differences and start protecting our community and governing ourselves. We have to be able to lift up everyone in our community to stave off the rising tide of terror that we're about

to experience."

By the end of the evening, there was as a resolve of creating a unified front as there was a potential for it to grow across communities and potentially beyond Chicago.

"We have a common enemy now," one participant noted. "That alone must bring us together."

Among the suggestions presented were ensuring the safety of LGBTQ youth particularly those living with homelessness, a fund created for those who are robbed of healthcare protections following the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), reaching outside of Chicago to LGBTQ children in small-town America to let them know there are resources available, the formation of a mutual understanding between the people who voted for Trump and those who stand against him, the creation of safe spaces within the Chicago area whether for targeted LGBTQ individuals, queer youth or immigrants facing deportation, acts of civil disobedience and finding and elevating candidates for open Congressional seats in the 2018 midterm elections who could ensure the end of Republican control of the House and Senate and render Trump a lame-duck after only two years in office.

A prevalent theme was coalition building beyond solely LGBTQ organizations. Some of the larger and grassroots organizations suggested included the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the National Immigrant Justice Center, the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) and the Trans Latin@ Coalition.

"The way that Republicans have always governed is to divide minority communities so that we're not in concert with one another," Bagley said. "That's why meetings like this are extremely important so that we can start organizing our individual communities and bridging the gaps between others. The LGBTQ community should be working with the Black and Latino communities so that we're a unit and electing our own to office."

Future meetings are planned across Chicago with a particular focus upon involving communities based in the South and West Sides.

There was the sense that the evening represented the beginning of a brave new world designed to directly combat the prejudice which will soon occupy the White House.

Minority-owned businesses experience vandalism

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Three minority-owned businesses—Resonance Massage and Body Work, Steve's Postal Plus and Sushi Para D—on the 500 block of West Diversey Pkwy. between Clark Street and Sheridan Road were targets of vandalism that destroyed their storefront windows over the course of a month. (Resonance and Steve's are gay-owned.)

On Oct. 4, Sushi Para D was vandalized while, on Oct. 17, Resonance Massage and Body Work was targeted. Then on Nov. 4, Steve's Postal Plus' windows were smashed.

"We filed a police report and the officer determined that it was malicious intent but they have not followed up since my initial meeting with them," said Steve's Postal Plus co-owner Gordon Dugan. "Our area of Lincoln Park is crumbling before our eyes with businesses closing down all around our location. I am worried this incident and the changing face of the neighborhood will affect our future as a business."

"When we reached out to Alderman Michelle Smith's office about an increased police presence on the block and cameras outside of our businesses they told me it would make the area look like it had a higher crime rate," said Steve's Postal Plus co-owner Steve Rozell.

"This vandalism may lead to other businesses being targeted because of our boarded-up windows," said Resonance Massage and Body Work co-owner Gene Storm. "I called the alderman's office to make them aware of the incident, however, they have not followed up yet."

When contacted about this incident, the manager of Sushi Para D told Windy City Times that the business' owner was out of the country and unreachable.

Another minority-owned business on the block, KC Chocolatier, hasn't been targeted; however, the owner is concerned they will be next.

Currently, the windows are boarded up and are awaiting replacement glass.

Trans woman of color shot in Richmond

On Nov. 5—four days after her 30th birthday—transgender woman of color Noony Norwood was shot in Richmond, Virginia, and died in the hospital the following morning.

The New York City Anti-Violence Project (NCAVP) issued a press release marking Norwood's passing. Norwood became the 23rd reported killing of a transgender/gender non-conforming person NCAVP has responded to in 2016.

"While there is still an active investigation happening into the shooting of Noony Norwood, we absolutely do know that perceived and actual gender identity and race often play a role in escalating violence against LGBTQ+ identified individuals," said Stacie Vecchiotti, director of the Virginia Anti-Violence Project (WAVP) in the statement.

Events to mark Trans Day of Remembrance

At least two Chicago events will mark the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance on Sunday, Nov. 20.

The Transformative Justice Law Project, Affinity Community Services, Illinois Safe Schools Alliance and St. Martin's Chicago will gather at St. Martin's, 5700 W. Midway Park, 5-8 p.m.

Attendees will honor those the community has lost, including Chicago's T.T. Saffore. There will be dinner and a short memorial program; guests will then honor Chicago-born trans woman leader Miss Major Griffin-Gracy by collectively viewing the film Major. See "I'm Still Here: Transgender Day of Remembrance 2016" on Facebook.

Also, a Transgender Day of Remembrance event will take place at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., 12-3 p.m. In the Irving Harris Family Foundation Reception Hall (12-1 p.m.), people will take a moment to pause and reflect. Transgender choir ResonaTe! will perform in Hoover-Leppen Theatre at 1-2 p.m., and a social will take place in the hall at 2-3 p.m.

Registration is recommended; visit <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/TransRemembrance>. For more info, email VSheridan@CenterOnHalsted.org.

Ex-U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock indicted

A federal grand jury in Springfield has indicted former U.S. Rep Aaron Schock (R-ILL.) on 24 counts related to misuse of government and campaign funds, The Chicago Sun-Times reported.

Schock is charged with nine counts of wire fraud, six counts of filing a false federal tax return, five counts of falsification of Federal Election Commission filings, two counts of making false statements, and one count each of mail fraud and theft of government funds.

Schock resigned in March 2015 amid scrutiny over instances of financial mismanagement. In his own statement, Schock—who has been spotted lately in West Hollywood, California—said he never intentionally did anything wrong and that he was eager to defend his name and reputation.

The Sun-Times article is at <http://chicago.suntimes.com/politics/defense-team-ex-rep-aaron-schock-is-being-indicted/>.



Timothy Zylstra, Bridget Altenburg and AVER President Jim Darby.

Photos by Tracy Baim. See more photos and video online at www.WindyCityTimes.com

LGBTQs mark Veterans Day

The American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) Chicago chapter hosted its 24th Annual Veterans Day Dinner Nov. 11 at Ann Sather restaurant on Belmont Avenue.

Captain Bridget Altenburg, U.S. Army, was the keynote speaker. She graduated from West Point in 1995, two years after "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" started. She was a founding member of Knight's Out, one of the key groups that worked to overturn DADT. She served as an Army engineer for five years including three deployments to Kosovo. She is currently COO of the National Able Network.

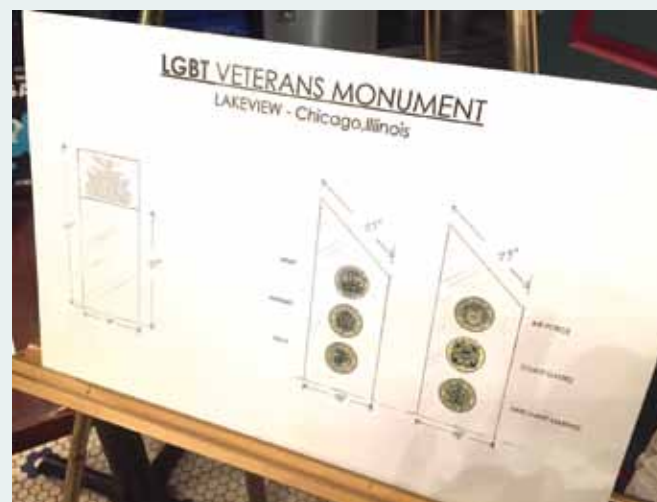
Altenburg spoke about the history of women in the military, her own experiences in the service and the progress she has seen.

"For those who stayed in the military over many years, it must seem like the pace of change has been terribly slow. It took decades for women to gain opportunities beyond nursing and another 20 years before they could serve as combat pilots. And here we are 23 years later finally integrating the rest of the combat zone."

She also pointed to work that remains unfinished.

"Five years ago, when 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' ended, we left unfinished work. In our excitement we forgot our trans brothers and sisters who have continued to get kicked out of the service. This despite the fact that trans people volunteer to serve at five times the rate of the general population. They [still] face terrible struggles in the military."

Altenburg and AVER Chicago chapter treasurer Timothy Zylstra, U.S. Navy, received AVER's annual Happy Warrior Awards.



A design for the planned LGBT veterans monument at the corner of Addison and Halsted.



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What is DESCOVY?

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DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.

To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking DESCOVY. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. 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.

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What is the most important information I should know about DESCOVY?

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects:

- **Buildup of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking DESCOVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

What are the other possible side effects of DESCOVY?

Serious side effects of DESCOVY may also include:

- **Changes in body fat**, which can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking DESCOVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems**, such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

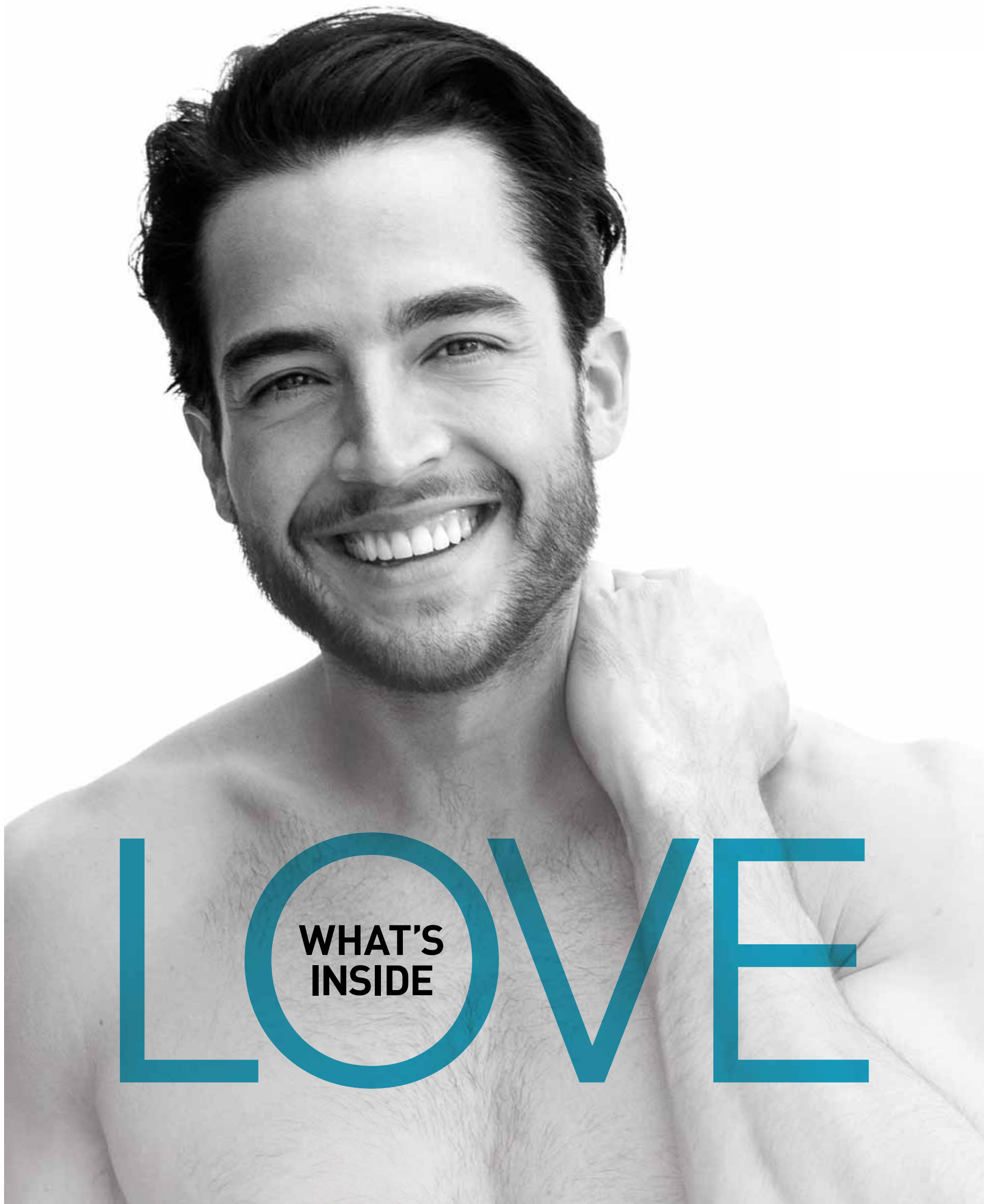
What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking DESCOVY?

- **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.
- **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how DESCOVY works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take DESCOVY with all of your other medicines.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if DESCOVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking DESCOVY.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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 DESCOVY, including important warnings, on the following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if an HIV-1 treatment that contains DESCOVY® is right for you.



LOVE

WHAT'S
INSIDE



(des-KOH-vee)

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY

DESCOVY 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: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **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 (jaundice); dark “tea-colored” urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking DESCOVY. Do not stop taking DESCOVY 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 DESCOVY or a similar medicine for a long time.

ABOUT DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older. DESCOVY is **not** for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine that is taken with other HIV-1 medicines.
- Take DESCOVY with or without food.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY

DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY” section.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea.

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

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

BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 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 DESCOVY.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to DESCOVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit DESCOVY.com for program information.



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Chicagoans protest Trump victory

Thousands of protesters marched through the streets of Chicago Nov. 9, chanting against the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president. There were many rainbow and bisexual flags.

The protests, which took place over several days, were only part of the story, as similar demonstrations took place across the nation, from New York City to Portland to Philadelphia to Los Angeles.

Photos of the Chicago protests courtesy of Andy Thayer



Chicagoans protest against Donald Trump's victory. Photos courtesy of Andy Thayer



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National physicians' group address LGBTQ health

BY DAVID THILL

Obtaining sufficient healthcare presents challenges to many people in the LGBTQ community, who are unsure of the way their doctors will treat them, or whether doctors will be willing to treat them at all. Some physicians are addressing those challenges head-on.

"Our main focus is how we can be advocates for marginalized patients," says Ravi Grivois-Shah, M.D., MPH, and a delegate to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) GLBT constituency. The AAFP is an organization of almost 125,000 family physicians from all 50 states and Washington, D.C., as well as several U.S. territories. Its GLBT constituency, a group of LGBTQ family physicians and allies who are members of the organization, works with Academy leadership to push for organizational policy changes, national legislation, and to establish best practices for addressing the obstacles LGBTQ patients face, from discrimination in the doctor's office to lack of community resources.

Grivois-Shah completed his medical training at the University of Illinois' Chicago campus and provided care to underserved patients in Chicago for nearly a decade, from Howard Brown Health to Near North Health Services Corporation (where he served as medical director), before relocating to Tucson, Ariz., in 2014, as a clinical associate professor of family and community medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. He joined the AAFP in 2005, and since 2009 has taken a leading role in addressing LGBTQ health disparities with the GLBT constituency.

The constituency was first established in 2001 to focus on issues that affected LGBTQ physicians and their patients, he says. These issues included workplace equity, obtaining fair child leave policies for new fathers, and revising the national blood donation policy, which has historically discriminated against gay men. (The U.S. Food and Drug Administration lifted its lifetime ban for blood donations from men who have sex with men in 2015. The AAFP pushed for the organization to lift the ban, stating that it supports standards "based on sound scientific evidence.")

Today, the GLBT constituency works especially hard to address the needs of their LGBTQ patients, many of whom lack appropriate education, doctors who are equipped and willing to address their health concerns, and support of loved ones.

Recognizing community needs

"One of the goals [of the GLBT constituency] is to make sure family physicians are educated and able to provide care for the community," says Grivois-Shah. Many LGBTQ individuals do not feel fully accommodated by the healthcare environment and are uncertain what information they can disclose to their care providers. "We know that a lot of patients who are LGBTQ delay care, and have concerns about getting safe, respectful care."

In large cities such as Chicago, resources are available for LGBTQ patients. But patients in other areas—particularly non-urban environments—can run into challenges finding safe care. Because of these disparities, the GLBT constituency aims to help the AAFP address healthcare issues and social determinants of health, as well as help create safe spaces both inside and outside the physician's office.

For example, says Grivois-Shah, doctors' offices should have posters and pamphlets that recognize all genders and sexual orientations, and the entire office staff—from doctors to nurses to front-desk administrators—should know appropriate terms to use when address-

ing patients.

Doctors should also be aware of population health risks. Of course, LGBTQ people have the same health needs as the general population, he notes, but there are some special healthcare needs. One area of concern is that the community has a disproportionate risk of suicide due to harassment from peers and rejection by families. Therefore, physicians should make sure their LGBTQ patients have adequate family support or access to resources that can help them deal without support from loved ones.

When it comes to sexual health and issues such as HIV, doctors must be able to ask questions in a respectful, non-judgmental way. Both doctors and patients must be educated on resources available for maintaining sexual health, such as Truvada for PrEP.

But Grivois-Shah also believes physicians must advocate beyond the walls of their offices. By pushing for legislative reform (for example, on issues such as reparative therapy) and school policy reform (for example, to form gay-straight alliances in schools), they can work with their LGBTQ patients to advocate for the community's needs. "How we [are] involved in the advocacy realm has such an impact on our patients."

Pushing for legislative reform

As a major medical organization, the AAFP advocates for policy reform at the local, state, and federal levels. For example, in September 2016, the group reaffirmed its policies against



Melissa Harris-Perry
Photo by Tracy Baim

Melissa Harris-Perry speaks at Chicago Humanities Festival

BY TRACY BAIM

Political commentator, former MSNBC host and author Melissa Harris-Perry spoke in Chicago two days after the 2016 presidential election, bringing her unique brand of political expertise to an audience aching for an explanation of the results.

The Chicago Humanities Festival hosted the event at Northwestern University's Thorne Auditorium.

Harris-Perry did not disappoint in her deep analysis of the election results. Her focus was on slowing down the analysis and the search for solutions, not being focused on "speed." She said this was the "change election" that she predicted, and that the "shock" so many people felt Nov. 8 was not as not echoed in many families of color.

Some people were saying "What will I tell



Ravi Grivois-Shah, M.D., MPH.

discrimination by approving a resolution "that specifically opposes state and federal laws that compromise the safety and health of transgender people," according to a press release. The Academy has long opposed discrimination on grounds including sexual orientation and gender identity, but the recent spate of so-called "bathroom bills" throughout the country (the Human Rights Campaign notes 17 of these bills nationally in 2015) led many AAFP members, headed by the GLBT constituency, to urge leaders to take a more vocal stance on the issue.

my children?" on the election results. Black mothers and fathers have always feared for their children, she said, showing examples of children she said were murdered by racists and a racist system.

She began with the murder of Emmett Till, and showed the image of his gleeful murderers after they were found not guilty, pictured with their laughing wives. She also showed examples of sexism and violence toward women. Then she asked rhetorically, "What have these same white parents been telling their children before Nov. 8?"

Responding to the outrage many white people expressed that a racist was elected president, she said that has often been a prerequisite to being president throughout U.S. history.

After a nuanced explanation of the presidential results, the main focus of the evening was a discussion of gun violence, including with U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly of Chicago's South Side and South suburbs, plus advocates, journalists and mothers. The evening finished with a performance by FM Supreme.

See videos of the presentations with the online version of this article.

New app aims to help homeless youths

StreetLight Chicago—a free mobile phone app designed for use by youth experiencing homelessness (to age 24) and social-service providers that support this vulnerable population—has launched.

Listings include health care services, overnight shelters, drop-in centers and legal-aid programs that serve Chicago youth. The app also sends push notifications for weather emergencies, program closings and other issues vital to youth on the street.

Youth apps are in now use in several U.S. cities, including the Twin Cities, Cincinnati and Los Angeles.

"Although these issues can be divisive, clearly so-called bathroom bills are discriminatory, and the AAFP has longstanding policy against discrimination," said AAFP President-Elect John Meigs Jr., M.D.

Also in 2016, the Academy reaffirmed its stance on reparative, or "conversion," therapy, which it has opposed since 2007: "The AAFP recommends that parents, guardians, young people, and their families seek support and services that provide accurate information on sexual orientation and sexuality, increase family and school support, and reduce rejection of sexual minority persons of all ages," as stated on the academy's website.

As Grivois-Shah points out, only five American states and Washington, D.C., have laws banning reparative therapy for minors. Therefore, the support of a major credible healthcare organization such as the AAFP can help influence both state and federal legislation.

"What our constituency is facing now is so much different from a decade ago," he observes. While he and his colleagues have had their fair share of challenges, they have been successful in persuading the AAFP as a whole—which he emphasizes has "strong and supportive" policies—to adopt stances on several large issues.

For example, "It took many years for us to incrementally get to the point where we had a strong policy supporting marriage equality," he says. But since 2012, the organization has officially supported it.

"There are things that we as physicians can do to help optimize LGBTQ health in the community," says Grivois-Shah. This means being educated and creating safe environments within the doctor's office, but also "going above and beyond" the clinic setting. "The voice of physicians really carries weight on these issues."

Truvada for PrEP

According to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, about 25,500 people in Chicago live with HIV or AIDS. Research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that more than one in five new HIV diagnoses in 2014 were for young people aged 13-24, with young gay and bisexual males accounting for most of those diagnoses. As the LGBTQ population is heavily affected by the disease, Ravi Grivois-Shah, M.D., MPH, clinical associate professor of family and community medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, says that both doctors and patients need to be aware of how they can help prevent it.

One of the most accessible—but not widely known—tools available for HIV prevention is PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis: daily prescription medications that people at high risk for contracting HIV can take to reduce that risk.

Truvada is the name of the drug recommended by major health organizations, and can be used both for PrEP and, with other medications, to treat the infection if contracted. Studies have proven its prevention effectiveness when taken daily in conjunction with practicing safer sex.

While few physicians are skilled in administering full HIV treatment, Truvada is an easily prescribed, low-risk, and accessible medication. (A study published in the Oxford Journal in early 2016 found that PrEP—specifically Truvada—"favorably compares to aspirin in terms of user safety.") If patients are familiar with Truvada, says Grivois-Shah, they will know to ask their physicians whether it is a viable option for them.

For patients outside urban settings, these resources are often difficult to come by. "A lot of communities don't have anybody" prepared or willing to offer those resources, he says.

The good news for Chicagoans is that there are several local resources that make Truvada financially accessible. For a current list of Chicago-area PrEP clinics and providers, visit the AIDS Foundation of Chicago web page at <http://www.aidschicago.org/i-need/prep/prep-clinics-and-providers>.



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LGBT Hall of Fame induction held on bittersweet evening

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

The day after the United States took a giant step into the unknown with Donald Trump's win in the general election for president, the Nov. 9 Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame induction ceremony held at the Chicago History Museum (CHM) celebrated the 12 members of the community, two friends of the community and two organizations whose contributions helped the fight for LGBTQ rights make equally sizeable steps forward.

It was the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus who got the standing-room-only audience to their feet with an inspiring rendition of the National Anthem. The arrival of each of the inductees to the CHM stage along with the speeches from the preceding guests kept them there.

"The road we walk is long and difficult," outgoing Hall of Fame co-chair Mary E. Morten said as she opened the ceremony. "That was not

going to be changed by one election. We still have a lot of work to do and now we must all come together, in ways that maybe we didn't even think about, to make sure that we continue to move forward and that we do not let anything with regards to rights or access be turned back. The call-to-action has never been greater than it is right now. Now, more than ever, we need to come together, to celebrate each other and hold each other up."

Chicago Commission on Human Relations Commissioner Mona Noriega seemed to echo the sentiments of many who were there not only to celebrate those individuals and organizations being honored but to lean on each other.

"I needed to be in community tonight," Noriega said, her voice cracking with emotion. "Tonight's celebration is about contributions and achievements. In the face of prejudice and discrimination, all of the inductees, all

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond



of us here tonight and some that we lost this year chose to act. We purposely and defiantly choose to make this world and city a better place for us to live in."

City of Chicago Deputy Mayor Andrea Zopp noted that the evening's opportunity for celebration was bittersweet.

"It was a tough night last night," she said. "We woke up feeling like 'our country turned its back on us.' I've been fielding calls and texts all day from people trying to process what happened and how we regain our footing and face a president who has spewed hate in so many directions for so many months."

"But we're here in community," she added. "We're here to recognize the power of what we can do when we stand up against hate. We're here to recognize the courage of the individuals who stood up at a time when it was dangerous, to fight on behalf of this community, to be part of what we can do when we come together."

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle struck an equally optimistic tone.

"In the last couple of years the majority of Americans have finally concluded that the LGBT community and LGBT equality is a matter of fairness and a core civil right," she said. "It's also clear that this community has played a key role in a host of other issues and concerns."

Preckwinkle cited the Orlando Pulse Night Club massacre in June of this year.

"We will not be taken back to a time when this community was not seen and not heard," she said. "We will not go back to a time when thousands of people were dying from AIDS. We will raise the visibility of trans women of color who are being killed at an alarming rate, we will take care of youth who are experiencing homelessness and seniors who are marginalized. While we have much to celebrate, we have a lot to do."

Before that work commenced, the names of the individuals and organizations who became Hall of Fame alumni in 2016 were read out by two 2015 Hall of Fame inductees; journalist, youth mentor and community leader Emmanuel Garcia alongside UIC Associate Professor and Clinical Psychologist Dr. Phoenix Matthews, Ph.D.

They included Robert Allerton (1873-1964) honored posthumously for his philanthropic work as the former president and trustee of the Art Institute and as a civil-rights activist who opened the door to the first legally recognized same-sex relationships (by adopting his adult partner); artist, musician and illustrator Tom Bachtell for his drawings and caricatures which appeared in magazines from The New Yorker, to Newsweek and Entertainment Weekly; Ronald E. Bogan who, in 1992, became the first man to publicly come out as gay in a major Chicago newspaper while still actively serving in the Chicago Police Department (CPD); Association for Latin Men for Action (ALMA) co-founder Román Buenrostro for his work with people living with HIV/AIDS; Hell in a Handbag Productions co-founder and artistic director David Cerda for his groundbreaking theatrical work; acclaimed graphic artist/designer David Csicsko for his artwork and stained glass mosaics which can be seen everywhere from the Belmont EL station to The White House.

Patrick Dennis (1921-1976) was also post-



Above, third from left: Dr. Yvonne Welbon.
Below, third from left: Ronald E. Bogan.
Photos by Gretchen Rachel Hammond



humously inducted as the author of 16 books, including the beloved classic Auntie Mame. Pride Action Network Executive Director, former executive director of Affinity Community Services and co-founder of the OUTSpoken storytelling series Kim L. Hunt was inducted for her tireless work in the community; openly gay physician Dr. Thomas Klein for his work on the front lines during the darkest days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic; activist Norma Seledon for her work elevating the women's, Latina, and LGBTQ communities; TransLatin@Coalition president Maritxa Vidal for her victories as a celebrated trans and Latinx community leader; and acclaimed filmmaker Dr. Yvonne Welbon for her work promoting understanding of the experience of Black lesbians, Black women, and the larger Black community.

The two Friends of the Community inducted were former Governor of Illinois Patrick Quinn for his support of the LGBTQ community during his tenure and The John Marshall Law School for its ceaseless advocacy of LGBT civil rights.

The organizations inducted were Chicago non-profit Amigas Latinas for its 20-year legacy of advocacy between 1995 and 2015 and the Uptown bar Big Chicks, which was honored as a hub of community events and performances and a longstanding center of LGBTQ fundraising and sponsorship. Michelle Fire, owner of the bar, accepted the award.

The two children of Allerton accepted his posthumous honor, and since Hunt was out of town, her two daughters accepted for her. Carrie Barnett of Gerber/Hart Library accepted the award for Bogan.

This year's inductees will be on display at Harold Washington Library in downtown Chicago starting soon, and on exhibit for a few months.



Robert Castillo with some Amigas Latinas members, from left: Lydia Vega, Mary Torres, Mona Noriega and Evette Cardona.
Photos by Vernon Hester

SIDEBAR

ALMA hosts reception for Latinx Hall of Fame inductees

BY VERNON HESTER

On Nov. 10, the Association of Latino/as Motivating Action (ALMA) held a reception for this year's Latinx inductees of The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. The informal event took place at Angel's Restaurant, 230 S. Ashland Ave., and focused on the need to keep moving forward after the results of the Nov. 8 presidential election. The event also highlighted the importance and need for community and education.

Honorees in attendance from the induction ceremony that took place the previous evening included Roman Buenrostro, Norma Seledon, David Cerda and members of Amigas Latinas. Recipient Maritxa Vidal was not present for the ALMA reception.

Guests were treated to an open bar and a Mexican buffet, with ALMA Board President Julio Rodriguez opening the reception. Speaking at length on the contributions of the inductees to not only the Latinx community but the LGBTQ community as a whole, Rodriguez spotlighted each recipient.

Buenrostro spoke about the need to create family, whether it be biological or community-based. Cerda spoke about his past experiences in theater, including being told constantly, "You'll never get cast." He said his response was to write and produce his own plays, with the exposure allowing him to create his own niche.

Former members of the now-defunct Amigas Latinas group shared stories about creating their own space because there was a need for a Latina organization for queer and lesbian women that was not being served.

Activist/educator Seledon said she had a hard time believing that she had been inducted into either institution.

The night had the shadow of Donald Trump's victory as the newly elected president of the United States hanging over it. Many of the younger members at the event were clearly disturbed by the president-elect's promise to dismantle President Obama's attempts at immigration reform. The older members vowed to continue fighting at all costs.



Norma Seledon (left) with Julio Rodriguez.



David Cerda (left) with Julio Rodriguez.



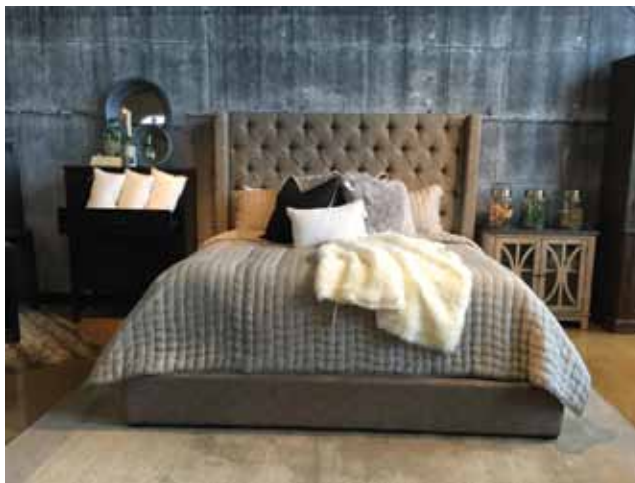
in the LIFE
Manny Joson
 TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOSON

- **Job title**
 Visual merchandiser, Ashley Furniture
 you from doing something you love.”)
- **Favorite Chicago bar**
 “Neighborhood bars, such as Rogers Park Social and Hydrate for dancing.”
- **Hobbies**
 Working out, hiking, biking and traveling—and then “exploring the museums, arts and architecture of this city and on our travels.”
- **Neighborhood**
 Rogers Park
- **Relationship status**
 His partner is Rick Flores, a senior programmer. They have been together for 16 years. (“He is the one (who) encouraged me to pursue my love of design. He believes in my talent and always reminds to never give up on my dreams and don’t let fear stop

Manny Joson had just completed his bachelor’s degree in interior design from Harrington College of Design and was working as an interior designer. “Things were looking pretty good. I felt my professional career was moving along smoothly,” he said.
 But then the recession hit. His firm downsized and Joson was let go. So he did a few freelance design jobs, but they were few and far between. “I then had the luck to get a position as (a)

orchestrating the space planning.
 “I feel like the captain of a ship, directing and maintaining a beautiful image.”
 Joson takes pride in his finished work and one corporate executive, after reviewing his store, said, “We need more Mannys.” Joson, naturally, was “very proud and validated.”
 “I hope to continue to grow in my visual merchandising; I am open to explore more in this field and take on new challenges,” Joson

Joson has done residential work for Ravenswood Manor homes as well as places in Lincoln Park, downtown Chicago and elsewhere. “I had the opportunity to work on a commercial project for Columbia College and a store front at Navy Pier and local boutique stores,” he said. “I would like to keep building my reputation and am open to the possibilities to work on exciting new projects, be they residential, the hospitality industry or commercial.”



visual merchandiser for American Girl, which was my introduction to this profession,” said Joson, who now works for Ashley Furniture. “I love designing spaces; this was a perfect fit for me.”
 Joson started managing a smaller store and now is in charge of the flagship store of Ashley Furniture. “I manage the showroom, making sure the sales staff present the store according to established floor plans,” he said. “I create vignettes for furniture displays, incorporating accessories to facilitate and drive sales of both furniture and accessories. I also maintain high visual standards by directing staff and

said. “I keep my eye open and see what’s going on as far as trends in the fashion, interior design fields, as well as the visual arts ... and then try to apply what I learn in my works.”
 Interior design is Joson’s first love and he’s been doing it since he was a kid, creating and re-arranging furniture and more. “I always knew that my passion in design would be part of my life and work,” he said. “I love architecture, I love the aesthetics of beautiful furniture and taking that vision into someone’s life at home or work ... I find it very rewarding and I like my client’s happy reactions. I take a lot of pride in my work.”



HRC Chicago gala raises money to aid in fight against Trump

Citing a need to counter a wave of possible anti-LGBT developments in the wake of the presidential election of Donald Trump, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) sought to add some money to its more-than-\$16-million budget at its Chicago fundraiser held at the Hyatt Regency on Nov. 13.

Following a cocktail reception, speakers from the organization’s Chicago chapter and national offices offered condemnations of Trump and Vice-President-elect Mike Pence.

However, Trump’s win (and Clinton’s simultaneous loss) was not the only result acknowledged. Another involved newly elected U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), who was noted for defeating Republican incumbent Mark Kirk, whom the HRC endorsed until he made a racist statement during a pre-election debate.

HRC Senior Vice President Programs Research & Training Mary Beth Maxwell discussed her organization’s “get out the vote” efforts both for the Clinton campaign and in North Carolina while adding that the HB2 bathroom bill was designed not entirely to target transgender people, but to “strip all of us of our rights.”

She then went on to ask for money “in order to fight back and protect our families, jobs, safety [and] our right to serve in the military.”

Transparent star Amy Landecker was given the HRC’s Ally for Equality Award, trans celebrity Angelica Ross was presented with the Visibility Award and MillerCoors was acknowledged with the Corporate Equality Award, while out country singer Ty Herndon entertained the crowd.



Above: Angelica Ross. Below: Amy Landecker. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald



viewpoints



Lee
LYNCH

THE AMAZON TRAIL Our only hope

The calamity of this election has confirmed an unimaginably deep disturbance in our society. As always, the progress we have made brought along with it a tailspin of backlash. In the endless cycle of history, there is no choice but to press on immediately and cohesively toward our goal of an inclusive society.

I'm not going to write about the monsters poised to devour the United States of America. I'm not going to predict the plans of the cabal of exclusion, nor point out that we just chose to put into power our very own ISIS-without-turbans.

I will write about a dawning consciousness that it wasn't only the monster-elect himself we needed to fear, but the mob response to his purposely seductive words. The combination of deliberately dangerous words and poorly informed people can destroy our democracy.

I've read that the Republican campaign consulted with linguists to rouse that sector of the population. Author Renee Bess writes, "It's hard for me to believe that Trump knew, in an empirical way, what he was doing. He might have simply stumbled upon 'pay dirt' when he gave his first couple off the cuff speeches. He saw he was being successful, so he decided to stick to his script."

Given the man, I think Renee's correct, and his handlers were canny enough not to get in the way of the effective stampede of

repetitive scare words. His followers were all too glad someone wanted to champion them, even someone the like of whom has never insulted the nation by presuming to govern it. This walking ego of a power and money hungry man with his misguided hair and exaggerated New York accent spoke like an actor playing a huckster on the Coney Island midway, a make-believe man of the people.

Like many others, when the election was called, I became too ill and despondent to think. In her poem "Wild Geese," Mary Oliver comforts her readers. "You only have to let the soft animal of your body / love what it loves." I could only let myself burrow deep and far from the fray.

Quivering like a scared rabbit, I thought, run for the hills! In our burrow, my sweetheart and I talked of moving to Ireland, and of not wanting to go anywhere at all.

I finally got on line. Tony Valenzuela, Executive Director of Lambda Literary, wrote to members, "Our LGBTQ books and the authors who write them are part of the solution to ensure our community remains strong. Readers and publishers are part of the solution as well. We at Lambda Literary are going to continue doing this work stronger than before. ... The next four years may be full of outrage—Lambda Literary wants to be a source of light for our community."

These were the first words that raised my spirits. Maybe as high as a candlewick. I'd been trying to write and could not stay awake. I was nodding over my computer, periodically passing out.

Then someone posted these famous Toni Morrison lines: "This is precisely the time when artists go to work. There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal."

I received an email from our small town lo-

cal chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Our tenacious chapter president is reaping the rewards of her work. She wrote, "...the election has sparked a huge interest in ... NOW. We have had more than 20 people contact us today expressing interest in joining NOW. Frankly, this is totally unprecedented." Perhaps aware women have declared this election to be our final insult.

The New York Times reported that, although the incoming administration is acting to repeal it, "More than 100,000 Americans rushed to buy insurance under [The Affordable Care Act] on Wednesday, the biggest turnout yet during this year's sign-up period." This stirring in the populace, could it be a sign that we—and our legislators in D.C.—will fight to keep our health insurance from being gutted to benefit already big pockets?

The day after the election, that very next day, GM announced layoffs of 2,000 workers in two of the states that elected this new president. Will the laid off voters make sure everyone they know votes in two years? And get out the vote for active, hard-working, smart, caring candidates like Hillary Clinton, Harry Reid, Elizabeth Warren, and Bernie Sanders?

It's said that history is cyclical. We need this cycle to be short-lived. We are many; we are powerful. Never mind the demonstrations and the memes. Support NOW, support Black Lives Matter, support The Audubon Society, support Social Security Works, Standing Rock, LPAC, just get out there and work—work together—to make Congress as blue as the blue on our flag.

In the words of Princess Leia, from the first Star Wars film: "Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi; you're my only hope." Obi Wan, of course, is all of us.

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November 2016

letters

TLDEF's message

Dear Editor:

This is the first Veterans' Day on which transgender service members serve openly, recognized by our government for their authentic selves and honored in the open, rather than in the shadows. We thank all transgender military personnel for their service to our country and our community. You have built—along with our allies who serve at your side—upon the strong foundation that countless veterans forged over decades of advocacy and vigilance, showing us as a nation that change, in even the most conservative of institutions, is possible if we keep speaking out.

This Veterans' Day is also bittersweet, falling just days after our united progressive communities were dealt a serious blow. We at TLDEF understand that many in the trans community fear a Trump Administration, believing that the many advances ushered in, by and through the Obama Administration could evaporate overnight. During this time of deep unease, let us hold one another close and acknowledge the concerns we are all experiencing, and help one another to get the support we need.

Though we go forward on what will likely be a difficult path, we need not lose hope, and we need not reconcile ourselves to second class citizenship. Transgender people have survived and thrived through the most hostile of political administrations. We are a battle-tested and resilient group. Be assured, our rights movement cannot be silenced by the stroke of a pen, even if that pen is held by President-elect

Trump. Indeed, the many forms of protection put in place by the Obama Administration and the federal courts cannot all be undone overnight. State and city law protections, like court orders recognizing our names and genders and myriad nondiscrimination laws, where available, are not at risk. TLDEF and our sister organizations stand at the ready to protect each and every advancement we won over the last eight years, and we are determined to continue to push, charting new paths forward.

TLDEF will continue to stand strong on behalf of all those we serve. We will redouble our organizing efforts and reaffirm our commitment to transgender equality. We will never waver as we carry out our mission to ensure that all transgender people are treated equitably under the law, and with dignity and respect in our daily lives.

Going forward, we must be united within the trans community and we must also continue to forge alliances with other progressive communities that will also face obstacles over the next four years. TLDEF stands in solidarity with all progressive communities, recognizing that the dignity and humanity of our fellow human beings is not something which is up for debate.

As our community and other progressive communities come to terms with our new reality, be assured that there will be many resources marshaled in our communities to help you. TLDEF will continue to fight in federal and state courts across the country to ensure that the most vulnerable among the trans community are afforded expert legal representation at the highest levels. We will continue to file friend-of-the-court briefs, including a brief in

the United States Supreme Court in early January 2017, advocating for Gavin Grimm's right to use the boys restroom at his high school in Virginia. TLDEF's name change project will continue to operate, pairing trans people across the nation with lawyers at leading law firms to ensure barriers to recognition of our authentic selves are minimized. TLDEF is also working to create concrete action steps to provide our community with the resources and expert guidance needed so you can advocate for yourself, your families, and your communities over the next few years. Please keep an eye out in the coming weeks for this guidance. In the meantime, for those of you desiring peace of mind about your federal identity documents such as passports and social security records, here is information from a sister organization that you can use to begin the amendment process.

We are a resilient group. We have been through a lot over a long period of time, and yet, through community, love and faith, we have created room for ourselves and our loved ones to flourish. We well know that nothing is guaranteed in life. We have always found ways, through community, to create a voice for ourselves. And through community, we will support and help each other to survive, and thrive, and have our voices heard.

Jillian Weiss
Executive director
Transgender Legal Defense
& Education Fund (TLDEF)

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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WCT reviews *I Am My Own Wife*.

Photo of Delia Kropp and Scott Duff by Michael Brosilow

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

A personal AIDS crisis

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Chicago is getting a double dose of drama from Seattle-based playwright Karen Hartman. The rolling world premiere of her play *Roz and Ray* is now at Victory Gardens Theater following an earlier run at Seattle Repertory Theatre, while *The Book of Joseph* gets its world premiere in January at Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

"My husband is from Chicago and my mother was born in Chicago, so I'm delighted to be a part of the Chicago theater season," said Hartman, who generally uses the expression "I was married to a woman, but now I'm married to a man" to be open about her bisexuality and she fits into the LGBTQ community acronym.

The commissioning of *The Book of Joseph*, a fact-based drama about the life, letters and American descendants of World War II-era Jewish Polish emigre Joseph A. Hollander, actually spurred Hartman to explore an aspect of her own troubled family history by writing *Roz and Ray*. It all stems from Hartman's late father and his career as a pediatric hematologist-oncologist from the 1970s through the early 1990s.

"He treated children with hemophilia during the 'golden age' of a new medication, Factor 8, which allowed very sick patients to lead normal healthy lives, something akin to what injectable insulin has done for kids with diabetes," Hartman said in a statement. "Then HIV entered the blood supply. His patients got very sick and most of them died of AIDS. Families and patients felt betrayed and enraged. My father and his colleagues, previously cherished as healers, were blamed as murderers."

Hartman didn't want to write a biographical play, but she did want to explore personal, political and historical ramifications of the situation and era. So Hartman switched the doctor's gender (Mary Beth Fisher plays Roz), while the titular Ryan (Steppenwolf ensemble member James Vincent Meredith) became a single father with twin hemophiliac sons.

"I feel that Karen is one of the few great political playwrights in the American theater," said out Victory Gardens artistic director Chay Yew, who directed *Roz and Ray* in Seattle and now Chicago. "Not only this time has she tried to find a way to talk about something that's personal with her father and indeed herself, she's also brought into huge relief a hidden population and maybe an invisible population who are not given enough time on our stag-

es—that was the community of hemophiliacs during the beginning of the AIDS plague."

Hartman also heightened the drama in her play by making Ray a closeted man who has sex with other men.

"I got the idea around 2005, but sat with it because the juvenile hemophilia aspect of the AIDS crisis was just part of the play. To write about AIDS without a gay character would lose the central tragedy of this epidemic, which is because of the stigma toward gay men and secondarily drug users, research didn't happen and our response was slow," Hartman said. "That social piece of shame and stigma and unequal treatment by the government is a key reason why AIDS spiraled out of control the way that it did."

Hartman said the role of Ray is written with some flexibility around the casting. So it wasn't an issue when Yew decided to cast Black actors as Ray in his productions to also reflect how the African-American community was particularly hit hard by AIDS.

"I was interested to explore what it means to be on the down low. This man is so heavily closeted, it also allowed AIDS to be something that was very unspoken in the community for it to be a huge outbreak," Yew said. "It also creates a larger racial status and a gulf for (Ray and Roz) to broach, so I think that's very helpful for this play."

With back-to-back Seattle and Chicago productions of *Roz and Ray*, Hartman has enjoyed the experience of writing for different casts who bring different questions to the characters and the historical context. Hartman also said *Roz and Ray* is now taking on a different resonance for the LGBTQ community following the recent U.S. presidential election.

"This play takes place during a very hostile time during the Reagan years mostly and Bush Sr., and it presents a sickening disconnect between the government and the needs of the people and it's based upon a hate and fear and discrimination," Hartman said. "I'm sorry to say that I think that we are leaving an era when many of us have felt some kinship with our government and entering the era of a hostile government, so there may be lessons from studying the Reagan era. We can only hope that it won't be worse than that."

Hartman's *Roz and Ray* continues through Sunday, Dec. 11, at Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. Performances are 7:30



Roz and Ray playwright Karen Hartman.
PR photo

p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 3 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays. Previews through Nov. 17 are \$15-\$40. Regular run tickets are \$15-\$60; call 773-871-3000 or visit VictoryGardens.org.

Hartman's *The Book of Joseph* plays from

'Queer, Ill + Okay' Dec. 9-17

Joseph Varisco, in association with Oracle Theater, is presenting the fourth year of *Queer, Ill + Okay*, a multidisciplinary performance series featuring LGBTQ artists living with HIV and other chronic illnesses.

Queer, Ill + Okay will be presented Dec. 9-17 at Oracle Theater, 1802 W. Bernice Ave.

The featured performers will be Avery R. Young, Angel Katz, Bea Cordelia, Deven Casey, Dirty Grits and Vasilius Papapitsios, Emma Alamo, JuJu Minxx, Kay Ulanday Barret, Lindsey Lee, Lucas Baisch, Michelle Zacarias, Morgan McNaught, Phillip Lambert and Tim'm West.

Queer, Ill + Okay is an annual multidisciplinary performance series exploring, challenging and reinventing narratives about the lives of queer individuals and their relation-

ships to HIV and other forms of mental and chronic illness.

Tickets are on sale now PublicAccessTheatre.org.

'Conversation with Doug Wright' Nov. 19

About Face Theatre (AFT) will host A Conversation with Doug Wright, playwright of the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning play *I Am My Own Wife* and the Broadway-bound musical *War Paint*.

The Q&A will be held Saturday, Nov. 19, at 12:30 p.m. at The Eldis Neeson Theatre at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave. in Chicago.

Tickets are currently available at AboutFaceTheatre.com (suggested donation of \$15).

THEATER REVIEW

I Am My Own Wife

Playwright: Doug Wright
At: About Face at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773-975-8150;
AboutFaceTheatre.com; \$40
Runs through: Dec. 10

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The 2002 original of *I Am My Own Wife* was doubly remarkable: first, because it began life at Chicago's About Face Theatre and, second, for Jefferson Mays' tour-de-force performance in multiple roles.

Seeing this radically different staging by About Face artistic director Andrew Volkoff, I perceive that the brilliance of the original one-person production obscured the story. It's not about fascinating trans individual Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, German survivor of the Nazis and Communists. Rather, it's about Charlotte and playwright Doug Wright as an onstage character, and the back-and-forth between them sometimes obscures the line between protagonist and antagonist.

Four actors now play the various roles. Ninos Baba and Matt Holzfeind capably, and often amusingly, divide the secondary roles, leaving the principal roles to Scott Duff as Wright and Delia Kropp as Charlotte. This allows Duff and Kropp to fully inhabit their characters all the time, even when not speaking or directly engaged in stage action. Wright becomes much



**Delia Kropp in
I Am My Own Wife.**
 Photo by
 Michael Brosilow

more important as an active participant, which is an advantage. This approach could not have been attempted without the okay of Wright, who will be in town Saturday, Nov. 19, to discuss it at the Museum of Contemporary Art. (Perhaps, too, he'll talk about *War Paint*, his Broadway-bound musical that was tried out this summer at the Goodman Theatre.)

Charlotte von Mahlsdorf (1928-2002), born Lothar Barfelde, was notable for her full-time trans persona and her cultural career as founder of an important Berlin museum, for which she was given a high government award after German reunification. Revelations that she was a stasi (East German secret police) informer, and

made-up or altered certain biographical facts, tarnished her reputation in the last decade of her life, but also revealed the complexity of her character. Writing soon after her death, Wright was free to call attention to these contradictions, which underscore the moral ambiguities of survival under Nazi and Soviet regimes, ambiguities not unique to Charlotte. The one thing Wright ignores in his portrait is her love life (yes, she had one), preferring instead to create an almost asexual, grandmotherly figure who enjoys observing sexual behaviors around her but not participating.

This impression is due, in part, to the serene character created by Delia Kropp, who is older

than most interpreters of Charlotte and is mistress of a perpetual Mona Lisa smile, at once knowing and aloof. Kropp is utterly charming, whether Charlotte makes telling remarks or cagily changes the subject. Duff's personable portrayal balances Wright's awe of Charlotte with the writer's need to ask questions. Volkoff and cast understand the work's humor, too.

Brian Prather's set—round black platform, white double doors, antique furniture—has simple elegance, while John Kelly's lighting is effectively subtle.

THEATER REVIEW

Shrewish

Playwright: Barbara Zahora
At: Artemisia at Edge Theater, 5451 N. Broadway
Tickets: \$25
Runs through: Nov. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

A Wyrd Sister walks into a bar—one of Macbeth's Wyrd Sisters, called "witches" by unreconstructed fozzles, to be exact—where she encounters a young man acting like a jerk.

At first, she and her four girlfriends attempt to punish him by turning him into an ass, but when this does nothing to change his behavior—he's already an ass, you see—they decide

instead to teach him a lesson. Assisted by their sorcery, they dress him in feminine garb and rechristen him Katherine. Soon he finds himself married to a virtual stranger, the boisterous foreigner Petruchio, and bullied by the men of Padua (played by the other Sisters).

Does this premise sound familiar? It should, since 95 percent of the text is lifted from Shakespeare's Greatest Hits—which is the whole point.

Cross-gender casting is hardly unique nowadays. Chicago playgoers can recall all-female Shakespeare at the now-disbanded Footsteps and the currently operating Babes With Blades companies (and let's not forget Glenda Jackson's *Lear* at the Old Vic). Switching players' sexes often facilitate fresh interpretations of well-known narratives by discouraging actors from simply aping their predecessors. Speeches

previously unquestioned may suddenly take on significance—for example, the importance of money in deciding daughters' fates is thrown into focus as we listen to fathers haggle with suitors over dowries. Is it any wonder that Bianca, striving to evade the indignity imposed on her elder sibling, resorts to subterfuge beyond that offered by Shakespeare?

While playwright Barbara Zahora has plenty of fun divesting our hapless male of his privilege, to have him emerge from his experience ready to accept subservience as his lot, however, would be merely to exchange one injustice for another, leaving unchallenged the divisive dynamic at its source. Reconciliation, not humiliation, being our author's goal, our hitherto clueless pilgrim, once freed of his spell, continues to defend his right to speak his mind and make his own decisions ("I see a woman

may be made a fool, if she have not spirit to resist."). When the Sisters remind him that they are persecuted for expressing like sentiments, he vows to assist them in their quest for empowerment.

Dan Wilson and India Gurley make a charming Katherine and Petruchio, but the refreshingly unconventional phrasing and varied vocal harmonies (very important in a production employing exclusively treble voices) are the province of the quartet of actors portraying the 16 remaining characters—in particular, Mary Ann de la Cruz' puckish servant, though Veronda G. Carey nearly steals the show as first, the baritone-chested Gremio, and later, a purring bling-bedecked trophy wife.

MUSICAL REVIEW

End of the Rainbow

Playwright: Peter Quilter
At: Porchlight Music Theatre at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773-327-5252;
PorchlightMusicTheatre.org; \$45-\$51
Runs through: Dec. 3

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

It wouldn't be inaccurate to describe Peter Quilter's play *End of the Rainbow* as "the Judy Garland breakdown show." No doubt catty contingents of gay men will attend hoping for an over-the-top bio similar to the way that Mommie Dearest forever camped up the life of fellow Hollywood icon Joan Crawford for generations of drag queens to imitate.

But *End of the Rainbow*, now making a powerful Chicago premiere courtesy of Porchlight Music Theatre, is actually a devastatingly sobering look at the legendary film star near the end of her tragic life in 1960s London. The play does depict Garland pleading for her pills and liquor, but these moments are largely played for serious and unsettling drama instead of humor in director Michael Weber's assured production.



**Angela Ingersoll
as Judy Garland
in End of the
Rainbow.**
 Photo by
 Kelsey Jorissen

Yet it's not all gloom and doom, since *End of the Rainbow* is chock full of knock 'em-dead musical numbers like "Just in Time" and "Come Rain or Come Shine" that serve as sterling reminders as to why Garland has been deemed one of the greatest entertainers of the 20th century. The play demands an amazing singing actress to embody Garland, and Angela Ingersoll perfectly fits the role.

Ingersoll has fine-tuned her Garland sound through years of performing acclaimed tribute cabarets. So all of Ingersoll's inflections and quivers in her powerful belting voice enthrallingly sound just like Garland.

Ingersoll's fragile frame also frighteningly looks like late-life Garland. This is important,

since Quilter's play reminds audiences that as a child Garland was not only often bullied to perform, but she became an addict when given uppers and downers to meet MGM's exhausting filming schedules.

Ingersoll's co-stars are no slouch either. As Mickey Deans, Garland's fifth husband, Kyle Hatley gets across the desperation of a young man who realizes that his plan of glomming onto Garland as a manager and meal ticket is not going to be smooth. In the fictional role of British accompanist Anthony Chapman, Jon Steinhagen does amazing double duty as both the production's music director and acting out a character symbolizing Garland's legion of gay fans who identified with her music and private struggles.

Porchlight's *End of the Rainbow* isn't perfect. Steinhagen and fellow actor Felipe Jorge could improve their British accents, while Christopher Rhoton's set designs feel constrained by space limitations as they shift between Garland's suite at the Ritz Hotel and the glitzy Talk of the Town nightclub.

But these quibbles shouldn't detract from a show that both showcases the amazing talent of Garland and the actress portraying her. Far from being a campy hack job, *End of the Rainbow* paints a tragic portrait of Garland whose spellbinding voice was paradoxically both a blessing and a curse.

CRITICS' PICKS



Hamilton, The PrivateBank Theatre, in an open run. The hype and ticket demand may be overwhelming, but Lin-Manuel Miranda's masterful melding of U.S. history and current pop and hip-hop music is truly inspirational and a work of great genius. SCM

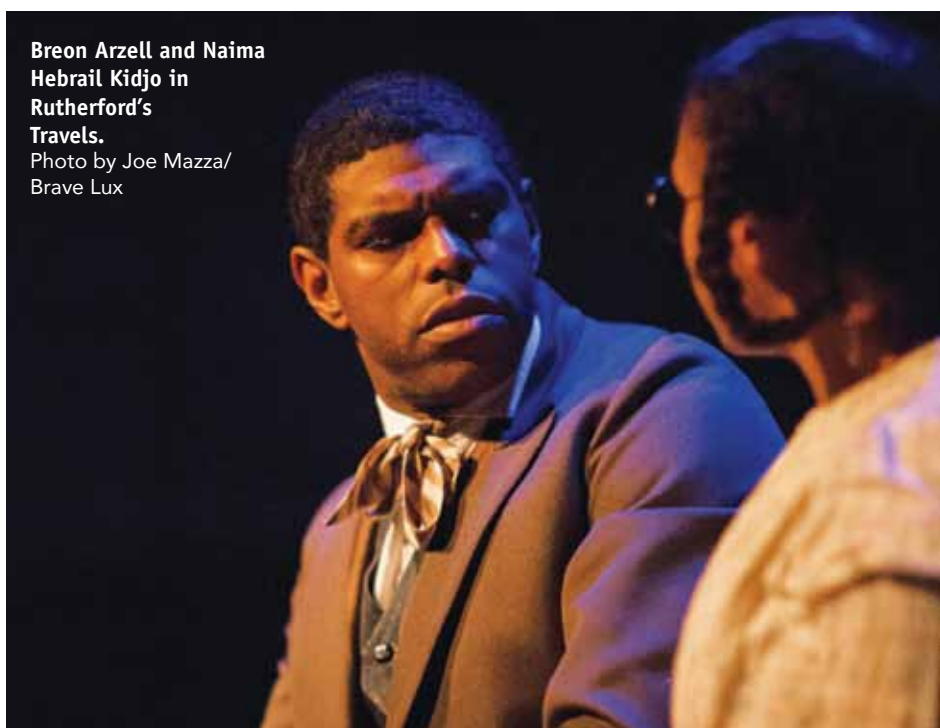
The Last Wife, TimeLine Theatre, through Dec. 18. Big, meaty-but-intelligent performances drive playwright Kate Henning's tale of a woman's survival and power in a man's world, ostensibly about King Henry VIII and Catherine Parr, the only one of Henry's wives to survive him, but very much a modern work. JA

The Magic Play, Goodman Theatre, through Nov. 20. Prestidigitator Brett Schneider is the hero in Andrew Hinderaker's superbly-crafted tale of an unlucky-in-love magician who learns to, well, let the cards fall where they may. MSB

Red Velvet, Raven Theatre, through Nov. 27. Making history was never easy, as the real-life story of Ira Aldridge (vividly portrayed by Brandon Greenhouse) and England's first recorded attempt at racial-accurate casting in 1833 illustrates. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
 and Morgan

Breon Arzell and Naima Hebrail Kidjo in Rutherford's Travels.
Photo by Joe Mazza/Brave Lux



THEATER REVIEW

Rutherford's Travels

Playwright: adapted by Ilesa Duncan and David Barr III, from the novel by Charles Johnson
At: Pegasus Theatre at Chicago Dramatists, 773 N. Aberdeen St.
Tickets: \$30
Runs through: Dec. 4

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Virtually every culture includes in its folklore tales recounting the adventures of social misfits who forsake home and kin to roam the wide world, and in doing so, come to discover their place in the cosmos.

The chief contribution of the North American variety is the significance of nature itself in the hero's journey to maturity. Peer Gynt and Lemuel Gulliver might observe alternative civilizations, but in a nation spanning an entire continent, the role played by wilderness primeval in precipitating mortals to contemplate their legacies is inevitable.

That's what co-authors Ilesa Duncan and David Barr III see in Charles Johnson's *The Middle Passage*, anyway. The results of their expertise is a thrilling page-to-stage—400 pages and a 25 foot-by-20-foot stage, to be specific—yarn, narrated in story-theater fashion, drawing on classics like *Huckleberry Finn* and *Moby Dick*, while also referencing real-life events such as the Amisted uprising.

It is 1830. Our restless soldier-of-fortune is

Rutherford Calhoun, one of two brothers freed from slavery by a kindly, but filially biased, owner. After fleeing the family farm in Illinois for the port city of New Orleans, where he forges a career as a card sharp and pickpocket, Rutherford's bachelorhood is threatened by a bluestocking damsel determined to banish his wicked ways by marrying him. He escapes by stowing aboard an outgoing ship, only to discover that his getaway vehicle is bound for Africa, its goal to bring home a cargo of natives to be sold for slaves—not just any natives, but members of the much-feared Allmuseri tribe, said to possess occult powers.

While at sea, Rutherford has an opportunity to observe a microcosm of society, all of whom exhibit the contradictions to be found in a complex and imperfect universe: even the

cruel Captain Falcon must answer to merciless masters, and Rousseau's myth of the noble savage collapses beneath a prisoner insurrection. Rutherford comes to realize the importance of individual actions, vowing to find his peace on his own initiative.

Though Pegasus Theatre's cramped rental quarters at Chicago Dramatists cannot quite contain the spectacle this literary genre demands, Barr and Duncan's text is exemplary in its efficiency. Likewise praiseworthy is the ensemble led by Breon Arzell as the picaresque Rutherford (also featuring memorable character work by Ron Quade, Nelson Rodriguez, Gary Houston and newcomer Naima Hebrail Kidjo). When a play needs nothing more than a bigger room and budget, its future is auspicious.

 **SPOTLIGHT**

Plays written and directed by women are the focus of Idle Muse Theatre Company's annual **Athena Festival**. Company member Sara Robinson curates the festival which features plays from Chicago, New York and California. Idle Muse Theatre Company's Athena Festival plays at Jackalope Theatre's The Frontier, 1106 W. Thorndale Ave., Chicago. Performances on Saturday, Nov. 19, feature Tiffany Oglesby's *Where Have They Gone?* at 2 p.m. and Rae Binstock's *Watch Me Burn* at 6 p.m. Performances on Sunday, Nov. 20, feature Shualee Cook's *Tempest in a Teapot* at 2 p.m. and Jenny Seidelman's *Reckoning* at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 to \$30. For more information, call 773-340-9438 or visit IdleMuse.org.

Playwright Tiffany Oglesby's *Where Have They Gone?* is part of the Athena Festival. Photo courtesy of Idle Muse Theatre Company



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DANCIN' FEATS

Production aims to '[Trans]form' dance community

[Trans]formation.

Photo courtesy of Anna Rose li-Epstein

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

Nothing Without a Company (Nwac) has been pushing the boundaries of live theater in Chicago since 2005, with a specific focus on creating artistic opportunities for LGBTQ voices and stories.

Anna-Rose li-Epstein started Nwac with her wife, Hannah; together, the couple was voted one of Windy City Times' 30 under 30 in 2014. The group's latest project is a collaboration with The Living Canvas, a company that creates live art by casting projections onto the nude form. In the 1980s, Pete Guither began using the human body as a canvas in his photography, and extended the idea to live performance in 2001 by "clothing" performers in light and projected images throughout an evening.

Actor/director Gaby Labotka is the link between the two companies, having worked for both, she brought the idea of a collaboration to li-Epstein, who immediately saw an amazing opportunity to provide a new type of platform for trans and gender non-conforming actors and performers. The result is [Trans]formation, a series of vignettes that premiered Nov. 17 at the Flat Iron Building that is devised and performed by transgender, genderqueer, intersex and non-binary artists in the style of The Living Canvas.

Professional dancer/choreographer Darling Squire (aka Darling Shear) made their debut with Nwac at the company's inaugural gala, in which Darling was crowned "Queen of the Dead" after a show-stopping burlesque performance. Darling recreates, re-stages and re-enacts characters from classic dance and film genres, but with a hermaphroditic lens. Upon coronation at Nwac's gala, they are now co-choreographing, acting and dancing in [Trans]formation. In an interview with Windy City Times, Darling talked about how audience members are sometimes surprised by their dancing.

"I thought it was common knowledge that I dance, but I guess not," they said. "People are aware that I'm a dancer... they just don't know how much training I have." Darling attended North Springs Charter School of the Arts and Sciences in Sandy Springs, Georgia, training in ballet, modern, jazz and African dance, and later working a long list of reputable choreographers and learning Gaga, a popular style of contemporary dance developed by Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin. Darling settled in Chicago in 2011, and their classical training continues to infuse their work as a performer. However, Darling's career transcends the typical dancer's path of performing with a company.

While the LGBTQ community is widely accept-

ed and embraced by the dance community, it remains a largely heteronormative artform that is still hooked on clear delineations of masculine and feminine, and embraces stereotypical, binary ideas about gender. So for a classically trained, transgender and gender non-conforming dancers such as Darling, working with aesthetics (and ideologies) of many, if not most, choreographers constantly pits one's identity as a transgender person against one's identity as a dancer.

Fortunately, it doesn't have to be like that. Queer and gender non-conforming artists are driving a new dialogue in the theater and performance art worlds that confronts the stereotypes often present in dance, and Darling has found their voice as an artist in projects that are off the beaten path. But given their training and tremendous facility, I asked if they wished that companies were more accepting of transgender dancers. Did they opt for the avant-garde world out of choice or necessity?

"Back in the day, when I was a wee one," they said, "I always knew I'm a soloist. I can do group choreography and I love group choreography, but I'm a soloist. Working as a soloist gives Darling the freedom to use improvisation liberally, and like a baker kneading bread or a draper handling fabric, they would rather not overwork it. "I'll wait until I'm in the space to see where my body takes me," they said. "It's a little bit more genuine for me. I try to not touch it too much. ... [Dancing in a company] was never something that I actively wanted to do."

So it's a little ironic that the company called Nothing Without a Company recruited Darling, the dancer without a company, to work with it. li-Epstein and [Trans]formation co-director Labotka gave the ultimatum, daring Darling to show up at the first rehearsal. It was a wager that panned out, though Darling insists they would rather be behind the scenes. In keeping with Darling's choreographic values, the dancing in [Trans]formation is not entirely set; there's a clear structure for the group to follow, but room for improvisation to occur in the moment and some highlighting moments for the two other cast members who have dance training as well.

But what makes [Trans]formation different from everything else is use of nude trans and gender non-conforming bodies as a canvas. The performers represent a wide spectrum of bodies—in some cases bodies that do not match their gender identities. "This is addressed in the show," said li-Epstein, who goes on to explain that many of the performers identify as "they," do not subscribe to a male or female representation of their bodies, and therefore

have no reason to cover or alter them. While most of the six performers will be fully nude, those who are transitioning may opt to cover parts of their bodies in flesh-colored tights to expose what they feel is a truer representation of their bodies. Though undressed, the images projected on the body are what clothe them, transforming their bodies into, well, pretty much anything they could dream of and building on the Living Canvas' mission to "celebrate and nurture the beauty and expressive power of all human bodies."

[Trans]formation runs through Dec. 17 at Collaboration Studios in the Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. Each performance will conclude with a talkback, and an (optional) opportunity for audience members to join the cast and experience in what it feels like to be transformed as a living canvas—clothed or unclothed. Tickets are available at nothingwithoutacompany-thelivingcanvas-transformation.brownpapertickets.com/.



Ed Jones as Rip Nelson.
Photo by Rick Aguilar Studios

'Rip Nelson' to run Nov. 20-Dec. 30

Hell in a Handbag Productions is running David Cerda's world-premiere comedy The Rip Nelson Holiday Spectacular Nov. 20-Dec. 30 at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.

Handbag ensemble member Ed Jones stars as Rip Nelson, a mash-up of iconic television celebrities Paul Lynde, Rip Taylor and Charles Nelson Reilly. Joining Rip on this bizarre holiday romp is his trusted make-up woman, Gladys (Lori Lee) and a cavalcade of stars circa 1982, including: Dom Deluise (Tommy Bullington), Bruce Jenner (Chazie Bly), magician Doug Henning (David Lipschutz), Liza Minnelli (Alexa Castevecchi), Patti LaBelle (Robert Williams) and Nelson's archrival, Kermit the Frog (Scott Merchant).

Tickets are currently available at Handbag Productions.org or 800-838-3006.

Greenhouse has new initiative

The Greenhouse Theater Center is seeking applicants for its new Resident Theater Company Program that is set to launch in 2017.

The newly created initiative aims to foster the growth of itinerant Chicago theatre companies by providing affordable performance spaces and resources to expand audiences.

The Resident Theater Company Program features a weekly rental rate of \$1,500, in contrast to the Greenhouse's standard rental fees that are \$3,000-\$4,000/week.

Companies interested in applying for the Resident Theater Company Program should contact General Manager Maia Reed at gm@greenhousetheater.org or 773-404-7336.



Kirsten Vangsness.
PR photo

NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION/PODCASTS

Kirsten Vangsness talks 'Criminal Minds,' being queer

BY JERRY NUNN

Actress Kirsten Vangsness currently portrays Penelope Garcia in the CBS series *Criminal Minds*. She has also play the role in *Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior* and *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders*.

The California native is appearing in new movies like *Kill Me, Deadly* and *Axis*, along with heading to Chicago for a live podcast reading.

Windy City Times: So you began your career in theater?

Kirsten Vangsness: Yes; that was all I did forever. I haven't done a play this year but I usually average about one or two a year since I was 10 years old.

WCT: Are you from California?

KV: I was born in Pasadena. I was raised in the Central Valley of California. It is basically the red state of California. I moved back to LA after that.

WCT: Did you always want to be an actress?

KV: I always wanted to play pretend for a living. I took to acting because I was debilitatingly shy. My mother made me take an acting class. I had been in plays when my dad was cast in community college plays. I was cast as Old Lady in the Back and I loved it. It didn't require talking. I enjoyed observing.

When my mom made me take the class I got an A so I kept doing it.

WCT: How were you cast on *Criminal Minds* in the first place?

KV: I had a friend in theater. She was casting for *Criminal Minds* and they had a little two line part. They just needed a woman because the script was too guy heavy. She said I would never get the part. I said, "Let me try because nothing spells freedom like being told I won't get the part!"

I got like six calls on my phone, and they were not credit-card companies for a change. I got the part and shot it. I was terrified. The show got picked up and they wrote a little bit of me in the second episode, the third episode. I slowly started leaving things on the set so if they fired me I would have to come get my shit!

I wasn't in the fifth episode but at least I could tell my family I was on television. They were using some of my clothes since I was not a regular on the show. When I went to take my skirt back the producers heard I had an audi-

tion and offered me a series regular contract.

The point is it was a small part but you can turn around 12 seasons later and still have a job!

WCT: How do you feel Penelope has evolved over the seasons?

KV: I love it because I get to learn about her as the writers write it. I am always surprised by the things they add. She can never be toughened up or jaded.

This season I went into it thinking she would be sad with no Derek Morgan. Now Luke Alvez has shown up. I love Adam Rodriguez. I am constantly surprised how much she hates him. I will have to text him after we go home to check I was not a jerk to him. I think Penelope does not like change so she has been grumpy.

WCT: When did you become involved in this podcast event?

KV: I love Selected Shorts. I been working with them for eight years. Pretty much when they ask me I go. I have never been to Chicago so how could I say no?

I love reading things aloud and I get to be in great company.

WCT: You were in a movie called *The Chicago 8* but it wasn't filmed in Chicago!

KV: Isn't that so dumb?

WCT: The theme of the podcast is *Too Hot For Radio*, so it sounds scandalous.

KV: It is. They sent me my story. It is hilarious but dirty. I suggest only adults come to this show.

WCT: Explain your background in the LGBT community.

KV: I came out as a lesbian a while ago. My family thought that all made sense. A few years ago, I broke up with a woman I had been together with for quite some time. We broke up over normal reasons—not because I thought I was no longer gay.

I defined myself as queer because I never understood myself personally inside my own body my sexuality.

I met a guy that I fell for. I like the word "queer" because it doesn't fit into a box. I am in a fluid place. I know I am not straight. There has never been a question of that.

I'm not bisexual. I'm just not.

I try to be at peace with how non straight forward my answers can be about this, but I am trying to be honest. I think a lot of people are like this. I feel like I just gave the answer that

every kid at GLSEN says!

WCT: What are you working on outside of *Criminal Minds*?

KV: My friend Aisha Tyler made a movie called *Axis*. It has one actor but with other people only being heard.

I have another film called *Diani & Devine Meet the Apocalypse*. It is strange and funny. It is making the festival circuit right now.

There is one you can find on iTunes called *Kill Me, Deadly*. It is like *The Maltese Falcon* meets *Airplane*. I funded the entire movie myself. It is set in the '40s and it was shot in LA. It is beautiful and weird.

I am writing an upcoming episode of *Criminal Minds*. I am also doing a one woman show called *Mess* that I have done before but will be going to San Francisco to perform it.

I am the co-owner of the first craft distillery in all of Orange County. It is me and two of my friends that I have known since I was a starv-

ing artist. It is called *Blinking Owl Distillery*. We are trying to help the Earth and at the same time make booze!

WCT: What kind of liquor is it?

KV: We just bottled our first bourbon so it will be ready in two years. We also make vodka, orange vodka, aquavit, gin and whiskey.

WCT: I have to try some of it.

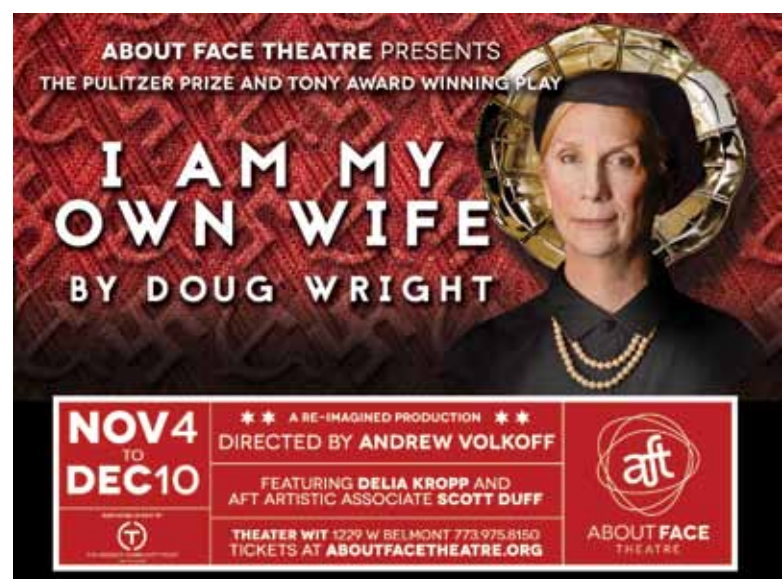
KV: I hope I can pack it for my checked luggage and I will bring you some.

WCT: I will bring a flask to the podcast show.

KV: Everyone should and I will just start pouring it!

Selected Shorts: Too Hot For Radio appears at the **Chicago Podcast Festival** at **Vittum Theater, 1012 N. Noble St. on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m.** Visit chicagopodcastfestival.org/project/selected-shorts-too-hot-for-radio/ for tickets and more information.

CULTURE CLUB



NUNN ON ONE: MOVIES

Julie Dash talks 'Daughters of the Dust'

BY JERRY NUNN

Filmmaker Julie Dash has left her mark on the world by making the first full length feature by a African-American woman in general theatrical release in the United States debuting in 1992. The historic *Daughters of the Dust* went on to be included in the National Film Registry in the Library of Congress.

After receiving an MFA in motion picture and television production from the UCLA Film School, she made several television movies such as *The Rosa Parks Story*, which stars Angela Bassett.

Daughters has a new resurgence, with Cohen Media Group's 2K restoration and Beyoncé's *Lemonade* visual album having some inspirations from it.

Windy City Times: Great to see you visiting Chicago. Where do you call home now?

JD: Atlanta. I commute between there and D.C. I teach at Morehouse and Howard. I really live in Los Angeles. I have an apartment in Atlanta.

WCT: Where are you from, originally?

JD: I'm from New York City. I went to City University of New York and majored in film there. Before that I was a film student at the Studio Museum in Harlem while still in high school.

WCT: Did you see yourself in this industry?

JD: No. It was an after-school program that was a lot of fun. We were able to watch foreign films. It was the technology that I was drawn to. It was like *The Wizard of Oz*, a lot of gizmos and gadgets. By the time I got to college I had been doing it already so decided to major in it.

After I graduated I went to the American Film Institute for two years. I then graduated UCLA as a MFA. The rest is history!

WCT: After working on so many TV shows, do you have a favorite?

JD: Because I am a DGA, I get to do a rewrite. Most of the things I have done such as *The Rosa Parks Story* and *Funny Valentine* were rewrites.

I did write my segment of *Subway Stories: Tales from the Underground*. It was written from scratch.

WCT: Your film *Diary of an African Nun* stuck out to this Nunn.

JD: That was a long time ago. I did that when I was at UCLA and I shot it in super 8.

That project won and has since been blown up to 35 mm.

WCT: Some may not know you directed Tracy Chapman's video for "Give Me One Reason."

JD: That was a good one. I was very lucky to do those music videos. I did some commercial work for Coca-Cola and GMC.

WCT: When did *Daughters of the Dust* premiere, originally?

JD: In 1991. It was a surprise opening and continues to be because it was picked up by Cohen Media to be released as a Blu-ray DVD. We didn't plan on releasing it again theatrically but then *Lemonade* came out. They were excited to do it.

WCT: Explain Gullah and Geechee.

JD: They are descendants of once enslaved Africans along the Atlantic coast. There are little barrier islands from North Carolina down to Florida. That is where they lived. They still reside there and there are only about 250,000 now. Other people live there too and there are resorts in that area.

What makes Geechee and Gullah unique is there were no bridges constructed prior to the '20s and the people that lived there were almost pure African in the style of cooking, religious beliefs and speech.

The language is many ethnic varieties. Even on the set some of the actors were nervous about speaking it. Their teachers had banned them from speaking it.

WCT: Why is that?

JD: Because it was considered ignorant. Sometimes it was only spoken at home.

WCT: It must have been important for you to get this story out.

JD: Absolutely. I found it fascinating. My father's family comes from that region and he had Geechee accent.

WCT: Talk about the lesbian character in *Daughters of the Dust*.

JD: I created Yellow Mary as a woman of independent means. Having her as a sex worker made her independent at the turn of the century. Many of the prostitutes of that time had relationships with other prostitutes.

It is a comment on the African-American community. Because she is called Yellow Mary because of her light skin, I have her returning home with someone even lighter than her. My comment is that no one should be called



Julie Dash.
PR photo

"Red Joe" or "Yellow Mary" because of their complexion.

Eula Peazant doesn't speak. People eventually notice that her and Yellow Mary are very affectionate with each other. It gives another layer for the Peazant women to dislike Yellow Mary not only because of the complexion of her skin.

WCT: Where did you find the actors?

JD: All of the lead actors were participants in independent Black cinema for many years. It was an homage to them.

WCT: Since you wrote a book for the sequel, would you ever want to make it into a film?

JD: Of course. I pitched it everywhere. There were no takers. *Daughters of the Dust* is an interesting experiment because it has been out for 26 years. Every year it has played in some country somewhere. It was slowly embraced

here in America.

WCT: What are you working on now?

JD: *Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl*. It is the life story of Vertamae Smart-Grosvenor. She is the one that gave me courage to write *Daughters of the Dust* as a movie. She wrote a book called *Vibration Cooking: Or the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl*. It has recipes combined with storytelling and is very inspirational.

Daughters of the Dust opens Nov. 25 in Chicago. Visit JulieDash.tv for more.

Museum to present two AIDS exhibitions

HIV/AIDS is the subject of two of three new exhibitions that will be spotlighted Friday, Nov. 18, 6-8 p.m., at the International Museum of Surgical Science, 1524 N. Lake Shore Dr.

"Affinity in the Tall Grasses of California" features artist Whit Forrester, who documents the workings of medical cannabis farms in the Golden State. A number of the photographs presented in this exhibition were shot at an LGBTQ-owned and -operated farm upstate. It runs through Feb. 26, 2017.

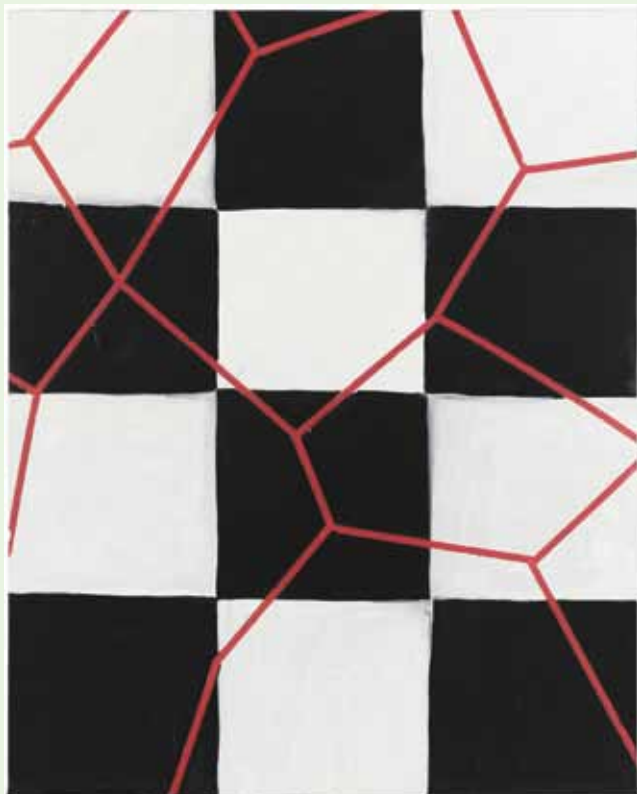
"The Screening Room" focuses on screenings in its art galleries that address the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and communities of color. Video art produced at the height of the AIDS crisis include Ellen Spiro's (In)Visible Women and Marlon Riggs' No Regrets. Marking HIV/AIDS Awareness Month, this exhibition runs through Friday, Dec. 30.

Also, for the 2016 Day With(out) Art (Dec. 1), Visual AIDS presents *Compulsive Practice*, a video compilation of compulsive, daily and habitual practices by nine artists and activists who live with their cameras as one way to manage, reflect upon and change how HIV/AIDS affects them.

The other new exhibition is "Wound Healing: Ancient Wisdom, Modern Technology."

The reception is free and open to the public.

See <https://imss.org/>.



MCA presenting 'Riot Grrrls'

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago is presenting "Riot Grrrls," described as "an exhibition that celebrates the profusion of brash and adventurous paintings by female artists and also responds to the charges of sexism that pervade the art world, from male artists garnering the highest prices for their work, to their disproportionate representation in exhibitions."

"Riot Grrrls" is organized by Michael Darling, chief curator at the MCA, and is on view from Dec. 17, 2016, through June 4, 2017.

This show includes painter Mary Heilmann as well as Charline von Heyl, Judy Ledgerwood and Joyce Pensato, and a newer crop of rebels like Molly Zuckerman-Hartung and Amy Feldman.

See MCAChicago.org.

Left: Mary Heilmann, *Metropolitan*, 1999.
Right: Charline von Heyl, *Alastor*, 2008.
Photos by Nathan Keay, copyright MCA Chicago



KNIGHT at the movies

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Ruth Negga on her breakout role in the movie 'Loving'

Ruth Negga is having the breakout year that all actors work and dream crave.

Not only is the Irish-Ethiopian actress co-starring in *Preacher*, AMC's red-hot TV series adaptation of the sci-fi action graphic novel (just renewed for a second season), but she's winning raves from critics and audiences for her portrayal of Mildred Loving in the movie *Loving*. Mildred and Richard Loving were the interracial couple who became reluctant though determined activists in the mid-1960s when they fought and eventually overturning (at the Supreme Court level) the antiquated marriage laws in their home state of Virginia.

With their enormous inner strength and innate dignity, Negga and her co-star Joel Edgerton work a quiet magic on audiences in writer-director Jeff Nichols' film, which is a chronicle of the couple's life and their struggle for marriage equality. (The film is now in theaters.)

Windy City Times: It's so lovely to enter this very quiet, thoughtful world that your writer-director Jeff Nichols set up with *Loving*. I'm assuming he created that environment for you and Joel to work in.

Ruth Negga: Yes. Jeff makes films that are exactly kind of like his personality, you know? He's very quiet and gentle but there's also like a steel core at the center of his films. They're really quite powerful and very striking and also moving but have a very, I don't know, I hate to use the word "message" because he's a very unpatronizing director and I feel like he doesn't patronize his audience. He encourages emotion rather than instructs us.

WCT: Absolutely. It used to be a lot more common to see a film like this but now it's so rare. With such an interior character and such an interior piece—I mean this could have gone the standard, courtroom drama direction and it didn't—how do you prepare? So much of your performance is with your eyes.

RN: I'm lucky to have these big old peepers stuck in my head. [Laughs]

WCT: The camera certainly loves you. The movie is much more complex and so are the characters than the story might suggest. You're thinking stereotypes, given the situation, and they're not. Mildred seemed to have this quiet strength [that] you embodied and he has this sweetness that you don't get from his physicality. You think, "Oh, no—he's one of those typical slack-jawed kinda guys."

RN: Yes.

WCT: And when they read the statute—this absurd law that they had broken by marrying—"against the peace and dignity of the state..."

RN:—I had to lift my jaw off the floor when I read that. This couple showed dignity in the extreme against legislation that was essentially trying to strip them of it.

WCT: They were like the definition of those terms.

RN: It's almost laughable, isn't it if it wasn't so unfortunate. That law obliterated families and perpetuated stereotypes.

WCT: Absolutely. Obviously, this history resonates so strongly with the queer community and I know that before she died, Mildred Loving came out in favor of safe sex marriage. She was this quiet activist and now you—the child of a mix-race couple—have now played this legend. Does it feel like a burden or a privilege or maybe a little bit of both?

RN: I think it's a huge privilege but I feel in a strange way that it's mirrored her own. I'm not a reluctant spokesperson but I don't think any one person should ever really be a spokesperson for a whole community. I think there should be many and I would be really loath to become just the one spokesperson for interracial couples because there are many.

But it is a privilege to tell one of many stories. The thing I don't want to happen is that this becomes like some sort of "go to couple"



Ruth Negga in *Loving*.

Photo courtesy of Focus Features

for interracial marriage. I don't think any sort of minority wants that because it means we're pigeonholing people. I think in the queer community that's what you want too—you want all your stories to be told. It's not just a token story that solves everything. "Oh, now we've got everyone's story told."

WCT: Switching gears for a moment, I did a bit of research and discovered that you played Shirley Bassey?!

RN: I did, yeah. About five years ago; what a fabulous experience. Of course it was going to be fabulous with Shirley Bassey.

WCT: I had to mention that, as a gay man, Shirley Bassey—come on! [Laughs]

RN: She was extraordinary; I just loved playing that energy. Very different from Mildred—quite an explosive, glamorous woman, and it was such a joy to play that kind of character as well.

WCT: Just looking at this year with *Tulip*, your character in the TV series *Preacher* and

Mildred in *Loving*—what a year for you! Does it feel like that?

RN: It does, actually. In theater there's a lot more opportunity to create women characters that have complexity but you don't always see that on the TV screen or in the cinema—people assume that complex women don't sell—not true! So, it's kind of lovely to see that changing and I think that's really because audiences are agitating for that. I think people are tired of seeing sort of bland representations of themselves onscreen. I do feel that it's a grassroots movement. People want to see more women like *Tulip* and Mildred on their screens and people who make movies and TV series will acknowledge that eventually. With popularity, comes money and that's what makes people's eyes go wide, isn't it?

WCT: Obviously. Well, I'd love you to play Lorraine Hansberry or Ruth Ellis next.

RN: I'd love that.

See FocusFeatures.com/Loving.



Joel Edgerton (Richard Loving) & Ruth Negga (Mildred Loving) on the red carpet. PR photo

'Half the Sky' exhibit at Illinois Holocaust

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center and YWCA Evanston/North Shore are partnering to present the Midwest premiere of a special exhibition at the Museum titled "Women Hold Up Half the Sky," which identifies one of the central moral challenges of the 21st century: full equality for women.

Inspired by the book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, the exhibition urges visitors to take action to improve the lives of women and girls locally and globally. Los Angeles' Skirball Cultural Center organized the exhibition.

The exhibition will be open until Jan. 22, 2017.

Most events are free to the public and all events require reservations at ILHolocaust-Museum.org/standup4women.

Stevie Nicks in Chicago Dec. 3

Grammy-winning icon Stevie Nicks has announced *The 24-Karat Gold Tour*, which began Oct. 25.

The tour will bring Nicks to Chicago's United Center on Saturday, Dec. 3. The Pretenders will be the special guests.

Nicks, a multi-platinum selling artist who

has been dubbed "the reigning queen of rock and roll" by *Rolling Stone Magazine*, has had six Top 10 albums and eight Grammy nominations. As a member of *Fleetwood Mac*, Nicks recently performed 122 sold-out shows around the world during 2014-2015.

See LiveNation.com.

'Madonna: Rebel Heart Tour' to debut on Showtime Dec. 9

Showtime Networks and Madonna have announced that her concert film *Madonna: Rebel Heart Tour* will premiere Friday, Dec. 9, at 8 p.m. CT on Showtime, on-air, on demand and over the internet.

Madonna: Rebel Heart Tour was shot around the world and features a collection of live and behind-the-scenes footage culminating in performances at the Sydney Olympic Park in March of this year. The film is co-directed by Danny B. Tull and Nathan Rissman, both of whom have worked extensively with Madonna on her feature films and tour movies.

Madonna will be honored later this year as *Billboard magazine's* 2016 Woman of the Year award at a star-studded event held in conjunction with the publication of *Billboard's* Women in Music list, which identifies the 50 most powerful female executives in the industry each year.

For a first look at *Madonna: Rebel Heart Tour*, go to <https://youtu.be/QL45ciC0nAo>.

'TEA' from cover

North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earning his doctorate from Louisiana State University.

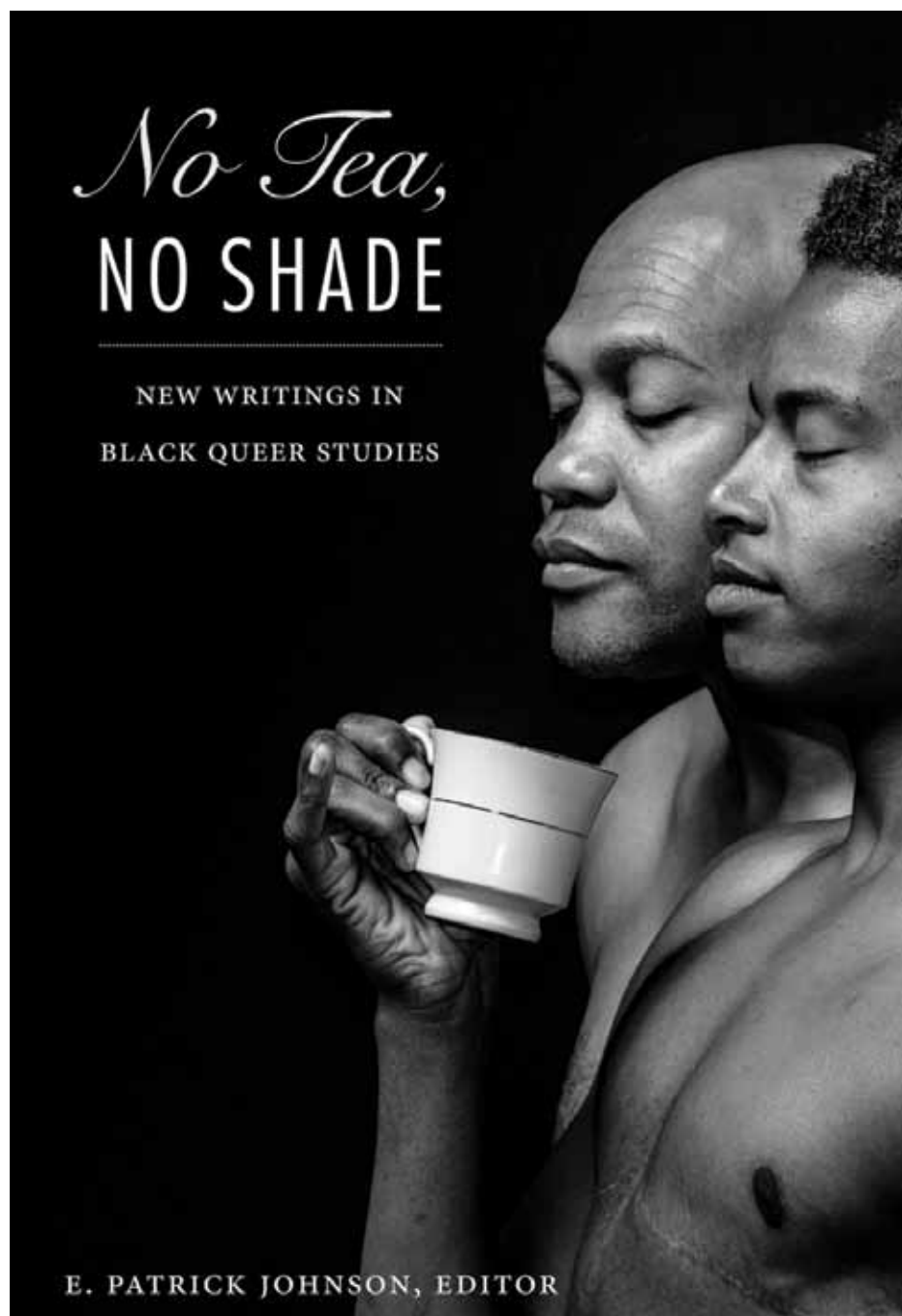
"A lot of my interest come from my own experience," said Johnson, editor of *No Tea, No Shade*. "Being a Southerner, being Black, being gay—all of my personal experiences sort of fuel my intellectual interest and I'm really interested in the ways that people use performance to maintain their culture, to pass down traditions, but also use performance as a way to speak back to power as ritual play. I witnessed all these things growing up, but didn't think about them in academic ways. I didn't know that I could until I got to graduate school."

He said he has always been a performer and interested in performance and theater studies. It was in graduate school that he became increasingly interested in oral histories, feminist theory/feminist studies and LGBT studies with a focus on African-American communities. From there he started publishing work in those areas.

"I'm really interested in how everyday people come up with these strategies of resistance through performance, whether that be Black gay men or Black lesbians, southerners, so on and so forth," said Johnson. "I'm also interested in doing performance, I've always been a performer, but I also like adapting non-fiction text for the stage. So I've been performing the stories of Black gay men from the South from my book *'Sweet Tea'*."

No Tea, No Shade is his sixth book (and he has one more, titled *Honey Pot*, on the way). Johnson and Kai M. Green (one of the writers featured in *No Tea, No Shade*) are featured on the cover. The photo (taken by Chicago photographer Philip Thomas) is titled "Sharing Tea," and Johnson said it represents passing on the torch to the next generation. The book's title comes from the phrase queer blogger Qadir Howard (also known as Timiya) made popular and then taken up in Black queer popular culture by RuPaul on "RuPaul's Drag Race," meaning telling the complete truth, with no offense and in a respectful way. As Johnson explained, it is revealing yourself to yourself.

"I just thought that was a great title to kind of say, 'yes, you folks who started this field of Black queer studies are great, but we, of this younger generation, we're building off of that,



but we're also taking it to the next step," said Johnson.

"I think the thing that runs through all my books, however, is I love language and I love playing with language, so there's always going

to be playful language in there," said Johnson.

In 2005, Johnson and a colleague published a book titled *Black Queer Studies: A Critical Anthology*, which he said was the first anthology to inaugurate Black queer studies as a field

of study. While there had been nothing like it before, he explained it was also limited by the kinds of scholarship that could be published on Black sexuality and it was very U.S.-centric. Since then the field has vastly expanded and Johnson said he felt there needed to be a new collection that celebrated this new growth of the field. That's when he came up with the idea for doing this follow-up, which he co-edited with Mae G. Henderson.

The book features 19 essays, written by contributing scholars who share their perspectives about the Black queer experience and explain existing principles, as well as include statistics and facts from other studies and publications. Topics include "raw" sex, pornography, the Black queer experience throughout the Black diaspora and social media, among many others.

"It's interdisciplinary," said Johnson of the book. "There are scholars from the humanities, from the social sciences, there are people who are also practitioners. Each chapter is its own world revealing language that's nuanced and unknown to people who aren't familiar."

The ideas that these scholars came up with, Johnson said, are things that at one point he would not have imagined could be written about today.

"It's demonstrating that what was created wasn't just a fad at the time, that it was just this one moment that's now come and gone, [but] that it actually laid the ground work for serious, rigorous research on Black sexuality," said Johnson.

Johnson said that while the work in the book is important itself, it is also about continuing the work that was done before this book and expanding the field on Black, queer sexuality in various ways.

"I learn from all of these young scholars and I just think the work that they're doing is fascinating and it is important work and it's work that I use to teach in my own classes," said Johnson. "That's the other thing, this book was about elevating this new work that's being done, so that folks will know that these scholars are doing some really, really important work, so the book just becomes a platform for the work to be acknowledged and noticed by a broader community."

To learn more, visit: <http://epatrickjohnson.com> and <https://www.dukeupress.edu/no-tea-no-shade>.

BOOK REVIEW

Accepted: How the First Gay Superstar Changed the WWE

By Pat Patterson with Bertrand Hebert
\$25.95; ECW Press; 258 pages

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You are the champion of all time.

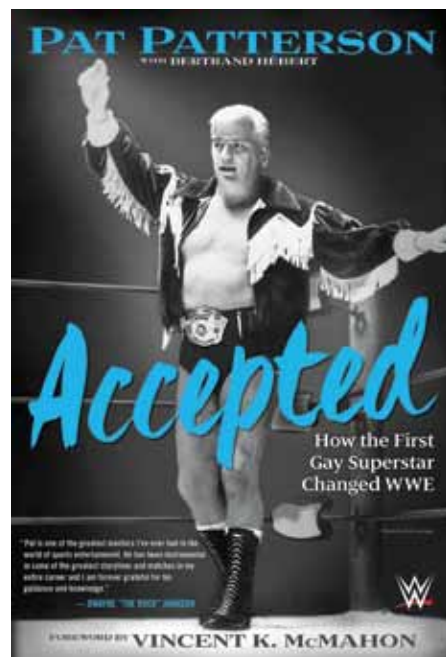
Nobody can beat you; nobody can even tie your record. When it comes to thumb-wresting, you know all the moves and you really throw your arm into it for the win. Hands-down, you're the best. So now read *Accepted*, by Pat Patterson (with Bertrand Hebert), and take it to the mat.

Pierre Clermont understood poverty.

As one of eleven children plus parents in a two-bedroom apartment in a poor Montreal neighborhood, he was acquainted with lacks of privacy, hot water, and food. He and his younger brother slept in a closet, because there was nowhere else to sleep.

Perhaps because he was one of a crowd at home, young Pierre longed to set himself apart and he loved to "create a show and get a crowd to come out and watch." He thought of becoming a priest, joining the circus, or somehow performing, so when his mother found a ticket to a wrestling match as a premium with a loaf of bread, Pierre became determined to see that show.

He was right—it was a life-changer. Pierre



fell in love with wrestling and, because he knew someone whose father was a promoter, he began training to be a pro wrestler. He changed his name to Pat Patterson and, at around that time, he also began to understand why "girls just weren't doing it for me." He was gay, an ultimate admission that got him kicked out of the family home.

In Boston—his next home of many—Patterson had to learn English while he worked his way up the pro-wrestling ladder. He became the "bad guy" on the mat, and developed a ring persona. Also in Boston, he was set up

with a man who "looked spectacular," and with whom Patterson fell in love; he brought Louie Dondro into his act and his life for the next many decades, and they traveled the world on behalf of Patterson's career. And though their relationship and their sexuality might have seemed out-of-place in an über-macho industry like pro-wrestling, says Patterson, "being gay turned out not to be an issue at all."

Or was it? Did it have anything to do with the "scandal" to which author Patterson (with Hebert) mysteriously alludes? Plenty is said about old friends, old matches, and off-work high-jinks but *Accepted* only merely bumps into that subject about which fans still argue.

But what's in here for non-fans?

Well, not much. Patterson's love of pranks is clear in this book, which makes it mildly entertaining, and there are many times when he points out how times have changed. That's interesting but, for non-fans, those bits are overwhelmed by names, travels, venues, organizations, and more names that might not make much sense.

Yes, you'll find a story of an openly-gay athlete at a closeted time in history in this book, but there's a lot to sort through to get there. Non-fans might want to think twice about reading it, but for pro-wrestling followers, *Accepted* is two thumbs up.

Want more? Then look for *Wrestling Reality: The Life and Mind of Chris Kanyon, Wrestling's Gay Superstar*, by Chris Kanyon and Ryan Clark; or *She's a Knockout!: A History of Women in Fighting Sports*, by L.A. Jennings.

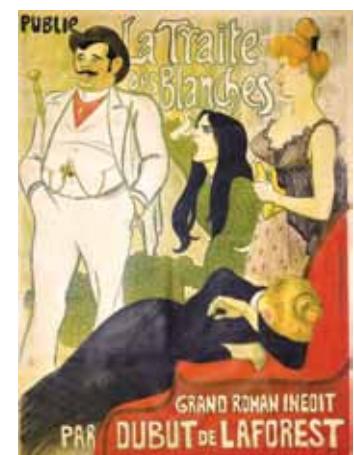
Driehaus to exhibit French posters in Feb.

The Richard H. Driehaus Museum, 40 E. Erie St., has announced the special exhibition "L'Affichomania: The Passion for French Posters," running Feb. 11, 2017-Jan. 7, 2018.

The exhibition features approximately 50 posters dating from 1875 to 1910 created by five grand masters: Jules Cheret, Eugene Grasset, Theophile-Alexandre Steinlen, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Alphonse Mucha.

Each of the five masters of the medium will be featured in one of the period galleries located on the second and third floors of the museum. This will allow guests to both explore the artist's individual style and to compare them with their contemporaries.

See DriehausMuseum.org.



La Traite des Blanches (1899). PR image from Driehaus Museum

'Not Straight, Not White' highlights history of Black gay men

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Kevin Mumford believes his book, *Not Straight, Not White*, is one of the first non-fiction books to simultaneously highlight both Black and gay identities. "In the mainstream press I think you get these very singular categories of public discourses, and it's hard to get them to be more complicated," said Mumford, a history professor at the University of Illinois-Champaign. "There's still a lot of white-centered gay narratives."

Like many people, Mumford was familiar with James Baldwin and Bayard Rustin before he began his book, but he wanted to be original in

for inclusion for LGBT people in the church, educating priests about the mental well-being of gays and lesbians, their needs for religious outreach, all of which was pretty unsuccessful. He's somebody that did not win his battles, but he's really interesting to write about."

Community activist and anthology editor Joseph Beam was another piece of the puzzle, and Beam's own archives may have helped save him from obscurity. "Beam was really extraordinary because he corresponded with all kinds of people, and he saved all the letters that he got, and carbon copies of all of the letters that he sent," Mumford explained. "He's an average guy, he's an activist, worked at the Giovanni's



Kevin Mumford.
Photo by L. Brian Stauffer

his research. "I learned a lot by reading their FBI files, reading their newspaper clippings, and focusing on their gay writings in a way that people hadn't," Mumford recalled.

Although the book mostly profiles Black gay men in short, well-researched biographical chapters, Mumford said he couldn't resist including Lorraine Hansberry, who visited the White House with James Baldwin in the early '60s and whose archives he had special permission to view. "She's really an icon of African-American culture. She wasn't particularly out: she would have been out had she lived, I'm quite sure, but like Rustin, like Baldwin, she had to advocate for social justice and sort of remain silent on the question of her desire," Mumford said.

Trolling through archives brought up some unexpected figures, like Grant-Michael Fitzgerald, a gay Catholic activist from Philadelphia who Mumford feels was ahead of his time.

"I was working on an article about the passage of a sexual orientation clause in Philadelphia," Mumford remembered. "A lot of African American clergy turned out to testify against the measure. Two-thirds of the way through, this man steps up and says, 'I am Brother Grant-Michael Fitzgerald. I am here to tell you brothers and sisters that God loves gays and lesbians.'"

Mumford did some research on Fitzgerald's religious order and followed up with people who knew Fitzgerald, who died of AIDS in the 80s. "I was able to sort of piece together this portrait of someone who was arguing for gay rights, arguing for Black gay power, arguing

Room bookstore, he's a waiter, but he has 15 boxes full of everyday letters, of being an activist, of being a community worker. For a historian, that becomes a crucial point for how you're going to create the story."

To Mumford, Beam is also somewhat recognizable in today's climate of intersectionality.

"Intersectionality is what Beam was working on. His belief in representation and the importance of having people see your humanity, that's totally what he was about. He was learning from Black feminists. That's the kind of work, the work of recognition—I think it's very progenitive of Black Lives Matter," Mumford said.

The throughline of Mumford's subjects, he feels, is their desire to create social change in response to their stigmatized identity.

"One of the things I was trying to figure out when I first started reading [Beam's] papers was, 'why is he so invested in image-making?'" Mumford said. "And I realized, at the end of my research, that there had been a lot of stigma. It's not that there weren't images of Black gay men. There were lots of images, but they were pretty negative. Even when Black intellectuals stepped up by the early 1970s to defend the normalcy of the Black family, it was always assumed that Black families didn't have Black gay men. It was a super-respectable defense."

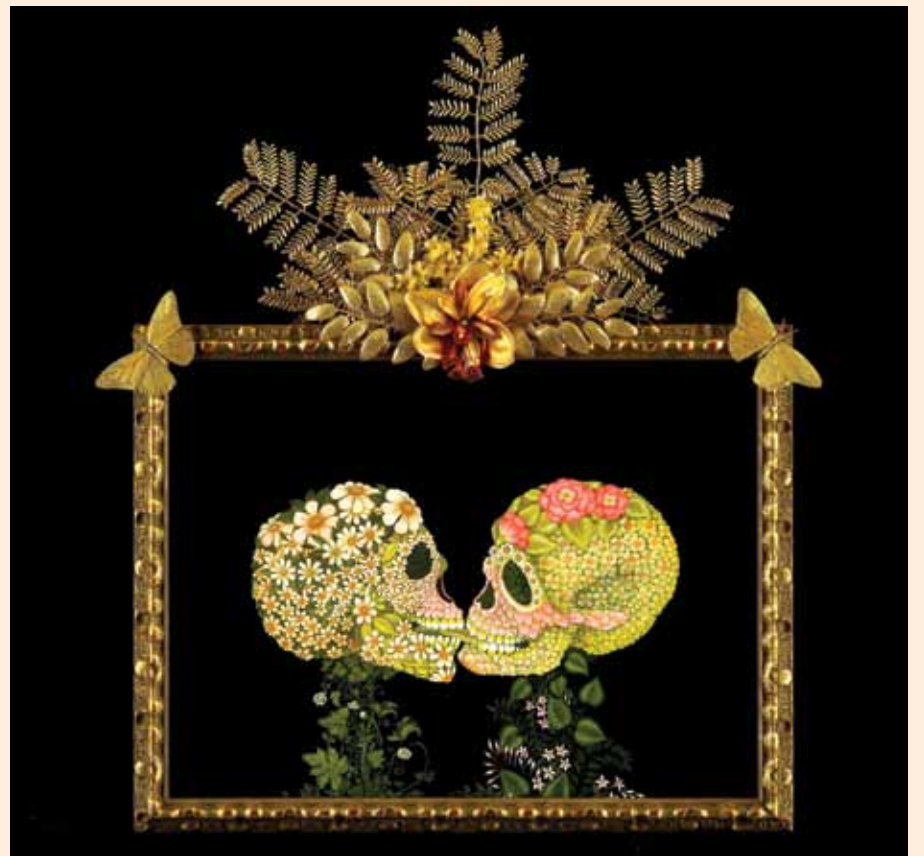
This erasure and downgrading is most evident to Mumford when it comes to how the civil rights establishment treated both Rustin and Baldwin, both of whom, at the time of their greatest activism, were widely known to be gay.

"Anyone else who had successfully organized the most important mass demonstration in American history, they would not find themselves unemployed the next day," Mumford said of Rustin. "But Rustin had already been outed. He was already a political untouchable. It was only because of higher-ups that Rustin got to be involved in the march, and then afterwards he really had nowhere to go. And Baldwin would have loved to be in the March on Washington. He was clearly second only to King in terms of celebrity. He was a global figure, a world-famous novelist. Totally marginalized by the establishment throughout this period, clearly because he was gay and was understood as not what a civil rights figure or

leader should be."

Writing this book helped Mumford see that in some ways, identity politics still has a role to play in today's social movements.

"People have turned against identity politics," Mumford said. "It's not grappling with some big structural problems, poverty or capitalism, and that's kind of where a lot of scholarship I think is going. And I think the lesson I learned is that's not right. You need to be able to walk into a bookstore and find yourself, in order to be politically active, in order to be successful in any kind of place. That politics of recognition, of having respect no matter who you are, that's as important as anything on the table, as far as I'm concerned."



Tino Rodriguez's *Eternal Lovers*, 2010.
PR photo

'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.

A pre-opening event, "We're Still Here: HIV/AIDS Then & Now," will take place at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., on Wed., Nov. 30, 7-9 p.m.

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.

See ArtAIDSAmericaChicago.org. Also, see ArtAIDSAmericaChicago.org/events for a full slate of events in connection with Art AIDS America.

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Presidio

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Presidio (1749 N. Damen Ave.; PresidioChicago.com) is pretty much a perfect fit for an increasingly trendy Wicker Park neighborhood.

The space itself is pretty intriguing, with a huge lounge area in the front of the restaurant, and dining tables in the back. I can definitely see a group of friends hanging out here, knocking back various cocktails in decor influenced by Northern California and the San Francisco Bay Area (and, yes, there's a pic of the Golden Gate Bridge).

However, that particular geographical influence extends to the drinks as well. Presidio classics include Pisco Punch No. 1 (with Thai chili-infused pisco), Flash in the an (gin, grapefruit, lime, tart cherry, black pepper and mint) and the Presidio Old-Fashioned (with Sotol, rye whiskey, tamarind, mole bitters, angostura bitters and dried orange). Moreover, Presidio serves multiple versions of fern-



Pappardelle (left) and pierogis at Presidio.
Photos by Andrew Davis

et, an Italian type of amaro that's very popular in the Bay Area.

What might intrigue others regarding the drinks, however, is a current line of cocktails inspired by urban legends and myths. For example, there are The Babysitter and the Man Upstairs, Mad Henry and the Wickerman's Punch (which I savored)—a delicious blend of aged rum, bonded apple brandy, black tea and lemon topped with a butternut squash garnish.

The cuisine isn't necessary influenced by the Bay Area—but don't be dissuaded by that; in fact, a few of the items are the best I've had in a while. The pierogis were simply fun, while the polenta

(with mushroom ragout and ricotta salata) was solidly savory. I actually could've consumed the crispy broccoli (with pickled blueberry) all night—it was that good. Another appetizer, Hokkaido scallops with chestnut, fried sage, parsnip and apple—had a nice mix of flavors and textures.

As for entrees, I thoroughly enjoyed the pappardelle with pork belly as well as the royale with cheese (a fancy name for a cheeseburger that had me recalling Pulp Fiction), which proves that simple can be wonderful. Regarding dessert, definitely try the pumpkin cheesecake mousse.

So definitely check out Presidio—that is, after you're done shopping at the trendy stores nearby.

Many Chicago connections at Mr. New England Leather Weekend, November 18-20, in Provincetown

Hosted by the Provincetown sibling of Full Kit Gear's flagship store in Andersonville, Mr. New England Leather weekend in Provincetown, Mass., will have many Chicago connections this year. Chicago's own **Leather Archives & Museum** will be mounting an exhibit honoring leather history in the New England region. Part-time Chicago resident **Eric Alden** will be stepping down from his title as the current Mr. New England Leather. Chicagoan **Jon Krongard** will be master of ceremonies and **Rick Storer** will be a contest judge. Many friends from the Chicago area will be in attendance for the weekend of fun and education, including the Mr. New England Leather contest, held on Saturday night.

The Mr. New England Leather 2017 title winner will go on to compete at International Mister Leather (IML) in Chicago in May 2017. As lead sponsors, Full Kit Gear and host hotel The Crown & Anchor will be making the weekend possible and guarantee the winner a prize package to include airfare and hotel to compete at IML, a title sash and back patch along with custom gear and accessories.

Rounding out the offerings will be Saturday afternoon workshops, the expanded exhibit by the Leather Archives & Museum, and a silent auction running throughout the weekend, benefiting the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod.

A full schedule of events, contestant applications & discount travel options are available at www.MrNewEnglandLeather.org.

Mr. New England Leather 2016
Eric Alden.
Photo by Kirk Lorenzo



Congratulations to Big Chicks on being inducted in The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame! Owner Michelle Fire (third from left) accepts the honor, Wed., Nov. 9, at the Chicago History Museum.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald



ELECTION NIGHT @ SIDETRACK

Remember how happy people used to be? Here's proof of it.
Photos by Jerry Nunn

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

**Barlesque:
Get Hammered with Thor**



Wed., Nov. 16

**Kit Kat Lounge,
3700 N. Halsted St.**

Thor (Russell) will put the hammer down with epic drink and food specials. Raffle for tickets to see the Victory Gardens Theater production of Roz and Ray. Special performances by Kit Kat Lounge Diva Lila Martinez. Proceeds go to Russell's fundraising goals for Barlesque 9.

**Barlesque:
Thanksgiving Dry Run**



**Thu., Nov. 17, 7-10 pm
Progress Bar,**

3359 N. Halsted St.

Join Barlesque 9 contestants one week before Thanksgiving in a fundraising event that will get you well prepared for your own Thanksgiving. Whether the holiday is pleasant or stressful, our contestants are here to get you prepared, all for a good cause.

Kinetik



**Fri., Nov. 18, 8 pm
minibar**

3341 N. Halsted St.

A UV-reactive dance party and glow lounge. Dress to impress or glow under black light area. No cover, drink specials, sexy male and female go-go dancers, glow swag giveaways, and killer beats by Chicago's finest, DJ X-tasy, DJ Zel and DJ Demon. Hosted by Debbie Fox.

**Barlesque:
King Reza - OTTER Takeover**



Sat., Nov. 19, 9 pm

The Sofo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St.

Category is: DC Universe - Justice League of America! Come in your favorite super hero attire. Moose the DJ will get our furry asses moving on the 1s and 2s. \$10 suggested donation. Raffles for tickets to see Roz and Ray. Cash tips go to King Reza's fundraising goals for Barlesque 9.



"So, when I'm alone, I do masturbate a lot. I don't know why. It's like you have those days where it's just like, I have a ton of writing to do, or a ton of reading to do, and you're just like, OK, I'm going to be on the couch all day or in bed all day just doing that. ... I tend to have a four- or five-time day."—James Franco reveals how he spends his free time.

Here we are, days after the election, and everyone is trying to make sense of it all. Since it's my job to entertain you, let's start with a fun fact: Our new first lady, **Melania Trump**, will not be the first wife of a U.S. president that we've seen naked. Nope, that honor goes to Hustler cover girl of August 1975, **Jackie Kennedy**. Prior to this explicit "spread," some of the photos had been featured in newspapers around the world under the headline "Billion Dollar Bush." Allegedly, Aristotle Onassis was trying to dump Jackie and tipped off photographers as to where they could catch her naked. He even gave them a map—to her swimming spot, not her bush!

Just when you thought you'd heard enough political news comes a story regarding hunky **Aaron Schock**. The former congressman resigned under suspicion of various crimes—which I believe is de rigeur for any politician from Illinois. Days after the election, Schock was indicted on 24 counts, including mail fraud, theft of government funds, wire fraud and six counts of filing false federal income-tax returns. But at least he's released his returns!

In a story which Schock may be interested in, Norway just became the first country to offer PrEP for free to anyone with insurance—which, by the by, is anyone since they have national health care. The president of HIV Norway, which has advocated this movement, said, "Condom use is on the decline, and we are happy that PrEP now is an integrated part of the public health service." It's a sad day when we're behind the Norwegians. That reminds me—I was behind a Norwegian once ... but that's another story.

Last week, I finally went to Rockwell Table & Stage in Los Angeles to see The Unauthorized Musical Parody of Hocus Pocus. This is the eighth in a series of sold-out "unauthorized musical parodies," championed in large part by producer/writer Kate Pazakis. And it was one of the most entertaining, imaginative, and immersive things I've ever seen—led with a firm hand by Tony-winner **Marissa Jaret Winokur** as Winifred. Next at Rockwell is The Unauthorized Musical Parody of Home Alone—presumably without a cameo by Donald Trump. That show opens Dec. 1, and you can get tickets at Rockwell-LA.com.

It's been announced that **Elton John** is working on his autobiography. According to some reports, he is being paid upward of \$7 million by Macmillan for a book that is scheduled to be released in 2019. In discussing the project, Elton said, "I'm not prone to being a nostalgic person. I'm often accused of only looking forward to my next gig or creative project. It's come as quite a surprise how cathartic I am finding the process of writing my memoirs. As I look back, I realize what a crazy life I have had the extreme privilege of living."

When I look back on my life, I suspect I'll regret every moment spent watching Logo's reality dating show **Finding Prince Charming**. But, as a completist, I am obliged to tell you about last week's reunion. First off, we found out that there



James Franco has free time on his hands. Photo by Jesse Korman

was some sexual activity amongst the suitors—surprise, surprise. **Sam** confirmed that he hooked up with **Chad** on the first night. Sam said, "I was open to love with anybody, and I was horny, and I wasn't into Robert, so fair game for me, baby. All's fair in love and war. And he loved it." Chad did not confirm if he loved it, but the news didn't surprise me. After all, Chad is the same guy who allegedly came onto **Eric** also on the first night.

Speaking of Eric, the "winner" (a dubious distinction at best) and **Robert** are not a couple on any level. Robert said he's moved to LA and that they are "exploring this relationship"—while poor Eric sat there like a medicated Stepford wife. The two barely made eye contact, didn't hold hands and showed almost no outward signs of affection. But, that's not surprising. In fact, that's been the problem with the whole show. The most we ever got from anyone all season was some tense, closed-mouthed kisses and a few bits of physical contact that wouldn't be out of place in a Jane Austen book! The entire series was so sanitized and nonsexual, I really felt like it ended with Robert and Eric poised to go on a first date rather than find love. I daresay Robert's previous "clients" got more affection than Eric has—but, then again, those clients paid! In fact, Robert's shampoo bottle got more action, as you can see on BillyMasters.com.

Our "Ask Billy" question from Kevin in Chicago straddles both topics of the election and nudity: "In the Will & Grace election special, they mention **Viggo Mortensen's** dick in 'Eastern Promises'. WOW—it's huge. Has he been nude in anything else?"

If this endless election season brought us nothing else, it did deliver Viggo's dick. While I might be bold enough to suggest that Mortensen's career can stand on its own, so can his penis. Without question, the bathhouse fight in Eastern Promises gave you a good glimpse of it swinging about. But in this year's Captain Fantastic, you get a much better view of it in a less chaotic scene. I'm happy to deliver both to you on BillyMasters.com.

For those of you who are ass men, there's certainly no bigger ass than Prince Philip—at least, as depicted by **Matt Smith** in The Crown. Yes, he acts like an ass, but he's also happy to show his off. Twice we've seen him lying face-down on the bed with his buttocks rising up like the Rock of Gibraltar. Oh, it most certainly is a sight to behold—as you can see on BillyMasters.com.

When we've got nude spouses to both presidents and sovereigns, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And this queen is mighty happy about that. Perhaps I could have done without Philip asking Elizabeth for a blow job, but I chalk that up to literary license—a license I regularly invoke on BillyMasters.com, the site that will make you royally flush. If you have a question, send it along to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Hilary Swank announces that her next movie will be Billion Dollar Bush! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

WEDS NOV 23 **THANKSGIVING EVE** **OPEN 3PM-2AM NO COVER**

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From the 2015 Santa Speedo Run.
Photo by Kirk Williamson

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 Side-track, 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>.

HBH community meeting Nov. 17

Howard Brown Health (HBH) is hosting a community input meeting Thursday, Nov. 17, at Howard Brown Health 63rd Street, 641 W. 63rd St., 3:30-5 p.m.

This follows a Nov. 15 meeting held at Brown Elephant Andersonville, 5404 N. Clark St.

Howard Brown is developing a three-year strategic plan, and wishes to hear from the community. Light refreshments will be provided.

See HowardBrown.org.

'Strut' fashion show Nov. 20

MadMan Productions' Strut—an annual World AIDS Day fashion show—will take place Sunday, Nov. 20, at The Promontory Chicago, 5311 S. Lake Park Ave.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m., with the showtime at 6 p.m.

Speakers will include Dr. Chad Zawitz (from The CORE Center) and Elhadji Gueye (Maison de Haj). Models will display fashions from Maison de Haj, Kayla Katz, Bronzeville Boutique and others. DJ Hugo H and Discopoet Khari B will provide entertainment.

Admission is \$25-\$35 (and a portion of the proceeds will benefit South Side Help Center and The Village); call 773-779-2399.

LGBT Chamber gala Nov. 17 at Ivy Room

"A Night at the World's Fair" will be the theme of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois' 20th-anniversary gala that is slated to take place Thursday, Nov. 17, at The Ivy Room at Tree Studios, 12 E. Ohio St.

The VIP reception will be 6 p.m., with the general reception at 7 p.m.

Patrons will enjoy tastings from a collection of Lettuce Entertain You restaurants, sip on custom cocktails, experience performances from Chicago Cabaret Project, bid on various items and dance the night away.

Attendees are urged to embrace the theme of the Chicago World's Fair by dressing in their most creative white-tie ensembles.

Admission to the VIP and general events are, respectively, \$125 and \$100.

See <http://lgbtcc.com/>.



Chicago Cabaret Project.
Photo by Jerry Nunn



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Nov. 16

Before I Do: In Conversation With Author Elizabeth Schwartz Leading gay rights attorney spells out the range of practical considerations couples should address before tying the knot and explores the rights marriage provides. \$5 suggested donation. Light refreshments and drinks. The sponsors have underwritten copies of the book for the first 30 people to RSVP. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/new-events-details.cfm?ID=12850>

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 Ave., Chicago 773-697-9693 <http://TheAnnoyance.com>

Thursday, Nov. 17

Howard Brown Health Community Input Meeting Seeking input for a three-year strategic plan. Light refreshments. 3:00pm Howard Brown Health 63rd Street, 641 W. 63rd St. Chicago <http://howardbrown.org/wp/>

Translational Film Festival The 2nd Annual Translational Film Festival places the journeys and stories of trans communities into the spotlight. Films were solicited from around the world, and the finalists will be screened over two evenings. \$5 suggested donation. Inability to pay should not act as a deterrent to attending. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/new-events-details.cfm?ID=12848>

20th Anniversary Gala of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois Tast-



MODEL BEHAVIOR Sunday, Nov. 20

Strut: The 8th Annual World AIDS Day Fashion Show, will take place at the Promontory.

Photo from 2015 by Vern Hester

ings from a collection of amazing Lettuce Entertain You restaurants, custom cocktails, performances from Chicago Cabaret Project, auction and dancing. Embrace theme of Chicago World's Fair by dressing in creative white tie. \$100 general. \$150 VIP. 6pm VIP reception. 7:00pm The Ivy Room at Tree Studios, 12 E Ohio St, Chicago https://glchamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/2870?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_campaign=0db32a968d-2016-Gala_eBlast9_21_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a616fce7f8-0db32a968d-184602273

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 Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago

[Trans]formation Nothing Without a Company and The Living Canvas are proud to present a world premiere entirely from the works of, and performed by, transgender, genderqueer, intersex, and non-binary artists. Through Dec. 17. 8:00pm Vault at Collaboraction Studios, Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N Milwaukee Ave., Chicago Tickets: <http://bit.ly/2dcUg0J>

Friday, Nov. 18

Smoking in the Chicago LGBT Community Public health advocates and community leaders will gather to exchange best practices and innovative ways to reach current LGBT tobacco users. Sponsored by the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center/Northwestern. Groups: Chicago Department of Public Health, American Lung Association, Northwestern University, Howard Brown, Athletic Alliance of Chicago, United Way Pride, Rush University, Your Voice/Your Health and Advocate Health. 12:30pm - 2:30pm Drew's on Halsted, 3201 N. Halsted St., Chicago <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nobody-quits-like-chicagoland-smoking-in-the-lgbt-community-tickets-29239498126>

Bisexual/Trans/Queer Book Discussion The Eye in the Door by Pat Barker, the second installment in the Regeneration Trilogy. It is the spring of 1918, and Britain is faced with the possibility of defeat by Germany. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/356646608002382/>

LGBTQ Gallery Opening Jeff Stephenson - 2nd Floor Gallery. Lisa Beard - 3rd Floor Gallery. Occurring every 6-7 weeks throughout the year, Center on Halsted opens its doors to community artists to

display their work. \$5 suggested donation. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/new-events-details.cfm?ID=12833>

Nobody Quits Like Chicago campaign-related event A lively event will be held to help LGBTQ people of color quit smoking. Sponsored by Rush University and Affinity, a black LGBTQ social justice organization, will include music, food and important information. Jennifer Herd, Chicago Department of Public Health; Roderick Hawkins, Senior Advisor for Neighborhood Development & Community Engagement, Office of the Mayor are to speak. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Affinity Community Services, 2850 S. Wabash Ave. #108 <http://www.affinity95.org>

Saturday, Nov. 19

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>

Trans Turning Point: A Day of Resource Exploration Center on Halsted, Live Oak, Inc. and the Voice Lab offer a brand new experiential opportunity for the Chicagoland transgender community. This event will feature a wide and highly eclectic variety of presenters from local trans-friendly community businesses and services. Free event. Pre-registration is highly recommended. 10:00am - 3:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/new-events-details.cfm?ID=12843> Tickets: <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/TransTurning>

Playwright Doug Wright With Chicago Tribune's Chris Jones in an intimate Q+A 12:30pm - 5:30pm Museum of Contem-

porary Art (MCA) 220 East Chicago Ave Chicago <http://bit.ly/2fdDVLP>

Sunday, Nov. 20

Transgender Day of Remembrance Annual day honoring those whose lives were lost throughout the year due to acts of anti-transgender violence. #transfluent 12:00pm - 3:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/new-events-details.cfm?ID=12846>

Memorial for LGBTQ ally Rev. Gregory Dell Well-known for presiding over same-sex holy unions and making LGBTs welcome in the church in the 1990s in spite of the policies of the United Methodist Church, leading to action against him by the church, demonstrations and counter-demonstrations. 1:30pm Alice Millar Chapel, a non-denominational center, campus of Northwestern University, 1870 Sheridan Rd, Evanston, IL <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Community-remembers-LGBTQ-ally-Rev-Gregory-Dell-/57054.html>

Strut, 8th Annual World AIDS Day Fashion Show Featured designer Chris Carrillo of Devoid and Deveil Dark Couture Fashion. \$25 advance/\$30 door. Doors open 4:30p, Portion of proceeds to South Side Help Center and The Village. Ticket info by phone 6:00pm The Promontory, 5311 S. Lake Park Ave. West, Chicago 773-779-2399

Thursday, Nov. 24

A Church 4 Me MCC free community Thanksgiving meal A Church 4 Me MCC, part of the Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC. Doors open 11am. To reserve a place at the meal, please contact Mike Schuppe at 847-529-8440 or mike123ptr@gmail.com 12:00pm aChurch4Me, 7366 N. Clark St., Chicago <http://www.achurch4me.org>

LETTERS from page 16

A letter to Trump

Dear Editor:

For nearly 100 years, the American Civil Liberties Union has been the nation's premier defender of freedom and justice for all, no matter who is president. Our role is no different today.

President-elect Trump, as you assume the nation's highest office, we urge you to reconsider and change course on certain campaign promises you have made. These include your plan to amass a deportation force to remove 11 million undocumented immigrants; ban the entry of Muslims into our country and aggressively surveil them; punish women for accessing abortion; reauthorize waterboarding and other forms of torture; and change our nation's libel laws and restrict freedom of expression.

These proposals are not simply un-American and wrong-headed, they are unlawful and unconstitutional. They violate the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments. If you do not reverse course and instead endeavor to make these campaign promises a reality, you will have to contend with the full firepower of the ACLU at every step. Our staff of litigators and activists in every state, thousands of volunteers, and millions of card-carrying supporters are ready to fight against any encroachment on our cherished freedoms and rights.

One thing is certain: we will be eternally vigilant every single day of your presidency and when you leave the Oval Office, we will do the same with your successor.

Anthony D. Romero
Executive director, ACLU

SAGE advice

Dear Editor:

At SAGE, we see the results of this week's election through our commitment to building an equitable world where all LGBT elders are valued and have boundless opportunities. SAGE's commitment is shaped by our core values, which include diversity, respect and compassion.

SAGE stands firm for a policy agenda that makes older Americans a national priority, and that ensures that LGBT elders and elders from all diverse communities—who are among the most vulnerable in our society—are at the center of that priority. SAGE will do everything in our power to advocate for such an agenda. We will vigorously oppose any effort to roll back progress. As is our tradition, we will combine our advocacy with a commitment to work in communities nationwide to ensure that LGBT elders have the services and supports they need.

This year's campaign season has left many in our communities deeply fearful of what is to come. In the face of such fears, we at SAGE are inspired and fortified by the wisdom of our elders who have lived through decades of witch hunts, brutality, criminalization, stigma, AIDS and so much more. Our elders remind us that through all of these unspeakably difficult challenges, we always found hope, stood firm and made progress. We do not know what is to come in the months and years ahead. But what we do know is that we will honor our elders' example by continuing to build the equitable world that they, and we, deserve.

LGBT elders needing emotional support are invited to call the SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline. Provided in partnership with the GLBT National Help Center, calls are being taken at 888-234-SAGE (7243) on Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to midnight and from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET on Saturdays.



E Nina Jay.
Photo by Liz Baudler

Remastered 'Divine Miss M' out

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

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

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

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

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

Jillian Michaels appearance rescheduled

Lifestyle/exercise guru Jillian Michaels is returning to the road with her brand-new show "An Evening with Jillian."

The Illinois appearance at Waukegan's Genesee Theatre originally slated for Thursday, Nov. 17, has been rescheduled for May 11, 2017.

Cities on the 2017 tour include Beverly Hills, Seattle, Dallas and Denver, among others.

See JillianMichaelsLive.com.

Legacy LIVE's 'Word Up' Nov. 17

The Legacy LIVE Series—with Northalsted Business Alliance, Center on Halsted and The Legacy Project as co-sponsors—continues Thursday, Nov. 17, with "Word Up: Poetry Open Mic Night" at Twisted Vine, 3530 N. Halsted St., at 7 p.m.

M. Shelly Conner, Quare Square Collective, E Nina Jay and DJ Drea are among those expected to commemorate the legacies of LGBTQ poets Audre Lorde and Essex Hemphill.

The event is free; register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/word-up-tickets-27509370267>.

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