

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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## DANIEL BISS

State senator talks about run for governor.  
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Dani Shay in title role of *The Civility of Albert Cashier*.  
Photo courtesy of Permoveo Productions



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# BAND TOGETHER



Lakeside Pride reflects on the band's anniversary

Photo of marching band by Laura Brown

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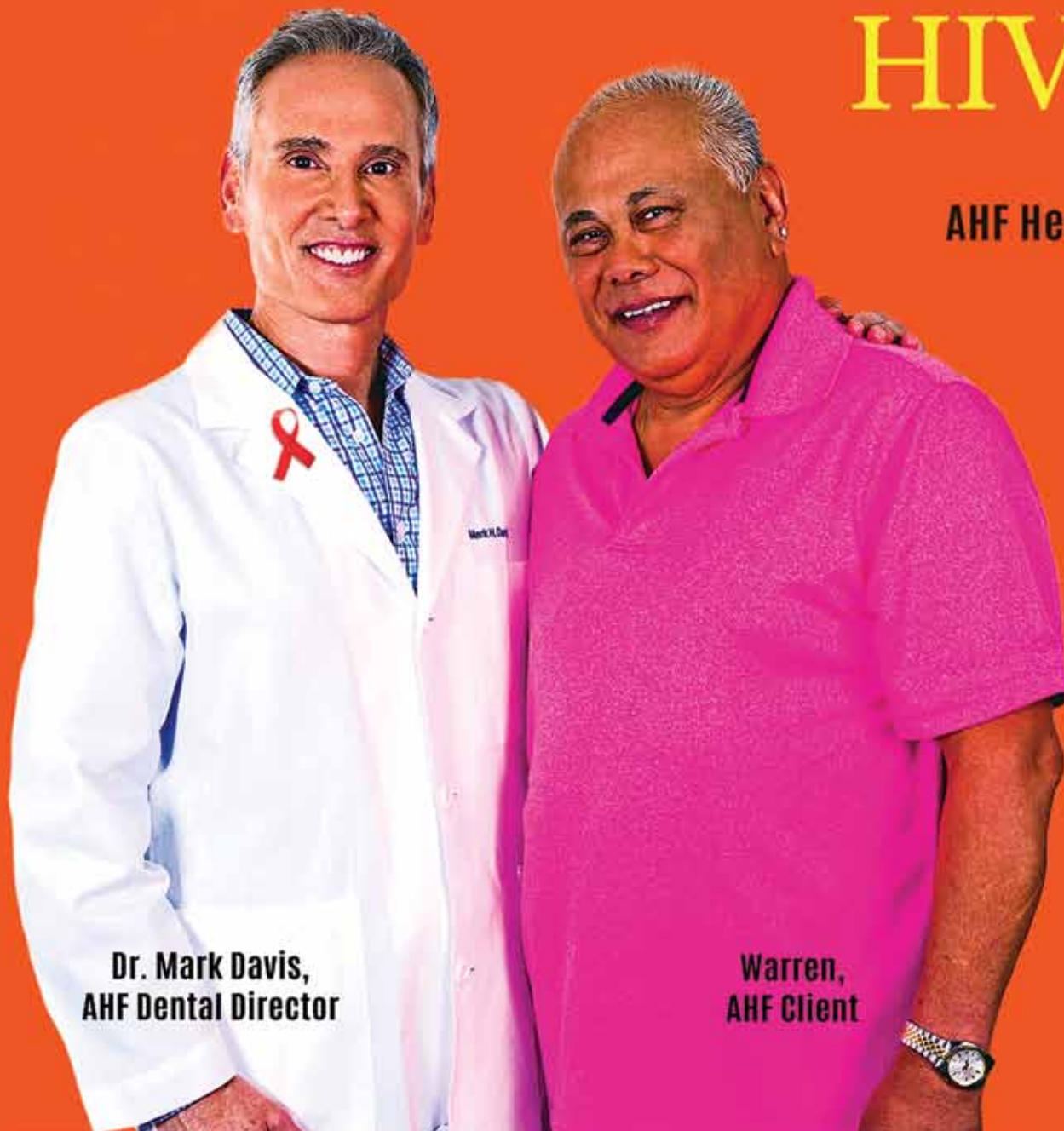
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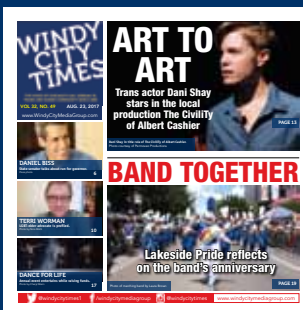
**Warren,  
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## WINDY CITY TIMES

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ABOVE: Windy City Times takes a look at the production Machinal. Photo by Evan Hanover

online exclusives at [www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)



## HAVING A PAUL

Paul Alexander Nolan (left) was among those who entertained at Broadway in Chicago's annual summer presentation. Photo by Jerry Nunn

## SOCIAL CALL



Revival Social Club offers some captivating reasons for brunch. Photo by Andrew Davis

## DOING THE CHACHA

Now-former Project Runway contestant ChaCha recently chatted with WCT.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Steve Grand, Jillian Michaels and Prince.

plus  
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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# Rauner signs hate-crimes bill, among other measures

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Gov. Bruce Rauner's office announced, on Aug. 18, that Rauner had signed a number of new bills, among them one that significantly expands hate-crime protections.

HB 3711 was sponsored in the House by state Rep. Litesa Wallace (D-Rockford) and in the Senate by state Sen. Omar Aquino (D-Chicago). The bill was shepherded by Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, who initiated the bill after convening a February hate-crimes summit.

Provisions of the legislation include expanding hate crimes laws to include harassment using cyber-technology, and adding provisions allowing hate crimes victims to sue for civil remedies. The attorney general's office would also be allowed to pursue civil penalties. Judges could impose fines of up to \$25,000 for each violation.

Rauner also signed SB 1670, sponsored in the House by state Rep. Will Guzzardi (D-Chicago) and in the Senate by state Sen. Scott M. Bennett (D-Champaign). That bill requires that the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions database include an application data field where an applicant may optionally disclose his or her sexual orientation when applying for a board or commission. That information would then be included among the demographics that are reported to the General Assembly.

Another bill, this one vetoed by Rauner, SB 669, dictated that the position of Lake County Board Chair be determined by a public election.



Gov. Bruce Rauner.

Photo from official website

The current occupant of that post, Aaron Lawlor, came out publicly in Feb. 2017.

Rauner said in his veto message that, "Current law already allows for a sufficient process by which Lake County can change its selection process. This issue should be resolved at the local level instead of pursuing a change of state law that addresses a highly political local issue to create a new process for a single county."

where they had surrendered to authorities.

The Sun-Times item is at <http://chicago.sun-times.com/>.

## Chuck Renslow memorial set

A public memorial to remember the life of businessman Chuck Renslow, founder of International Mr. Leather, will be held Sunday, Aug. 27, at 7 p.m.

The Renslow Family will host its 36th and final White Party celebrating Renslow at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. That celebration, open to the public, will begin with a memorial service and merge into a traditional dance party. The annual White Party celebrated the August birthday of Renslow.

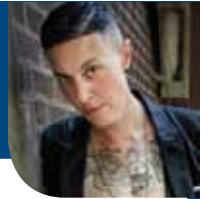
Earlier that day, Hesperia Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons will conduct a masonic funeral ritual for Renslow at Jefferson Masonic Temple.

Renslow died at age 87 on June 29. See <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Legendary-Chicago-businessman-activist-Chuck-Renslow-dies-/59676.html>.

Photo by Nadia Oussenko

## GUEST COLUMN

BY MACK DIHLE



### Standing Up

"Stand up for yourself, but not against others." My loving and talented girlfriend quoted that the other night in response to me writing this gender diary.

I take low-dose testosterone. There, I said it. That felt weird and scary! I'm a masculine of center lesbian, gender non-conformer. What you don't know is that I wrote two other FINAL drafts and never said the actual word "testosterone." It's true. I'm so utterly afraid of what impact that has on everyone in my inner circle, my enormous spectrum of LGBTQAI fans, family ... you name it.

There's only one person in the end whose approval matters, and that's the person going through it.

The word "testosterone." I still have a hard time calling it that. For a little over seven months now I've begun to slowly and methodically measure and monitor T-levels with my doctors; transforming into the Amazon I've always felt like deep down within.

This transformation has come after almost four years of intense personal research, questioning expert doctors for the knit and grit, and having long meaningful conversations with trusted diverse friends with similar journeys yet different goals. I know there are unpredictable outcomes and risks involved with anything and felt informed enough to finally take that leap of faith and calculated risk for myself and only myself.

My shirts and suits finally fall perfectly in place and are filled out just right when I walk on the runways during New York Fashion Week. When needed, my voice is gentle and higher around women who are caught off guard when I enter a bathroom. When on the job, my voice is low and direct with conviction and gusto while in my police uniform. Musically speaking, my voice has dropped one whole step lower with tenor under tones. With the luck of genetics, monthly blood tests and monitoring with doctors, I've managed to stave off unwanted facial hair and deal with minimal acne.

I think back to what led me to finally make the decision to temporarily take low-dose testosterone as a MOC 35-year-old lesbian.

I think back to 1992, I'm 9 and wiggling my way through the hamburger-shaped playground tunnel toy at the McDonald's in New Baltimore, Michigan.

My gal pals and I had just won our soccer game and so we celebrated every win at this particular McDonald's. I remember being much taller, lanky and never caring what my hair looked like. My friends wore pink, flirted with boys, and hair in perfect double French braids.

At one point they got ahead of me inside the play tunnel. In this tunnel maze, I accidentally turned into a blind corner that dead ended into two boys sitting there in their green camouflage pants and shirt. They stared at me in an awkward long silence. Then stared again but more intensely this time at my long knotted curly hair and dirty knees covered in grass stains.

The one boy bluntly said "Are you a boy or a GIRRRRRRRRRRELLLL?!" It felt like I had blinked a hundred times in wondering why he would ask such a crazy question when I'm clearly a girl ... RIGHT?! I look like a girl, RIGHT??? I ... look ... like ... a ... WAIT.

My head turns and I spot my gal pals in their French braids with pink ribbons and giggling in a way that only girls do. How come I didn't giggle like that? I HATE PINK. Why do I hate pink? Why can't I wear camo prints like those boys? Man I'd look good in camo. Why is my mom always saying we'll go to the Army Surplus store on Selfridge Air Base, "some time." My mom convinced me for a few years that "some-time" was a special holiday on the calendar and I'd have to wait until it came around. To this day I search for a calendar with an official "Camouflage Day."

I've been extremely frustrated over the years from having mild scoliosis, osteoarthritis in my lower spine, a formerly torn rotator cuff and an inability to gain weight easily on a tall, lanky, thin-boned, lactose intolerant, ectomorph-frame. I LOVE weightlifting. Since I can remember, I've wanted to be like a heavyweight bodybuilder: massive tear-drop-shaped muscles on the outside of their quads, and rounded delts for days. My ideal superhero body is that of a Belgian horse who plays rugby.

Low-dose "T" has finally given me the strength and confidence to see results and become the Amazon I've so longingly admired in many of my Mesomorph (naturally muscular build) friends. I feel at peace now. That running script in my mind that I was weak, ugly or inferior has vanished.

Nothing makes me happier these days than feeling like that inner Amazon I've always dreamed of. My body finally fills out a queer tailor-made two-piece suit, that then gets paired with gender-neutral leather boots, short faded haircut and gig-line perfectly lined up with my tie or bow tie.

This is me; trying to be brave and hold space for all of us on the gender spectrum who are going through a journey of any kind that's scary. I see you, I hear you and I acknowledge how important your unique existence is in this world.

## Lawyers: Stabbing was part of fantasy

Prosecutors said Aug. 20 that the stabbing of 26-year-old hairdresser Trenton Cornell-Duranleau in late July was part of a fantasy that two suspects carried out, according to a Chicago Sun-Times article.

Former Northwestern professor Wyndham Lathem and Andrew Warren, a University of Oxford employee, both stabbed the victim, the attorneys said. (Cornell-Duranleau was stabbed 47 times, according to the Cook County medical examiner's report.) Two knives were used to kill Cornell-Duranleau—one of which broke—on July 27.

Moreover, Lathem paid for Warren's flight from London to Chicago in order to carry out the fantasy, which was allegedly supposed to be a murder-suicide.

Cook County Judge Adam D. Bourgeois Jr. ordered that the two men be held without bail.

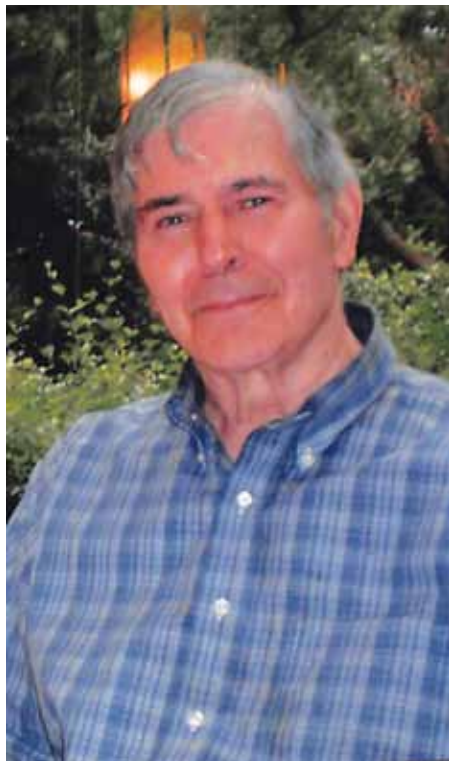
WGN-TV reported that neighbors said Lathem and Cornell-Duranleau were in a relationship, and lived together in the River North apartment.

Lathem and Warren arrived back in Chicago Aug. 18 after being extradited from California,

See more about Chicagoan Mack Dihle here: [MackDihle.com](http://MackDihle.com) and [@MackDihle](https://twitter.com/MackDihle).

## PASSAGES

## Thomas Bowyer



Thomas Bowyer.

Photo courtesy of Cremation Society of Illinois

Thomas Spencer Duffield Bowyer, 83—known as “Spence” or “Bow”—passed away peacefully Aug. 4 in Chicago.

Thomas was born in Newport, Wales, and spent his childhood in Bournemouth, a beautiful seaside resort town on the southern coast of England. After moving to Chicago in 1963, Thomas began a new life, living in both Edgewater and Uptown.

Working as a typesetter and compositor at the Sun-Times for 35 years, he was always proud of his work. He knew and frequently regaled in stories about his colleagues Abigail Van Buren, Roger Ebert and Irv Kupcinet.

Thomas served in the British Army during the Korean Conflict where he was stationed in Hong Kong. He was an avid reader, film buff, and soccer fan who attended four World Cup tournaments. He was an expert in the subject of world history with a particular interest in World War II. He was always a consummate gentleman.

He is survived by his dear friend, Darren Stephens; an older sister in Dorset, England; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his companion of twenty-eight years, Orion Martinez.

In lieu of flowers, donations accepted to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation.

A graveside burial is being planned for either on or after Thursday, Aug. 24, at Rosehill Cemetery 5800 N. Ravenswood Ave.. A memorial gathering will follow.

For information, call Cremation Society of Illinois: 773-281-5058 and Cremation-society.com.

## Niles man identified on CTA tracks

The body of a man found on the CTA tracks near the Fullerton station in Lincoln Park Aug. 15 was identified as Dragan Andelkovic, a 41-year-old resident of Niles, Illinois.

According to an obituary, he was the cherished son of Uros and Stanka “Jela”; loving brother to Dr. Natasha Andelkovic (George) Rainovic; dearest uncle to Katarina, Jelena, Emilia and many more; dear nephew to Stanisa “Stan” (Janet), Stojanka Milosevic, Milorad “Mike” (Mirjana), Milovan (Branka) and Trajanka; fond cousin to many and a good friend to many.

The funeral service took place Aug. 19 at New Gracanica Serbian Orthodox Monastery, 35240 W. Grant Ave, Third Lake, Illinois. Interment was at



Dragan Andelkovic.

Photo courtesy of Jerry Nunn

New Gracanica Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be sent to Nativity Mother of God Monastery, 32787 Early Rd., New Carlisle, IN 46552. Arrangements were entrusted to Muzyka & Son Funeral Home, 5776 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago.

## Man gets 65 years for killing gay vet

South Bend, Indiana, resident Jabreeh Davis-Martin—convicted of fatally beating a gay Afghanistan war veteran—has been sentenced to the maximum of 65 years in prison, according to a WTHR item.

Davis-Martin was sentenced after being convicted of murder in the January 2016 slaying of 27-year-old Jodie Henderson, a member of the Army National Guard. Davis-Martin attacked Henderson with a bar stool after being told that Henderson had romantic feelings for him.

Davis-Martin was also sentenced for breaking his probation, South Bend Tribune noted. Since he broke his probation, Davis-Martin will have to serve the remaining three years of a previous suspended sentence consecutively to his 65-year murder sentence.

Because Indiana has no hate-crimes law, Davis-Martin was not charged with that particular offense.

The WTHR article is at <http://www.wthr.com>. The Tribune piece is at <http://www.southbendtribune.com>.

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**ELECTIONS 2018:  
GOVERNOR**

# Daniel Biss talks budget woes, LGBT issues

BY MATT SIMONETTE

State Sen. Daniel Biss (D-Evanston), this past March, announced his intention to run for the Democratic slot in the contest to unseat Republican incumbent Gov. Bruce Rauner in 2018.

Biss made the announcement via Facebook Live on March 20, explaining that his was a more direct, grassroots campaign that could ultimately result in solving a stalemate between the General Assembly and the governor's office during Rauner's administration.

Formerly a math instructor, Biss maintains that his statehouse experience gave him an intricate knowledge of the legislative process and the value of partisan and bipartisan cooperation. The state senator recently spoke with Windy City Times about the state of the state, his intentions as governor and LGBT issues, among other topics.

**Windy City Times: How do you see your legislative experience, and other experiences, qualifying you to be governor?**

Daniel Biss: We have Bruce Rauner as the governor and Donald Trump as president. We have these kinds of people at both the state and federal level—two businessmen with no experience in government who tried to impose their will on the [political] systems. I think that's dangerous.

I've been in the legislature for six-and-a-half years. I have worked on complex, difficult issues. I have fought to build coalitions to pass legislation, like one of the first conversion therapy bans in the country. Those were not, obviously, going to pass if it were not for the ability to find out what it takes to make the various members of the legislature tick and get the various numbers of votes that you need.

We're going to need a governor in January 2019 with those kinds of experiences because we have huge challenges that require bold solutions. Those bold solutions aren't going to pass by themselves; they're going to pass if you have a governor who understands how state government works and how a state legislature works.

**WCT: What do you see as your biggest advantage in the primary contest?**

DB: This is a moment where people are hungry for an aspirational, progressive vision for what we can do, not just defeat Bruce Rauner and fix what's wrong, but build an Illinois for everyone. I've been fighting, in many cases successfully, against long odds, in the Illinois legislature for the last six-and-a-half years to do just that. I think the people of Illinois are hungry for a governor who's not just going to tear down our state, or even "the other side," but talk about letting people be pulled up. I've got a good record on

that that I'm proud of.

**WCT: What do you see as your biggest disadvantage?**

DB: I'm not a billionaire. I'm not a millionaire. I might be a "thousand-aire" but I'm not totally sure; I'm not sure what my house is worth right now. I get that there's a lot of people who see this as, we're not going to have an election, we're just going to have an auction. I'm not going to win an auction for this office. I understand that that's a challenge, but I also think that this is a moment where people are ready for a grassroots campaign that all of us own a piece of. Even in this era of big money in politics, I like my chances.

**WCT: What do you mean by "all of us own a piece" of the campaign?**

## Wheaton College on anti-LGBT list

Illinois' Wheaton College made The Princeton Review's list of the 20 colleges most hostile to LGBT students, The Advocate reported.

According to The Advocate, Julie Rodgers wrote about her experience as a staff member at Wheaton for Time magazine: "Even though they had known I referred to myself as gay prior to hiring me, they encouraged me not to refer to myself as gay any longer."

Some of the other schools on the list include Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the University of Wyoming, Lehigh University, Wake Forest University, The University of Alabama, Hampden-Sydney College and Brigham Young University. College of the Ozarks (in Point Lookout, Missouri) topped the list.

The Advocate item is at [https://www.advocate.com/youth/2017/8/14/20-colleges-most-hostile-lgbt-students?utm\\_source=ADVFB&utm\\_medium=ORG](https://www.advocate.com/youth/2017/8/14/20-colleges-most-hostile-lgbt-students?utm_source=ADVFB&utm_medium=ORG).

## Business owner defends sign that mocks trans women

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Lockport business owner said that his sign mocking transgender individuals was intended as "satire," Herald-News reported Aug. 16.

The sign, which said, "Help wanted—must be female from birth," was posted by owner Richard Tisch at the Will Co. Loan Company pawn



State Sen. Daniel Biss.  
Press photo

DB: It means that it's run under grassroots power: volunteers organizing in their own communities and every corner of the state of Illinois, people chipping in small donations, because they want a campaign financed by all of us, as op-

shop.

Tisch maintained that the sign was a satire intended to protest taxpayers having to pay for transition surgeries for transgender military members.

"I don't care what transgenders do," Tisch said. "If you want to have a sex change, that's fine. I don't want to pay for it."

The owner of a neighboring jewelry store, who rents from Tisch, said that he must publicly differentiate his own viewpoints from those of his landlord because of the frequently inflammatory signs.

Military service by transgender individuals has been an especially fraught topic since President Donald Trump unilaterally announced via Twitter in July that they would be banned from serving. No specific directives regarding a ban have been forthcoming from Trump administration officials, however. A 2016 report by the RAND Corporation estimated that transition-related medical services would cost the military from between \$2.4 million to \$8.4 million annually, which would amount to an increase in .13 percent in its healthcare spending.

Herald-News' article is at <http://bit.ly/2wef0CC>.

## Attorney aims to unseat Lisa Madigan

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Erika Harold—an Urbana attorney who, in 2014, unsuccessfully ran for the House seat currently occupied by U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis (R-13)—announced Aug. 15 that she is mounting a campaign to unseat Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

posed to being spread by big money or corporate interests.

**WCT: What would be some of your largest priorities if you were to become governor?**

DB: We need to fix our tax system. We have one of the most unfair tax codes in the country that puts too much of a burden on the middle-class and the working poor. As a result, we don't even have adequate revenue, because over the course of generations, most of the money has gone to the top and we can't access it. So we've got to fix our tax code and use those resources that we will bring in to invest properly in schools ... [and] stop short-changing children who live in poor communities across the state of Illinois.

We also need to have more direct investments that create economic opportunity everywhere, as well as a force for social justice and economic justice. I plan to run on all of those fronts.

**WCT: What would be the best ways for the state to rectify its ongoing budget woes?**

We have to have a tax system written for the 2017 economy, not a different economy from generations ago. That means people pay their fair share. That means shifting away from the property tax as the primary means of funding schools, not to mention lots of other parts of our public sector. So right now, what we do is burden the middle-class so much, while letting the richest residents off the hook, and what we have now are struggling families and a struggling government

Harold has long been active in Illinois Republican politics and spoke at the 2004 Republican National Convention in support of former President George W. Bush's faith-based initiatives. She was Miss America 2003, where she adopted platforms both against bullying and in favor of sexual abstinence. In 2013, she told the Capitol City Courier that she opposed same-sex marriage.

The video announcing Harold's campaign denounces Illinois state politics under the watch of Lisa Madigan and her father, House Speaker Michael Madigan. "Today, in Illinois, it's nearly impossible to find opportunity and live out your dreams," Harold says in the video. Instead, career politicians have made a nightmare for too many families in our state."

Harold spoke at Gov. Bruce Rauner's Governor's Day rally at the Illinois State Fair Aug. 16, and is reportedly expected to get support from Rauner.

## Messinger to give ISGMH talk Sept. 7

Northwestern University's Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing (ISGMH) will present its next "Current Issues in LGBTQ Health" lecture event on Thursday, Sept. 7, 12-1:30 p.m., in the Stonewall Conference Room of 625 N. Michigan St., Suite 1400.

Joy Messinger will present "Our Survival Depends on Each Other: The Urgency of Intersectionality to Support the Health, Wellness, and Healing of LGBTQ Communities," in a talk with will also be streamed on BlueJeans.

Visit <http://isgmh.northwestern.edu>.

that can't afford to move forward.

We [also] have to create new ways to address inefficiencies in government. For example, we've got 628 pension systems in Illinois, because each town has two—one for their firefighters and one for their police officers; that creates a tremendous amount of duplication and additional costs, and a whole cottage-industry of investment- and legal-consultants who go from town-to-town, charging high fees. We need to consolidate those pension systems to create a far more efficient system that will cost less money to the taxpayer without touching the pension of a single firefighter or police officer. We need to re-envision government for the 21st Century, and make sure that it's streamlined and operating in as efficient away as possible.

**WCT: You've already mentioned your work on the conversion-therapy bill. What is some of the other engagement that you've had with the LGBT community you'd like to mention?**

DB: Besides the conversion-therapy ban—which is really one of my proudest achievements in the legislature—the other bill that I was the lead sponsor of around LGBT rights was a bill this year to ban the “gay panic defense.” It's going to sound crazy, but it's true that right now the law doesn't stop someone from murdering someone because they discovered that the [victim] was gay and using the fact that the victim was gay as a defense in a court of law.

I'm also proud of the work that I've done as an ally of other leaders on these issues. I was a proud early sponsor of the marriage equality bill; the first speech that I gave on the Senate floor was in support of marriage equality and I quietly worked behind the scenes to persuade people and get votes in line to pass that into law. I worked very hard at the end of this legislative session in 2017 as we were trying to round up the votes to pass the bill that modernizes our vital records law, so that individuals can have their gender-marker on their birth certificates changed.

I have been proud to stand with the LGBT community loudly and clearly to affirm our state's, not just commitment to, but reliance on, LGBT equality. We suffer as a state if we don't affirm LGBT equality.

**WCT: What do you see as vital priorities for LGBT Illinoisans?**

DB: As the Trump administration rescinded the Obama administration's bathroom protections for transgender students, we've had some school districts do good work on that. I've been fighting on the local level in my own district to make sure that our school districts do that [as well]. But we've seen terrible bills on the state level that we've been able to kill. We haven't seen a strong and affirmative transgender student bathroom protection bill move in the Senate, and we ought to do that. That's something I'll be fighting for in the legislature as well as governor.

I want the LGBT community to know that my cabinet, as governor, will look like the state of Illinois—that includes representation from the LGBT community. I think it's also important to talk about what not having a sane budget does to vulnerable communities, such as for people who are HIV-positive. I think funding for healthcare for HIV-positive people is unbelievably important, and it's been harmed in the budget impasse.

We live in an era where not all LGBTQ people are fully accepted by their families, and as a result, there's a greater instance of homelessness amongst LGBTQ youth, and, tragically, a greater instance of mental-health difficulties, substance abuse issues and even suicide amongst LGBTQ people, particularly youth. That means that when the state government, by virtue of its inability to have a budget because of Bruce Rauner's ideological demands, harms those programs, those consequences are disproportionately felt by the LGBTQ community. We've got a responsibility to fund these services in a robust way for everybody, but especially the LGBTQ community.

**WCT: What can the state government do to ensure the equitable treatment for transgender Illinoisans, beyond what you've spoken about already?**

DB: Part of it is around laws and part of it is around actions. When it comes to laws, we have to just be very clear about full, real equality in all contexts—not just employment and non-discrimination rules. It's great to have that, but it also means bathrooms. It means hate crimes. It means legal protections in a court of law. It means public accommodations and fighting back against so-called “religious freedom” laws that enable public accommodations and businesses to discriminate on the basis of gender identity.

I also think it means behavior and rhetoric. We have this moment where, let's just be clear, there are a lot of people in Illinois today who think they've never met a trans person. There are a lot of people today who are uncomfortable with what it means today to be a trans or gender-nonconforming person, or just not fit into that gender-binary that we try to jam down people's throats irresponsibly. We need visible public leaders not just to affirm ... [but] to talk openly about what it means to break out of the gender binary and how to support trans youth as they go through the journey of trying to understand their own gender identity.

**WCT: How do you see the future of the Democratic Party?**

DB: I love that question, because the Democratic Party gets to decide who we are going to be right now, and it's partially because of these devastating losses.

In a moment like that, where we're flat on our back, be basically get to decide who we are. I think we can decide are we going to be a millionaire party or are we going to be a middle-class party. Are we going to be a corporate party or a grassroots party? Are we going to lift people up everywhere, or are we going to focus on a few places where we know it's easy to locate opportunity that already exists?

I think that the question about the future of the Democratic Party is already critical—that fight is on. If we get that right, and build a genuine, grassroots, movement-based people's party for a growing middle-class, the Democratic Party will not only be standing for the right issues—we will be successful, because we'll be offering the public something which it is deeply hungry for right now.

**This is one of a series of interviews Windy City Times is running regarding gubernatorial candidates. For more on Biss, visit DanielBiss.com.**

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# Fighting Back: Resources

In response to the white-supremacist rallies in Charlottesville and elsewhere, Windy City Times has received requests from readers about where they can support grassroots anti-racist and pro-immigrant Chicago-area groups. There are of course many larger LGBTQ groups that do this work, as well as many in the mainstream. We focus here on a few of the much smaller groups with very few or even no staff. If you want to add your group to the online version of this, please email to editor@windycitymediagroup.com.

## Affinity Community Services

Website: [affinity95.org](http://affinity95.org)

Description: Affinity is a social justice organization that advocates for and provides resources and community for Black LGBTQ women and other LGBTQ communities of color. Affinity has been in existence for over 22 years and primarily serves the South Side of Chicago.

Donate: <http://affinity95.org/acscontent/get-involved/donate/>

## ALMA: Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action

[www.almachicago.org](http://www.almachicago.org)

ALMA fights for the rights of the Latino lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning community by advocating for fairness and equality, and affirming Latino/a/x LGBTQ culture.

Donate: [www.almachicago.org/donate.php](http://www.almachicago.org/donate.php)

## Assata's Daughters

[assatasdaughters.org](http://assatasdaughters.org)

Assata's Daughters is a Chicago-based radical organizing collective of Black women and girls.

Donate: [assatasdaughters.org/supportus](http://assatasdaughters.org/supportus)

## Black and Pink: Chicago

[Blackandpink.org](http://Blackandpink.org), [facebook.com/chicagoblackandpink](https://facebook.com/chicagoblackandpink)

Black and Pink: Chicago is an open family of GLBTQ prisoners and "free world" allies who support each other: "Our work toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex is rooted in the experience of currently and formerly incarcerated people. We are outraged by the specific violence of the prison industrial complex against GLBTQ people, and respond through advocacy, education, direct service, and organizing."

Donate: <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/blackandpink>

## Black Lives Matter, Chicago

[www.blacklivesmatterchicago.com](http://www.blacklivesmatterchicago.com)

The group states: "Black Lives Matter Chicago is an intersectional vehicle that values Black people and our right to self-determination. We fight for justice with families most impacted, while working to create just and equitable systems. We work to end state violence and criminalization of Black communities by deconstructing white supremacist, capitalist, patriarchy."

## Brave Space Alliance

<https://bravespacealliance.org/>

Brave Space Alliance is a grassroots-funded initiative created by trans people of color for trans people of color to generate opportunities their ourselves, their families and their comrades to engage in healing, community building and the creating of kinship. They strive to educate and empower each other through sharing skills, knowledge and resources as they build toward the liberation of all oppressed people. BSA is a vehicle to organize trans people of color to fill the void of representation of POC voices included in making key decisions that impact the trans community at large. They state: "By focusing our efforts on creating space and building capacity in three key areas, we aim to create opportunities for our communities to thrive unapologetically in their truths: Health and Wellness; Leadership Development; Visibility."

Donate: [PayPal.Me/BraveSpaceAlliance](https://PayPal.Me/BraveSpaceAlliance) or email for paypal is [bravespacealliance@gmail.com](mailto:bravespacealliance@gmail.com)

## BYP100 Chicago Chapter

[www.byp100.org](http://www.byp100.org)

BYP100 Chicago is the local chapter of a national organization of young Black activists committed to building a Black freedom movement in our lifetime: "We are abolitionists organizing for Black liberation through racial, LGBTQ, economic justice efforts in Chicago and nationwide."

Donate: [www.byp100.org/donate](http://www.byp100.org/donate)

## Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus

<http://chiblackgaycaucus.org/>

Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus is a grassroots organization led by Black gay, bisexual, and same-gender-loving men that works to ensure healthcare engagement, eliminate new HIV infections, and achieve undetectability among the men in the community.

Donate: <http://chiblackgaycaucus.org/donate/>

## Chicago Freedom School

[www.chicagofreedomschool.org](http://www.chicagofreedomschool.org)

Chicago Freedom School works with young people of color and allied adults to build capacity for social justice leadership and action. CFS engages people in studying social movement history, analyzing current issues through the lens of racial justice, and building skills for youth-led and intergenerational action to address oppression.

Donate: [www.chicagofreedomschool.org/getinvolved](http://www.chicagofreedomschool.org/getinvolved)

## Let Us Breathe Collective

[www.letusbreathecollective.com](http://www.letusbreathecollective.com)

In the wake of a militarized police response to the public outcry over the death of unarmed Black teenager Michael Brown, the #LetUsBreathe Collective formed as a fundraising initiative to bring supplies to Ferguson protesters. The #LetUsBreathe Collective works in collaboration with the Black Youth Project (BYP100), Black Lives Matter, HandsUp United and Chicago Artists Against Injustice. The group serves as an incubator for innovative activism.

## Masjid al-Rabia

<https://masjidalrabia.org>

A new organization in Chicago providing spiritual care for marginalized Muslims. Women-centered, anti-racist, LGBTQIA+ affirming, pluralist and accessible.

Donate: <https://masjidalrabia.org/donate>

## Organized Communities Against Deportation

<http://organizedcommunities.org/>

OCAD organizes against unfair and inhumane immigration enforcement practices that impact immigrant communities. They fight case by case, person by person, at the same time that they work to change the implementation and enforcement practices that criminalize the community. OCAD emerged from the work by the Immigrant Youth Justice League.

Donate: <https://www.crowdrise.com/deportationdefensebyocad/fundraiser/ocad>

## Pride Action Tank

<http://prideactiontank.org/>

Pride Action Tank is a results-driven group that addresses challenges facing individuals and groups within LGBTQIA communities through a collaborative process of inquiry, advocacy and action. The work of Pride Action Tank focuses on six overlapping issue areas: housing, health, safety, financial security, youth and aging.

Donate: <http://prideactiontank.org/donate/>

## R3 Coalition Chicago

<https://resistreimaginerebuild.wordpress.com/>

The R3 (Resist. Reimagine. Rebuild) Coalition, formed in November of 2016, includes 32 Chicago-area grassroots, anti-racist, labor and immigration rights organizations. They came together to forge a shared agenda to fight for social justice in Chicago.

## TRUST Collective-Chicago

[chi.trustcollective@gmail.com](mailto:chi.trustcollective@gmail.com)

Founded in July 2016 "post-Orlando," TRUST Collective-Chicago consists of Latinx, LGBTQ, and Muslim individuals and organizations who have gathered to foster and support relationships across the Chicago area toward building a unified front and reducing targeted violence and discrimination. Storytelling event Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m., CAIR-Chicago, 17 N. State, 15th Floor, Chicago, free and open to the public. Join TRUST Collective-Chicago and CAIR-Chicago for an evening of community storytelling and fellowship. Food and beverages will be served. The Chicago Commission on Human Relations was part of the founding of TRUST, and CHR is hosting a Hate Crime Summit Oct. 25, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. University of Illinois at Chicago, 750 S. Halsted, Chicago, free and open to the public. The Hate Crime Summit is an opportunity to raise awareness regarding hate crimes, address the barriers to reporting hate crimes, and provide opportunities for networking, collaboration, and study. Audiences we seek to serve include educators, law enforcement, general community, researchers, and service providers. In Chicago, a coalition of community advocates, government agencies, and law enforcement officials are working to ease the burden on victims by closing loopholes and creating a highly collaborative response to hate crimes. For details on the Hate Crime Summit, go to: <https://www.cityofchicago.org/humanrelations>.

## YEPP: Youth Empowerment Performance Project

[www.wesayyep.com](http://www.wesayyep.com)

The mission of YEPP is to create a safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth experiencing homelessness to explore their history, investigate new ways to address their struggles and to celebrate their strengths through the process of developing a theatrical performance piece.

Donate: <https://www.wesayyep.com/>





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# LGBT-elder advocate Terri Worman shares her story

BY NINA MATTI

Terri Worman is a Jane of all trades. She's a classically trained violinist and performs in musicals, but she also can be found working diligently to ensure that LGBT elders live their best possible lives. Worman's advocacy career began with pro-choice work and soon morphed into LGBT rights, and now she works at AARP as the associate state director of advocacy and outreach.

Where exactly did Worman get her passion for equality and advocacy?

"Those darn feminists in my hometown Fort Wayne, Indiana," she said. "It's all their fault... I learned a lot from the fighting spirit of those women."

Through these women's mentorship, Worman saw the importance of "being brave, being persistent, using your voice, using your feet, sometimes using your body [and] the power of being able to do that," she said. "They were willing to take on the system even when it was hard. They were true advocates; they were true activists. I am very proud to be a part of their crew. And I see that in Chicago too."

Through her position at AARP, Worman spends much of her time working with passionate Chicagoans looking to make a difference. AARP, she said, is now working much more in communities to make change. "It's part of how we make communities more livable," she said. "If a community is livable, it's accessible for all of its residents to get around. If it's accessible for a mom with a two-year-old in a stroller and a senior with a

cane at 70, then that's livable. We keep trying to make that happen."

That process involves lobbying elected officials, working with organizations in the community and organizing lots of volunteers. But it also involves fighting for things like access to healthcare, something that is particularly important now.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been especially valuable to the LGBT senior community, and Worman has firsthand experience that has opened her eyes to just how valuable health insurance is.

She battled tonsil cancer in 2009 in the midst of the Affordable Care Act debates. She had surgery and planned to do six weeks of radiation.

When Worman was going into her second week, she looked at the claim that was being sent into her health insurance company. "At that moment, I think it was about \$140,000. It still tears me up," she said. "I knew I had very good insurance. If I didn't, I'd be making the same decision that other people face every day. Do I continue without the radiation and hope that I beat the cancer? Or do I finish it and have to declare bankruptcy? You're hoping you can cheat death. I knew how lucky I was."

At Northalsted Market Days, Worman manned a booth for AARP, and they conducted an informal poll. Each passerby was given three beans, and they were asked to put them into the jars that were labeled with their biggest concern about the ongoing healthcare debate.

"Preexisting conditions was the one that was first for a lot of people," Worman said. "Preexist-



Terri Worman.  
Photo by Nina Matti

ing conditions, cuts on Medicare and high cost of prescription drugs were the top three concerns."

These are issues that AARP's advocacy and outreach team is particularly concerned with, too.

"If the ACA were totally repealed, there would be hundreds of thousands of people who would not get healthcare because they cannot afford it," she said. "That's huge. That would be devastating."

As far as other resources for LGBT seniors go, though, Worman said that Chicago is lucky to have as many LGBT-specific healthcare resources as it does. "I interviewed people for the Out Aging conference, and one of the trans women I talked to said how amazing it was to be able to go to Howard Brown," she said, "because they understand what it means to be trans queer. They understand what it means to be older and trans. She doesn't have to try to explain it. If your provider has that level of cultural competency, they're not judging you and they take into account all of the things you may be dealing with."

Despite Chicago's overall competence with LGBT healthcare issues, Worman did say there is still room for improvement. "One of the difficulties in Chicago is, as in most cities, there are more services in some parts of the city than in

others," she said. "If you can't travel to or don't want to go to some areas, then do people just not go? Especially for older adults, if you're not comfortable with the options in your community, then you're not going."

Part of solving important issues like these, Worman said, is creating intergenerational dialogues. "Getting people together, intergenerational LGBT people, is so important, and I'm hoping those conversations continue," she said. "It allows the seniors to tell their stories, because nobody ever asks. Both sides need to be able to tell their stories and understand where the other is coming from. It's important that we keep talking to each other and keep sharing."

## Davis to start work with Sierra Club

Transgender-rights advocate Precious Davis is leaving Columbia College after three years to work for the environmental agency Sierra Club.

In a Facebook post, Davis stated, "For the past 3 years it has been a joy serving as the Assistant Director of Diversity Recruitment Initiatives at my alma mater Columbia College Chicago.

"Under my tenure I provided leadership to the campus-wide diversity initiative through creation and implementation of cultural competency and social justice trainings, service on the President's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, oversight of national diversity recruitment and [various] strategic policy initiatives."

She will now work as the deputy press secretary for the Beyond Coal Campaign at Sierra Club.

## LGBTQ seniors sought for study

Howard Brown Health is looking for subjects to complete a survey on LGBTQ aging as part of the LGBTQ&A: The Aging Project.

Subjects need to be at least 50 years old, identify as members of the LGBTQ community and be Cook County residents.

The survey is confidential and will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Gift cards of \$10 will be offered to the first 400 participants.

Email [TheAgingProject@HowardBrown.org](mailto:TheAgingProject@HowardBrown.org) or call 773-630-9429.

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## Tent city occupants given Sept. 18 deadline to clear out

BY MATT SIMONETTE

City officials, on Aug. 18, said that work would begin in mid-September on two Lake Shore Drive viaducts on the North Side that are currently occupied by several persons experiencing homelessness, Chicago Sun-Times reported.

The viaducts are located at Wilson and Lawrence avenues.

Residents of the encampments have asked city officials to assist them in finding permanent housing before the deadline, which is set for Sept. 18. City officials estimate about 25-43 individuals living there; residents estimate the number to be at about 50. The work is ostensibly for repairs and preparing for a bike-path expansion.

The activist group Uptown Tent City Organizers supplied the residents with tents and counts a number of LGBT individuals among its members.

Chicago Sun-Times' story is at <http://bit.ly/2wqo9Yn>.

## Report: Rutherford suits cost \$515K

One of two civil lawsuits against former Republican Illinois Treasurer Dan Rutherford started at trial on Aug. 21—and the cases have already cost the public a substantial sum, according to the



Dan Rutherford.  
Facebook photo

Chicago Sun-Times.

Private attorneys for Rutherford—who now runs a company that arranges tours of Cuba—have charged the state \$515,193.99, records revealed.

In 2015, George Daglas, Ashvin Lad and Patrick Carlson sued Rutherford, his chief of staff Kyle Ham and the state treasurer's office. "During their interviews, plaintiffs each provided [attorney Ron] Braver with information that ... allegations of sexual harassment against Rutherford were true," according to the lawsuit, adding,

"plaintiffs each provided Braver with information that [treasurer's office] resources and employees were being illegally used to support Rutherford's campaign for governor."

The Sun-Times article is at <http://chicago.suntimes.com/news/mihalopoulos-suits-linked-to-rutherford-sex-charges-cost-public-515k/>.

## EI, EI Institute name board members

Equality Illinois (EI) and Equality Illinois Institute announced their 2017-2018 boards of directors, which include six new board members.

The new members of the two boards include Sheila Simon, the former Illinois lieutenant governor who is now visiting assistant professor of law at Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale; Justin DeJong, vice president of internal and external communications at the American Medical Association; Cynthia Galvan, an attending physician in emergency medicine; Kevin Jackson, chief marketing officer at Porter Airlines; Reyna Ortiz, TransSafe coordinator at Chicago House and Social Service Agency; and Butch Trusty, managing partner at Education Cities.

Grant Gochnauer, chair of the Board of Equality Illinois and chief operating officer of Vodori Inc.; Anthony D'Amato, chairman of the Board of Equality Illinois Institute and vice president, general counsel and secretary at the Illinois Institute of Technology; and all six of the new members serve on both boards. This is also true

of veteran board members Patrick DePoy, an attorney at Franczek Radelet; Sava Ristanovic, Finance Business Partner Manager, Kemper Insurance; and Editha Paras, Chief Financial Officer of The Vagabond Group.

Serving only on the Equality Illinois Institute board are Kevin Hauswirth, founder of Hauswirth & Co.; Matt Pruyne, financial advisor, Robert W. Baird & Co.; and Jason Santos, an attorney with Hinshaw & Culbertson.

Brian C. Johnson, chief executive officer of Equality Illinois and the Equality Illinois Institute, is an *ex officio*, non-voting member of both boards of directors.

## Illinois part of \$465M EpiPen settlement

Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced that Illinois is part of a \$465-million settlement between the federal government and other states with Mylan Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiary, Mylan Specialty L.P. (Mylan).

The settlement was reached in the wake of allegations that Mylan knowingly underpaid rebates owed to the Medicaid program for EpiPen and EpiPen Jr. (EpiPen) dispensed to Medicaid beneficiaries. As part of the settlement, Illinois will receive more than \$6.3 million in restitution and other recovery.

Deputy Bureau Chief Heather Tullio D'Orazio, with Madigan's Medicaid Fraud Bureau, handled the investigation and settlement.

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## viewpoints



**Dana  
RUDOLPH**

## MOMBIAN In the wake of Charlottesville

As a child, there were two things I thought were unfathomable and absolutely morally wrong: nuclear war and Nazis. To see both in the news again as real threats to our country sickens and appalls me. But while nuclear war felt like a broad threat against all humanity, Nazism felt more personal. It was hate largely directed against a group—Jews—of which I was part. (It was only later in life that I added “queer” to that list as well.)

My family was not particularly observant, but I was very aware of our cultural heritage and our difference from most families in the predominantly Christian town where we lived. My brother and I ate plenty of hamburgers and fish sticks like our peers, but we were two of the very few kids in town who had ever tasted gefilte fish or latkes. Nazis, although they did not harm me or my family directly, harmed people who were like me. I could immediately relate to that and understand why such hate was wrong.

I was lucky enough, however, not to face overt anti-Semitism while growing up—just an underlying systemic favoritism towards Christian holidays and representation in my schools. It was hurtful in its own way, but did not put life and limb at risk. But I have also walked through this world as a White person and as someone not immediately read as Jewish. (My red hair makes most people guess Irish.) I could, if I choose to, ignore the existence of racism and anti-Semitism and probably get on fine for most of my days—that’s a privilege I carry. Of

course, ignoring such things because they do not harm me would be the height of selfishness. And they do harm me, for they harm any society in which they fester. Aside from direct harm to the people they target, which is bad enough, they separate rather than unite us, strain friendships and potential friendships, and limit our ability to work with, learn from, and love others.

Perhaps the neo-Nazis and White Supremacists have done us a warped sort of favor, though. The neo-Nazi champion a broad-based hate that hits people of color, immigrants, Jews, LGBTQ people, and many more. Maybe this resurgent threat across multiple identity groups will finally spur us into a united action towards a more just society.

That takes leadership, however, and if the Trump administration has demonstrated anything in the aftermath of Charlottesville, it is that it is sorely lacking in that department. The burden then, is on each of us to take leadership in whatever way we can, whether that means attending rallies, speaking up when we hear biased remarks, donating diverse toys and books to our children’s schools, or making sure our own children have them on their shelves. We can also keep pressure on our other elected officials and business leaders to make sure they know that we will not tolerate support for those who espouse racist or other hateful ideas or actions.

And those of us who have privilege of any kind, by virtue of being White, male, Christian, straight, cisgender, able-bodied, or anything else should think about how we can use that privilege to be an ally to others in times like these. As a queer Jew, I am angered and frightened by what has transpired in Charlottesville and beyond. I hope there are allies out there who will support me and others who share my identities. As a White person, however, I know that the danger is worse right now for people of color, regardless of religion or LGBTQ status, and I hope I can be an ally in turn.

My identity as a Jew gave me an initial awareness

that some people are hated, oppressed and targeted by violence simply for being who they are. My identity as a lesbian added another layer to that understanding. I cannot in good conscience, then, turn away from any other group that is similarly targeted.

Those of us who are White should start, perhaps, by reaching out to friends and neighbors of color to ask if there is anything we can do to support them personally. On a wider scale, we can listen to what people of color are saying about the events of the past few weeks and the impact of both systemic and overt bias in their lives, seeking out readings or videos from publications like *The Root* or *Colorlines* (without presuming that those publications represent the full spectrum of views and opinions of people of color). We can weave that information into what we know of privilege and oppression from our own identities, and use that to guide our actions. And we can help our children understand, in age-appropriate ways, the implications of race in our society—Google “how to talk with your kids about race” for a slew of tips from a variety of sources.

When I first learned about the Holocaust as a child, the other thing that shocked me, aside from the pure horror of the genocide, was that the United States took so long to take action, even after reports of the atrocities began coming out of Europe. Let us not make that mistake again as the same underlying hate gathers renewed strength on our very shores.

In the end, though, the so-called “Greatest Generation” of Americans fought the Nazis during World War II and won. We must now unequivocally do the same against the neo-Nazis and their White supremacist ilk, or we will have no cause to speak of our country being great ever again.

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

## letters

### Reflecting on Charlottesville

Our hearts are still broken over the weekend’s events that continue to unfold in Charlottesville, Virginia. A young woman was killed, dozens were injured, and the world was reminded that this country has never been safe for some of us.

What makes moments like these so challenging is that we know that what is happening in Charlottesville is not unique to Charlottesville. It is an example of the bigotry that exists across the country that is playing out on a national stage.

These tragedies don’t happen in a vacuum. We currently have leaders in this country deliberately fanning the flames of racism, misogyny, xenophobia

and anti-LGBTQ sentiments. The rhetoric they use and the bigotry they refuse to genuinely denounce has emboldened those who use hate and violence to attack and marginalize our communities. In the face of these vile attacks, the silence of our leaders is deafening, and their equivocation is painfully clear.

Many of us began last week tired from the weekend’s events and faced the acknowledgment that horrific incidents like what happened in Charlottesville this weekend will continue to happen unless and until we address racism and bigotry in all of its forms. Affinity stands committed to fight with you for the safety and equality of our communities.

While there is much to do, we must remember that part of our work is to take care of each other and

ourselves. Affinity is also committed to making and holding space while we as a community mourn, heal, and move forward. To that end, we encourage you to join us for our monthly poetry night this Thursday, August 17th for a night of healing and a celebration of what is created when blackness, women and femmes show up together. It’s magic.

Remember that we are all better when we are all better. Let’s commit to do and be better together.

*In solidarity,  
Imani Rupert-Gordon  
Executive Director, Affinity Community Services*

**Send columns or letters to [Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com).  
Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.**

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

# DIVERSIONS

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WCT reviews the production *Sister Africa*.

Photo of Melissa Nelson (left) and Takesha Kizart by Ron Goldman

### SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

## LGBTQ military musicals

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

It's purely coincidental that two timely new musicals about trans and gay service members in the U.S. military throughout history are about to play next door to each other.

The *CiviliTy* of Albert Cashier explores the life of its title Civil War hero, who could arguably be described as a trans person today (performances begin Aug. 31 at Stage 773). Meanwhile *One Thousand Words* is a musical that uncovers the fictionalized story of a gay soldier during World War II (it begins performances Aug. 30 at Theater Wit).

But what also ties the two shows together is that both were featured in past lineups of the Chicago Musical Theatre Festival (CMTF), which was founded in 2014 by Underscore Theatre Company. *One Thousand Words* played the 2015 CMTF in a semi-staged production at the Den Theatre, while *The CiviliTy* of Albert Cashier was presented in staged-reading form during the 2016 festival at the Richard Christiansen Theater in Victory Gardens' Biograph Theater.

"It's exactly what we hoped for," said Underscore artistic director Alex Higgin-Houser on seeing two former CMTF shows go on to receive full-scale productions.

"We started Underscore so we could do new musicals and to give a place to grow the musical theater community in Chicago," Higgin-Houser said. "From that grew the Chicago Musical Theatre Festival—it has become such a central component of our mission."

For the creators of both *One Thousand Words* and *The CiviliTy* of Albert Cashier, participating in the CMTF proved to be invaluable in getting their shows up on their feet and to see where changes were necessary.

"It was exactly what *One Thousand Words* needed at that moment," said Louisiana-native play-

wright and lyricist Michael Braud, who co-created the musical with composer Curran Latas.

"We were able to see what worked and what didn't work with audiences," said Braud, adding that the musical's central abrasive journalist character now stumbles upon the gay angle to his assigned story rather than reluctantly taking it in the first place.

According to Braud, the networking that came out of the CMTF especially proved to be artistically fruitful. Many of the musical's artistic personnel assembled for the CMTF run of *One Thousand Words* kept in touch to later found Theater Faction, a new theater company now launching its inaugural season.

Whole scenes and songs were still unwritten and only described at the 2016 CMTF reading of *The CiviliTy* of Albert Cashier. Yet, the musical's co-creators, Jay Paul Deratany (book) with Joe Stevens and Keaton Wooden (music and lyrics), still were able to draw from the readings to improve and complete it.

"In the year since the festival, we've been working on it pretty consistently," said playwright Jay Paul Deratany. "We've got a lot of new songs and a lot of great stuff coming up."

Produced by Permoveo Productions in association with Pride Films and Plays, *The CiviliTy* of Albert Cashier divides up the historical title role with some notable star power. During the Civil War scenes, trans singer/songwriter Dani Shay (*The Glee Project 2*, *America's Got Talent*) stars as the young Albert Cashier (who was born Jennifer Hodgers). Meanwhile Broadway veteran Katherine Condit (*Chess*, *A Chorus Line*) plays dementia-suffering Old Albert in scenes set in 1915.

Since it takes so long for musicals to write and develop, Deratany said he had no idea that *The CiviliTy* of Albert Cashier would become so timely—especially on the heels of the current U.S. president's attacks on trans service members in



Dani Shay, who stars in the title role of *The CiviliTy* of Albert Cashier. PR photo

the military.

"Trump's tweets are so outrageous and so insulting to all those people who served or are currently serving. People who are volunteering to be in our military—not drafted," Deratany said. "What Trump is doing is dividing us based upon our differences rather than uniting us on our commonality."

And as for the CMTF itself, the fact that there wasn't one this summer doesn't mean that it has fallen by the wayside. Higgin-Houser said the CMTF will return in February 2018. In the meantime, he suggests that adventurous audiences who seek out new musicals should check out the former CMTF shows *The CiviliTy* of Albert Cashier and *One Thousand Words*.

"With these shows, it was very clear from the very beginning that their authors had an incredible passion for them," Higgin-Houser said. "I'm

so thrilled to see these productions happening."

***The CiviliTy* of Albert Cashier runs from Thursday, Aug. 31, through Sunday, Oct. 15, at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. Previews go through Sept. 3 with an official press opening 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 6. Regular run performances are 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 4 p.m. Sundays. Previews are \$30. Regular run tickets are \$40; call 773-327-5252 or visit [AlbertCashierTheMusical.com](http://AlbertCashierTheMusical.com).**

**Theater Faction's *One Thousand Words* plays from Wednesday, Aug. 30, through Sunday, Sept. 17, at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 3 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$17.50 to \$27.50; call 773-975-8150 or visit [TheaterFaction.org](http://TheaterFaction.org).**

## THEATER REVIEW

**The Fly Honey Show**

Playwright: created by Erin Kilmurray, scripted by Mary Williamson and Shannon Matesky  
**At: The Inconvenience at The Den Theater, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.**  
**Tickets: \$20-\$80**  
**Runs through: Sept. 2**

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The souvenir table in the lobby displays earplugs, T-shirts and dainty leather harnesses. A squad of genderfluid greeters dressed in bits of glittery black material and lots of bare tattooed flesh guide you to your seats in the Den's Bookspan space or mingle in the aisles to the music rolling off the spray-lit walls. A strolling photographer offers to record your presence in this carnival milieu. This is all *before* the actual show starts, by the way.



**Lindsay Charles in the opening weekend of The Fly Honey Show.**  
 Photo by Matthew Gregory Hollis

Welcome to the Fly Honey Show, ladies and—um, “gentler ladies”—created in 2009 by Erin Kilmurray of the multi-disciplinary artists collective calling itself The Inconvenience, now re-assembled annually for the purpose of sharing in the empowerment that comes of unity in social consciousness expressed in dionysic carousing. This is no sleazy orgy, in other words. The theme celebrated tonight is “Everybody, no matter *what* your body”—a manifesto affirmed by emcees Mary Williamson, Molly Brennan and Sydney Charles, who proceed to instruct us in appropri-

ate etiquette for the occasion.

The evening's agenda fulfills its promise with specialty acts—some changing from night to night—encompassing physiques and candor rarely seen in this milieu: a South Asian dancer wearing her eyeglasses for a “Devi” (goddess) invocation, for example, or a lingerie-clad gourmand of ample proportions enjoying a cupcake. Back again is the Reverend Butts (played this year by Bear Bellinger), whose revivalist sermon exhorts us to love ourselves and one another. Gender-queer comedian Shannon Noll speculates on her

mother's possible bisexuality, while transgender monologist Elle (pronounced “El”) Walker parses the subtext of applying cosmetics.

In between, the athletic Fly Honey hoofers swarm in happy pandemonium, John Cicora and the brassy Fly Honey jazz band provide instrumental interludes, vocalists Maggie Kubley and Becca Brown mash up Rolling Stones with Meredith Brooks under the title “The Sweetest Bitch in the World” and Poetry Slammer Shannon Matesky's spoken-word “Honey Rallies” reminds us what the bees can teach us.

Despite the arena-style configuration of the stage, Fly Honey's two-and-a-half-hour running time cannot avoid a few low-steam moments before Williamson and Brennan join forces to belt forth a penultimate “My Way” (both the Sinatra and the Sid Vicious versions). For an immersive revel with a cast almost as big as its audience, though, no one can deny the abundance of good, clean, naughty and nonjudgmental fun delivered by The Inconvenience.

## THEATER REVIEW

**Sister Africa**

Playwright: Stephanie Liss  
**At: Athenaeum Theatre, Studio One, 2936 N. Southport Ave.**  
**Tickets: AthenaeumTheatre.org; \$32**  
**Runs through: Sept. 10**

BY JAMES R. WILKE

When sitting down for this world-premiere drama about the victims of the Congo's ongoing civil war, one might be disappointed if one comes looking for a play consisting primarily of dialogue and interactions between actors.

Sister Africa can more aptly be described as a collection of monologues delivered by various

characters in an unfolding drama, sometimes tied together by brief moments of interaction. Based upon hundreds of hours of interview with war victims and soldiers gathered by author Stephanie Liss—who journeyed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo with Jewish World Watch—it stands as a distilled collection of stories from her experiences.

Stealing the show is actress Takesha Kizart as Mama Jette, whose stirring recollections of the murder of her family and rape by enemy soldiers leaves a lasting impression. Ahmed Brooks as Amani, a Congolese teacher drawn to save child-soldiers from military bondage, and Chris McClellan as Cesar, a child-soldier, also display great character development. Jimmy Binns (Rabbi) and Melissa Nelson (Miriam) are less effective in their performances, though this may in part be due to

the writing, as their characters seem more observers rather than players in the drama.

The music, composed by American-Israeli musician RebbeSoul, adds to the ambience and does not distract from the actors. It might be improved, however, with more African influence.

Problematic are the staging and lights. The stage was divided too neatly into the rabbi's office on one side and an African hut on the other, with two white zigzag lines painted down center-stage to divide the action. As the stage is already small, the actors were often confined to stand and deliver their monologues, rather than use the full space. The stories would only come to life more fully had director Elayne LeTraunik allowed for a more innovative staging and set design.

The attention to lighting was also lacking. At times, the wrong half of the stage appeared lit

while actors delivered their stories from the other side. Also, more could have been done with lighting to evoke moods of daylight, sunset and evening. Costumes were effective and consistent to their characters, however, even beautiful in the case of Mama Jette.

Although this production felt clunky at times, one can commend the efforts by Liss and Genesis Theatrical Productions to bring to light the atrocities of the Congo's civil war and the many layers of victims that such wars leave behind. It is a story worthy of telling.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Shock-Headed Peter**, Black Button Eyes Productions at The Athenaeum, through Sept. 16. Heinrich Hoffmann's cruel, deadly 1845 moral lessons for children are visually and musically stunning in this 65-minute production using masks, stilts, puppets, Grand Guignol and The Tiger Lillies' lilting, sarcastic songs. Kevin Webb scores as the crafty MC. It's not for kids. JA

**Aladdin**, Cadillac Palace Theatre, through Sept. 10. This national tour is a corporate Disney product, no doubt. But most audiences nostalgic for the blockbuster 1992 animated feature probably won't care since Aladdin delivers as a wowing, big-budget stage spectacle. SCM

**The Fair Maid of the West**, Oak Park Festival Theatre, through Sept. 2. The season of “Swash-buckling in the Suburbs” continues amid leafy-green Austin Gardens with this home-grown seagoing adventure yarn of a woman captain in search of her lost sweetheart. MSB

**Fight City**, Factory Theater, through Aug. 26. Why wait for a fight to break out at the post-show discussion? Summer's here and the time is right for a fight-filled futuristic fable (with a social commentary) at the Factory. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

**Machinal**

Playwright: Sophie Treadwell  
**At: Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.**  
**Tickets: \$35**  
**Runs through: Sept. 24**

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Spousal murder has all the elements for successful drama: sex, violence, deception and conspiracy—all simmering beneath the placid surface of our culture's most intimate contract. Is it any wonder that so many writers have found inspiration in real-life accounts of wives killing husbands? Of the fictional hypotheses arising from the sensational case of Ruth Snyder in 1928 (among them, James M. Cain's Double Indemnity), however, only Sophie Treadwell's takes a sympathetic view of a frustrated housewife

whose obsession with fleeing a stifling marriage led her to snap one night.

It speaks for the anonymity of our heroine that we don't even know her name until halfway into the play. At her job, she is only “Miss A.” Later, after her mother bullies her into accepting her boss' proposal of marriage, she becomes “Mrs. Jones.” Not until she ventures forth on an illicit date where she meets a romantic drifter do we learn that her name is Helen. The stranger's tales of his travels—how he once fashioned a weapon from a bottle filled with rocks to escape capture by Mexican bandits—awaken in the young matron a hunger for the freedom denied her. Finally, as she awaits execution for the fatal bludgeoning of her consort, we hear her name uttered in full for the first time.

Treadwell recounts her story in the non-representational mode known as Expressionism, its text encompassing orchestrated group dialogues, stream-of-conscious soliloquies and other emotive distortions rarely encountered

today. Fortunately, director Jacob Harvey has enlisted the aid of Elizabeth Margolius, who creates scenery from human bodies on Eleanor Kahn's starkly minimalist arena—arranging actors in a tight cluster of staccato vocals and spastic movement to suggest the pressures of a crowded office, for example, or lining up Helen's persecutors in military review formation as their forlorn prisoner reflects on a life journey bringing nothing but despair.

This collaboration between the Greenhouse Center Theater and Naperville's North Central College is also lucky to have Heather Chrisler on board in the role of Helen. The stage picture frequently features our solitary martyr isolated in spotlight at its focal point, so that we register her slightest twitch or shiver, right down to the curl of her foot when the man she will come to hate touches her. The entire ensemble is superb, but this is the performance that you will remember.

## THEATER REVIEW

## Trevor the Musical

Playwright: Dan Collins (book/lyrics),

Julianne Wick Davis (music)

At: Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Ct., Glencoe

Tickets: 847-242-6000;

WritersTheatre.org; \$35-\$80

Runs through: Sept. 17

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

I'm split between enthusiasm for this unquestionably exciting world-premiere production and reservations about the value of the work itself, from my perspective as a mature cisgender gay man.

Trevor the Musical's New York ambitions are obvious from the out-of-town personnel involved and from the production's size, probably enhanced with commercial theater money. There's nothing wrong with that (it's how many new musicals are developed these days), although it makes for an explosively, relentlessly high-energy show that nearly overwhelms the 250-seat Writers Theatre. It's not Broadway yet. It could be pulled back a touch without losing impact.

The title character, Trevor, is 13 years old, worships Diana Ross (it's 1981) and is discovering he's gay. Both narrator and central figure, Trevor is a huge role requiring a charismatic, big-belted song-and-dance dynamo, and this show sure has the right young guy! Eli Tokash is a dazzling, amazing, triple-threat sensation; he has it all and does it all superbly.

The mostly young supporting players are appealing and more than capable, with outstanding work by Declan Desmond (as Trevor's unrequited boy crush, Pinky), Tori Whaples (Trevor's would-be girlfriend Cathy), swivel-hips Matthew Uzarraga (Trevor's best friend Walter) and Salisha Thomas (Trevor's dream Diana Ross).

Yes, Trevor the Musical is a must-see for wonderful performances in a well-staged (Marc Bruni, director; Josh Prince, choreographer), up-beat, high-energy and mostly-funny show.

Now those nagging reservations. I remember vividly my four high school boy-crushes (one dated my sister!) while having no idea I was gay because homosexuality wasn't discussed, not even as a negative. No fruit/fag/fairy/queer/pansy jokes—I wouldn't have understood them anyway. But that was pre-Stonewall. Surely things had changed by 1981? Yet Trevor (musical and film) might as well be 1961.

Also, given the fact that the film inspired the Trevor Project devoted to LGBTQY teenage suicide prevention, I think the musical could/should tell the story more profoundly today than did the film, with its generally-comedic tone. Awareness has changed since 1994, too. Frank Wedekind's Spring Awakening, written 126 years ago, provides a deeper teenage homo-erotic story (as does its 2006 rock musical version). Trevor the Musical is a well-done, fairly standard musical comedy about a gay teenager. From a gay perspective, it might have been more.



Eli Tokash in Trevor the Musical.

Photo by Michael Brosilow

## SPOTLIGHT

If you want your humor fast and twisted, check out these two comedy shows:

**Cards Against Humanity Live** takes its name from the irreverent card game, and returns for a one-night-only show hosted by "You Are Beautiful" artist Matthew Hoffman. Cards Against Humanity Live plays 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25, at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. Tickets are \$10; call 773-404-7336.

Also check out the very queer late-night sketch show **26**, which takes its inspiration from the ABC's of Death horror anthology. Pre-



sented by Pride Films and Plays, 26 continues at 10 p.m. Saturdays through Sept. 23 in The Buena of the Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway St. Tickets are \$10; call 800-737-0984 or visit [PrideArtsChicago.com](http://PrideArtsChicago.com).

Caption: Matthew Hoffman hosts the return of Cards Against Humanity Live. Photo courtesy of Greenhouse Theater Center

# THE WINDY CITY TIMES ANNUAL WERQ! CHICAGO

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## BOOKS

# Author explores truth about friend's death

BY TARINA HARGRAYS

In this nonfiction mystery, author Kevin Troxall revisits his hometown is Glasgow, Kentucky, to uncover the truth about the death of his childhood friend, Scotty Martin.

The murder of Martin seemed to be a hate crime against Martin's homosexuality. Troxall decided to uncover the truth about Martin's death and the corruption and homophobia that led it to be unsolved.

**Windy City Times: Can you tell me about One Town's Son in your own words?**

Kevin Troxall: One Town's Son is my personal investigation into the mysterious death of a childhood friend and what comes about along the way when I go back to my hometown to investigate.

**WCT: How would you describe your and Scotty's friendship?**

KT: As I mentioned in the book, I knew a Scotty in high school. He was a year younger than I was and in a small town you tend to know everybody. Scotty and I didn't actually become close until we were both in college together and we would see each other out and about; we would hang out. So, I actually got to know him a lot better during our college days.

**WCT: The book focuses a lot on growing up in the South and the conservative views that part**



Author Kevin Troxall.  
PR photo

and the troubles that were probably there all along. I just never encountered it myself.

**WCT: Do you believe the South is becoming more accepting of those who hold less traditional views or do you believe [it's] still behind when it comes to the rest of the country?**

KT: I think they're still behind. The incident when Scotty died was in 2004. I went to revisit in 2008. It's certainly gotten a little better since that time. I know even from the release of the book how many people have come out of the woodworks and sent me these great, positive messages. To a degree it's better, but I will say that it's definitely behind.

**WCT: What was it about Scotty Martin's case that stood out to you? What compelled you to tell his story?**

KT: Honestly, I felt like I saw some of myself in him. We were both from the same small town. We were both gay. We knew each other. We had some of the same friends. I guess just hearing about what had happened struck a chord with me, mostly because I felt like that easily could have been me. ... How would my family have reacted? I wouldn't want that for myself and my family.

**WCT: Can you tell me more about the research aspect of this book? And what were some challenges you faced while investigating and compiling research on the case?**

KT: I think getting people to talk was the biggest challenge. A lot of people who were at the reunion that night didn't want to talk. It was a time in their life that they didn't want to relive, which I totally understand. And again, coming from a small town where everybody seems to know everybody, some people are afraid to say

anything for that very reason because if they say something then, it might get back to someone else that they know.

**WCT: What things came easier for you?**

KT: The help from Scotty's sister—I was completely nervous about even contacting his sister, Brandy. ... I think a year probably went by from when I first started doing research and first contacting her.

She was more than helpful and everything just became easy at that point, to get information about her, about the family, about their life growing up. I mean she was an open book.

**WCT: So, how long did it take you to write the book?**

KT: About four years. It was about three and a half to four years of research and writing.

**WCT: I know this is your first novel. So, were there any other stories you thought to publish first or was this a no-brainer?**

KT: This was pretty much a no-brainer for me. Since then, I've heard from a lot of people that have had family members who have had cases similar where they don't think the police did the best they could have done or that law enforcement didn't take care of it the way they should have.

**WCT: What do you believe the biggest problem was in Scotty's case, as far as corruption**

**and homophobia go?**

KT: Certainly, the botched investigation was up there in terms of us not getting this case fully revealed. I'm going to say that because it sort of leads to everything else along the way, the fumbling of law enforcement to collect evidence and to interview people when they should've. I think that was the biggest problem.

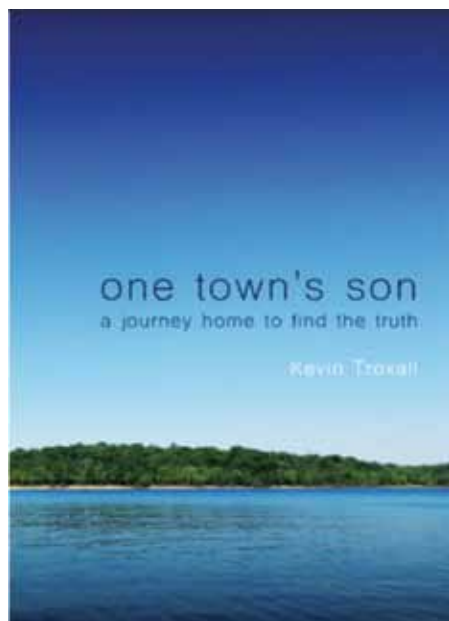
**WCT: What do you want readers to take away from One Town's Son?**

KT: If you feel that there's an injustice, stand up and speak your mind. Fight for what you believe in; that's what I want people to take away from the book.

**WCT: Often in the LGBT community, some don't want to take a stand for certain injustices, in fear of becoming more isolated from their peers or society. What advice would you give to those looking to gain that courage?**

KT: You just have to realize that you're not the only one. There is support from other people, whether they're vocal about it at the time or not. There are people who are behind you.

There were times when I didn't know what to do or what to pursue next. I just kept thinking 'I'm doing this for Scotty; I'm doing this for a reason and it does matter even if no one else cares.' You just have to keep fighting the good fight.



**of the country tends to hold. Tell me about how that was for you growing up as a gay man.**

KT: Personally, it was fine. I really didn't know any differently. ... I never really had any kind of trouble, no bullying to the effect that Scotty had.

So, for myself, it was fine. When I went back to revisit the story and my hometown, that's when I started to see more and more of the homophobes

## Benefit concert for Russian violinist Aug. 26

Chicago LGBTQ community leaders are hosting a benefit concert for Artem Kolesov, a 23-year-old gay man who caught the world's attention when he came out earlier this year on YouTube as part of a Russian "Children-404" project, which invites teenagers to share their stories and discuss LGBT issues in Russia.

The concert, "From Russia with Love: A benefit concert for Artem Kolesov and other LGBTQ refugees fleeing persecution," will take place Saturday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m. at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

While his move caught international attention, it also means that he can never return home. His dream, therefore, is to insure his safety by obtaining U.S. citizenship. Kolesov now lives in Chicago, where he is first violinist in the Yas Quartet, which is in residence at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts.

Also, it was recently announced that violinist Rachel Barton-Pine will be a special guest.

Ticket prices start at \$50 each; visit <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/pages/from-russia-with-love>. All proceeds will benefit legal costs associated with Kolesov's pursuit of U.S. citizenship; American Friends of Rainbow Railroad; and Chicago LGBT Asylum Support Program (CLASP).

(Kolesov was a Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree this year. Also, his story is at [WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Russian-born-violinist-makes-waves-after-coming-out/59026.html](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Russian-born-violinist-makes-waves-after-coming-out/59026.html).)

## 'Fahrenheit' Aug. 27 on South Side

Entertainment from top rap artists, R&B and house singers, drag performers and DJs will be featured at Fahrenheit Chicago-Pride South on the Lake, an end-of-summer beach party of fun, music and social networking for LGBTQ Illinoisans, their friends and families.

The free event will take place 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 27, at Oakwood Beach (at 41st Street and Lake Shore Drive).

Hosting the party will be Chicago comedians Mz Ruff n Stuff, Trina Tru Luv and Otis Mack "The Heavy Diva" as well as poet/singer Storie Devereaux.

International queer rap artist Cakes da Killa, whose debut album drops this fall, and singer-songwriter Cor.Ece will highlight Fahrenheit. There will also be a mini-ball (at 3-4 p.m.) with DJ Matt Balenciaga. A Lighthouse beach service with Pastor Jamie Frazier will take place at 11-11:30 a.m.

More information is at <http://tinyurl.com/Fahrenheit2017>.



Otis Mack.  
Photo by Vern Hester



Joffrey Ballet's routine.  
Photo by Cheryl MannKlug-Marataya



## Dance for Life stuns while raising funds

BY EMAGIN TANASCHUK

The 26th annual Dance For Life gala and concert—held Aug. 19 at the Auditorium Theatre—continued the tradition of serving as a fundraiser to prevent new transmissions of HIV, support efforts to eradicate AIDS and assist those in the dance community that are affected by critical health issues.

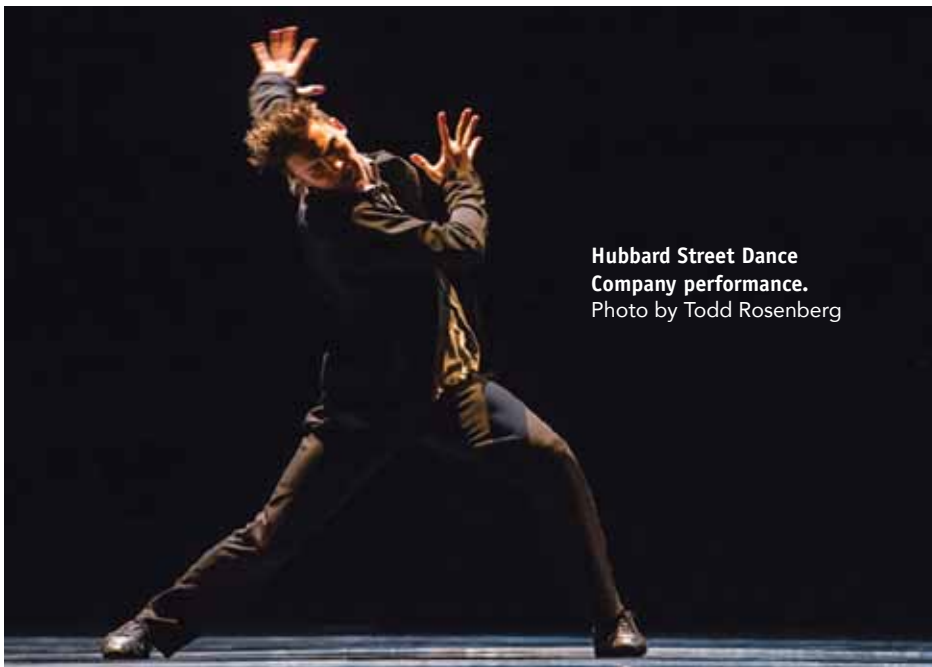
Chicago Dancers United presented the event.

Dance for Life began with a gala reception followed by the performances—a series of per segments from Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Ensemble Espanol Spanish Dance Theater, Trinity Irish Dance Company, The Joffrey Ballet, Jessica

Miller Choreography, Giordano Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and Visceral Dance Chicago.

Each segment was met with roaring applause by the audience.

A fraction of the proceeds from the event also went to support The Dancers' Fund, which provides grants to dance community professionals who are dealing with health and other life issues that may affect their ability to work. Although this fund was created specifically in response to the HIV/AIDS impact, the mission has now widened to help with housing, utilities, insurance, medication, travel and other issues.



Hubbard Street Dance Company performance.  
Photo by Todd Rosenberg

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# New event space opened in Edgewater for celebrations

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

The Lytle House in Edgewater is ready for big celebrations.

Robyn and Michelle Lytle (not pronounced as “little”) have been married since 2014. Shortly after getting engaged, Robyn began working with her wife at Michelle Lytle Photography, established in 2004. Robyn, originally from Hinsdale, and Michelle a Downer’s Grove native, moved to Edgewater in January 2017 with their dog and infant daughter.

The Lytles, have a passion for the City of Chicago’s history and all the old buildings, when they began looking at properties where they could have more space to raise their growing family and expand their business, spotted an old auto garage for sale by the owner, which had “a cool history.” The Lytles received a grant from the City of Chicago’s Small Business Improvement Fund (SBIF) to get the building up and running.

“It was really important for us to own a piece of Chicago history and hold on to a piece of it with all of these buildings being knocked down and all these huge apartment buildings going up especially in this area,” said Robyn.

## Now the old auto garage

Robyn shared that the Edgewater Historical Society said that over 100 years ago, this property was a tin shop and the Lytle’s goal was to preserve as much of the building’s history as possible. Today, after making major renovations, they have converted the building into a live/work space. While they live on the second floor, they run their wedding photography studio and a small event space out of the first floor. People can cele-

brate weddings, engagement parties, baby showers, professional events, photoshoots and more in the first floor event space. Bookings for events at the Lytle House began in June 2017.

“I still can’t believe we live here when I walk up to it and we love this neighborhood, we love the community; it’s amazing,” said Robyn. “We’re really happy.”

The Lytle House has more than 2,800 square feet of free-flowing indoor-outdoor space. Being photographers, the space was designed with a very strategic approach, including daylight-balanced lighting and various custom touches. For example, Robyn explained, they took the previously paved driveway full of broken-down cars and turned it into a private courtyard with a custom mural created just for Chicago (and Edgewater, specifically). For this big project, they also mainly worked with local Chicagoans and businesses.

Robyn said the thing that really stands out about the space is the attention to detail.

“There’s just so much detail in everything,” Robyn said. “Everything that was designed, like the tables, were designed with such thought. We just worked with all local people and just tried to make everything that was brought into this space so meaningful, so we didn’t just throw something together, we wanted everything to be very thought out. So, when I walk into the space, I feel like everything is very thought out.”

Robyn described her and Michelle’s wedding photography style as “photo documentary.” In the photography work, Robyn shared that hers and Michelle’s favorite part, as they focus on capturing different angles of the same moment, is getting to witness one of the happiest days



The Lytle House.  
Photos by Michelle Lytle Photography

in people’s lives. She added she enjoys witnessing that moment right after two people decide to share their lives together. That passion transfers into the work the two are now doing in the new event space.

“So, we love that piece of it and when we created this space to host events, we’re like ‘wow, now this space we created, our home is above it and below it, these people are going to be celebrating amazing things, whether it’s a birthday party or a 50th anniversary or an engagement party,” said Robyn. “Just so many happy moments right below our home. They’re being hosted right in our home pretty much.”

With the space being a new development, Robyn said they are spending a lot of time talking to people in the community, letting them know that they are here, what they are and what they have converted the space into. They offer tours to those who want to see the place for an event.

“We’re always encouraging them to do something different, do something that’s unique to you, what you want your celebration to be, we’re open to any ideas and helping them make it hap-

pen and it’s just really cool the people who have come through,” said Robyn about people’s events in the space. “It’s been really fun so far.”

To learn more about the Lytle House, visit [TheLytleHouse.com](http://TheLytleHouse.com).



## Unity Temple open for tours

Unity Temple—which some consider one of Frank Lloyd Wright’s greatest public buildings—is now open for tours.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Trust provides tours year-round, Monday through Saturday, at Unity Temple, 875 Lake St., Oak Park.

Wright designed the building in 1905 for his own Unitarian congregation and completed construction in 1908. Unity Temple continues to serve a Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Guided interior tours take place 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fridays; and 10-11 a.m. Saturdays. Tours last 45-60 minutes. Admission is \$18 for adults and \$15 for students, seniors 65 and older and military; children 3 and younger get in free. Self-guided

audio tours are also available for \$10 and \$8 for students, seniors 65 and older and military.

See [FLWright.org/unitytemple](http://FLWright.org/unitytemple).

## First ‘Underwear Run’ Aug. 25

The Chicago Triathlon is Sunday, Aug. 27 and, in its 35th year, race organizers decided to incorporate a brand-new Underwear Run, a one-mile run hosted on the lakefront with 500 strangers dashing around in their underwear (and costumes are optional).

The new event will kick off the Tri weekend on Friday, Aug. 25; followed by the kids triathlon on Saturday, Aug. 26, and the main event on Sunday, Aug. 27. Funds from the Underwear Run will benefit the 100 Club of Chicago—a local organization that provides support to families of

first responders who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The run will take place at Queen’s Landing, 500 S. Lake Shore Dr. Runners check in at 5:30 p.m., with costume judging at 6:15 p.m. The race will start at 6:45 p.m.

See [ChicagoTriathlon.com/race/gildan-underwear-run/](http://ChicagoTriathlon.com/race/gildan-underwear-run/).

## PTR recruiting board members

Proud to Run (PTR) is looking for organized, committed and passionate individuals with great communication skills who would like to work behind the scenes for one of the nation’s longest running LGBTQ charity races.

PTR is led by an all-volunteer board of directors and committee members who execute the

group’s vision and mission by organizing the annual race and various events throughout the year. This past June, PTR had a record number of participants—more than 2,200—and raised a single-year record of \$65,000 for our beneficiaries.

Interested persons should send their names, contact information and short bios (one to two paragraphs) about themselves to [director@proudtorun.org](mailto:director@proudtorun.org) or by Proud to Run, PO BOX 13232, Chicago, IL 60613. People of color, gender non-binary individuals and female-identifying LGBTQ people are greatly encouraged to apply. **The deadline is Sept. 1.**

Proud To Run is Chicago’s annual pride race. Since 1982, Proud To Run has raised nearly more than half a million dollars to LGBTQ-serving charities in Chicago. For more information, email [info@proudtorun.org](mailto:info@proudtorun.org).

# Lakeside Pride founders reflect on band's anniversary

BY MATT SIMONETTE

According to Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles co-founder Mary Wallace, "If music is your thing, you've really got to do it, or else you're miserable."

Lakeside Pride celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2017. The organization boasts about 210 members and consists of several units: the Freedom Band, which marches in local parades; the symphonic band, which usually mounts two concert performances annually; a jazz band; and

by the Atlanta Marching Band, who had several Black members from the Mid-South," Dallas recalled. "I spoke with several of them and came up with an idea of an all-Black marching unit."

He made an appeal for members in an interview on the now-defunct LesBiGay Radio program, a broadcast which Wallace happened to hear. Though neither she, Tullis nor Morck are persons of color, Dallas eagerly welcomed their participation. Their first meeting was at the Belmont Avenue Ann Sather on July 8, 1997.

"When I noticed that there was little interest—



Lakeside Pride Freedom Marching Band.

Photo by Laura Brown

several smaller ensembles.

The organization unveiled a new logo in conjunction with the milestone, according to Board Chair Bradley Fritz.

"It's kind of a forward-looking time for us, before us, because we are looking ahead to the next 20 years," said Fritz.

The organization was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame—now the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame—in 2011.

Lakeside Pride was co-founded in 1997 by Wallace and four others: Jon Dallas, David Morck, Robert Schultz III and Rhonda Tullis. The idea originally belonged to Dallas, who was a staff member at BlackLines along with Schultz. Dallas hoped to create a marching band for Black LGBT Chicagoans.

"Prior to moving to Chicago during my career, I spent some time in Nashville and was inspired

either because of the comfort factor, limited musicians or other reasons in 1997—I thought it best to open the band to everyone since this was an inclusive organization," he said. "Besides, the original members were majority non-Black and it sort of made it useless to hinder a whole group of people when I wanted to project inclusiveness."

Wallace pointed out that most community bands have the advantage of being funded by municipalities—not so for Lakeside Pride, whose members at first fronted the cash for rehearsal space and had to scrounge for both instruments and sheet-music. Wallace played an older set of snare drums her father gave her; Morck used a battered tuba he and Tullis spotted in an antique store on Clark Street.

"We would ask ourselves, 'Do we have enough people? Do we sound good enough with so few players?' recalled Tullis. "I remember performing



Lakeside Pride Jazz Orchestra.

Photo courtesy of Lakeside Pride

on the front porch of my friend's yard sale."

Their first public official performance took place in front of the same Ann Sather in December, 1997, where they performed Christmas carols. The restaurant provided coffee and cinnamon rolls.

"Four of us performed that day," Tullis said. "We had a film that had a woman walk by twice, covering her ears each time."

Schultz was supposed to be there, but he had his time and location wrong. "There were supposed to be five people there, but there were four," he said. "It was before the days of cell-phones. I was sitting in Starbucks, or wherever you went to then, trying to figure out what went wrong."

An early member, Alfredo Gomez, was a member of a previous LGBT marching band that had dissolved and was able to provide that band's leftover music. Dallas made arrangements for the band to rehearse in the Preston Bradley Center in Uptown, which remains Lakeside Pride's unofficial home; they still hold rehearsals and concerts there.

There were some difficult performances at the beginning. At an early concert for the LGBT group at Illinois State University in Bloomington, the 12 musicians who performed outnumbered the nine people in the audience. Their first Chicago Pride Parade appearance, also in 1998, was on the back of a flatbed truck. Schultz called the

performance "a glorified drum circle," but Dallas said it was his favorite memory from his time in Lakeside Pride.

"It showed the determination that we had as a group to make this band concept become a reality," Dallas added.

Their first symphonic concert in 1999 was another milestone. Morck recalled, "I had tears in my eyes, so I could hardly see my music. It was just such a feeling of joy, after all that work, being on stage performing."

The group has traveled outside Chicago on multiple occasions, taking part in Pride events in Cincinnati; Ann Arbor, Michigan; Indianapolis; Milwaukee; and Madison, Wisconsin. They performed at the Chicago Gay Games in 2006 and some members took part in the inauguration parades for former President Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. They officially became Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles in 2013. Conductors have included Gerald Cole, Tom Kowalczyk and, presently, Kyle Rhodes.

At the spring 2017 symphonic band concert, there were over 120 musicians onstage.

"The organization has grown to a level we never expected," said Morck. "There was so long when we were five members waiting for a sixth member to walk in."

*Note:* Reporter Matt Simonette is the partner of Lakeside Pride co-founder David Morck.

## Madonna concert film out Sept. 15

Eagle Vision will release the film of Madonna's record-breaking Rebel Heart tour on Friday, Sept. 15, on digital download, DVD and Blu-ray.

It will come complete with bonus content as well as a live album featuring 22 songs from the Rebel Heart Tour, available on double CD and digital download.

Some of the songs she performed on the tour

include "Burning Up," "Iconic," "Like a Virgin," "La Isla Bonita" and "Holiday." Extras include "Like a Prayer" and an excerpt from "Tears of a Clown."

The tour grossed \$169.8 million with more than 1 million people attending, making her the top-grossing touring female artist in the history of Billboard Boxscore with more than \$1.31 billion in tickets sold over her career.

Pre-orders are available at physical and digital retailers around the world, and with exclusive merchandise bundles at Madonna.com.

# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR Daisies

BY NINA MATTI

If you're looking for a family affair, **Daisies** (2523 N. Milwaukee Ave.; <https://www.daisieschicago.com>) may be the spot for you.

With its welcoming atmosphere and home-grown feel, Daisies strives to combine its Mid-western roots with a touch of Italian flair, and I have to say it hits the nail on the head.

Our meal started out strong with appetizers certain to make you nostalgic for childhood. The chips and onion dip, although an admittedly odd item to include on the menu at a pasta shop, was one of the highlights of the dinner. Another must-try hors d'oeuvre was the heirloom tomatoes sliced on delicious toasted sourdough complemented by bone marrow and balsamic. These two items found beauty in their simplicity.

The menu features seven homemade pasta dishes (Chef Joe Frillman said he hopes to expand to up to 12 in the future) and two entrees, white-fish and Amish chicken. Although the options are limited, the menu regularly welcomes new dishes.



The Amish chicken at Daisies.  
Photo by Andrew Davis

Since its opening in early June, items have been added and changed almost weekly.

Frillman said this allows him to feature in-season produce, which is largely supplied by his brother, who owns Frillman Farms north of the city. His family's influence is sprinkled throughout Daisies in a touching way. Frillman's sister crafted the paintings in the dining room, and his mother supplied the flowers for the restaurant's back patio and the recipe for the tasty Kahlua cake on the dessert menu.

A visit to Daisies really does feel as though the Frillman family is going out of its way to create a homey meal for you and those with you.

**Note: Restaurant profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.**

## LCHJ's ¡Bienvenidos! event at Sidetrack

Legal Council For Health Justice (LCHJ) held their annual travel-themed fundraising event Thu., Aug. 17, at Sidetrack, 3359 N. Halsted St. This year's event was titled ¡Bienvenidos! and featured eats and treats from Bombón Cafe and live music from The Guillermo Paolisso Quartet.

Attendees participated in a silent auction during the event. All proceeds from the auction and the door will go towards LCHJ's mission of providing free legal service programs which assist

low-income people with HIV, individuals facing homelessness, and children with disabilities.

According to Kevin Mork, LCHJ's director of development, the event exceeded fundraising goals by 50 percent.

Among the speakers during the event were LCHJ executive director Thomas Yates and staff attorney Sarah Hess. Hess touched upon the recent situation in Virginia and how it spurs her on to continue the fight of the organization. "We

all know injustice exists, Charlottesville is just the most recent in a legacy of violence. But even so, the call to resist has become more urgent." She continued, "Legal Council is here doing the work every day to restore a measure of justice everywhere and in any way we can, and with your support, we will keep doing that."

More information on Legal Council For Health Justice can be found at [www.legalcouncil.org](http://www.legalcouncil.org).



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## BILLY Masters

"I've lost a lot of friends to drugs. The fact I'm sitting here now is pretty amazing. ... I'm lucky to be alive."—My pal **Belinda Carlisle** talks about her 30-year addiction to drugs. Belated Happy Birthday to her (and to Big Mama Masters).

How far in advance do you RSVP to an event? They say that gay men typically wait until the last minute—probably because we are waiting for a better offer. Personally, I can change my mind about going to something even as I'm parking! So I find it fascinating that our "president" (such as he is) and his spousal equivalent have opted out of attending the Kennedy Center Honors in DECEMBER! That, of course, assumes he is still our president in December. Given the current political climate, it is conceivable that had he gone, he'd have had the worst night in the theater of any president since Lincoln!

This move by Mr. Trump came after two arts-connected events. 1) Three of the five Kennedy Center Honorees stated they would skip the reception with the president at the White House and B) the entire 17-person President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities resigned en masse. This is significant since it is the first entire White House department to resign. Some have quipped that nobody cares about the actions of people in the arts. I'd call that short-sighted. Many people go to foreign lands to visit museums and architecture. Almost nobody ever visits historical sites of accountants and economists. Arts matter. Arts endure.

The newly bald (read last week's column) **Kathy Griffin** has gone public about some shenanigans that happened behind the scenes of her Trump-inspired fatwa. The funny lady reports that after the fallout of her photo stunt, a member of CBS' board of directors sent her an e-mail instructing her how to smooth things over. The unnamed person told her to send a letter (not an e-mail) to the President begging for forgiveness, admitting she does not deserve this forgiveness, and to basically grovel. She was also advised to only leak the letter to FOX News—so they'd have the scoop. Needless to say, she didn't take that advice.

**Boy George** just signed his first major record label deal in 30 years! Not only that, but he's also committed to a multimillion-dollar Vegas residency. How will the 56-year-old George handle the added work schedule? "I'm going to need a body double!" He attributes the new opportunities to being clean and sober. "This couldn't have happened if I was still using." The record for BMG will be a collection of covers. This will quickly be followed by a new Culture Club album. All the while, he has to craft his solo Vegas show. "I think I'll model myself mostly on Cher because she changes outfits every 11 minutes. I think that might be a good starting point."

The possibility of **Glenn Close** immortalizing her portrayal of Norma Desmond in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard* on film inched closer to becoming a reality. Paramount Pictures—the



**Boy George is making a major comeback, Billy says.**

Photo by Dean Stockings

studio that holds the rights to the film and all subsequent versions—thinks an adaptation with Glenn could work. They were intrigued back in 1995 when she first played the role, but felt she was too young. Now, more than 20 years later and in light of her success with the revival in London and New York, the studio thinks the time is right. They have ambitiously scheduled production on the film to commence in January 2018.

Legendary designer **Bob Mackie** is crafting costumes for a revival of the burlesque campfest *When Pigs Fly*, which is slated to open off-Broadway Oct. 30. Mackie told me about this exciting news when I saw him last week in Provincetown, but I was sworn to secrecy. Since the cat's now out of the bag, I can at least confirm it. I believe the last full show he costumed in NYC was *Moon Over Buffalo* in 1995. Welcome back, Bob!

Speaking of challenging costumes, the London production of *Annie* is poised to make history when the role of Miss Hannigan is played by a man! **Craig Revel Horwood**, a judge on *Strictly Come Dancing* (the UK version of *Dancing with the Stars*), will assume the part starting Sept. 18.

A play based on *Brokeback Mountain* is being adapted for the London stage and has just started a workshop production. They are calling it "the most tragic gay love story ever told." Apparently, they haven't read my diary!

Since **Aaron Carter's** bisexual admission, he decided it would be good to put his talent where his mouth (presumably) has been. So he booked himself a gig in a gay bar: *Hamburger Mary's* in Tampa, Florida. Tickets were \$10, and far be it from me to point out that the burgers cost more! He had the predictable crying, apologizing, scattered presence which has endeared him to many a crowd. He also did single out several guys in the audience. "That motherfucker right there is gorgeous. You're gorgeous. He's kinda cute. It is what it is. I am who I am." But who are the people he was looking at? I wanna see photos of them.

Intriguingly enough, days after coming out as bisexual, Aaron aggressively began pursuing **Chloe Grace Moretz**. Thus far, he's twice asked her out on Twitter. Wake me when he starts tweeting the Jonas brothers.

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To continue his journey into the gay community, Carter showed up at the Project Angel Food Gala in Los Angeles last weekend. The organization, which provides meals to people living with HIV, chose Aaron to present an award to the group's founder, **Marianne Williamson**. Aaron showed up in a head-to-toe, voluminous white faux fur coat. When asked about his fashion choice, he said, "I've always dressed like this. It's just, I'm bringing it back now. I've always been kind of out there I guess." He posed on the red carpet with **Adam Lambert**, who was barely noticed.

When Aaron is eclipsing Adam, it's definitely time to end yet another column. See how I tied that into this whole eclipse frenzy? No need for clouds in our coffee—we've got Aaron Carter on [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com), the site you can view with the naked eye. If you have a question for me, send it along to me at [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Boy George's show is designed by Bob Mackie! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Wed., Aug. 23

**Pride Action Tank Kiki! LGBTQ Youth in Action mixer and panel PAT** focuses on six overlapping issues areas in the LGBTQIA community: housing, health, safety, financial security and youth. Meet the engagement committee, discuss what matters to you, learn about PAT and about advocacy opportunities in your community. RSVP with name, city, zip and age to [prideactiontank@aidschicago.org](mailto:prideactiontank@aidschicago.org) 5:30pm - 7:30pm Broadway Youth Center, 4009 N. Broadway <http://www.facebook.com/PrideActionTank/>

**DIFFA/Chicago's White Party, Under the Midsummer's Sky** Supports grants to Chicago-area service agencies providing assistance, education and outreach to those living with HIV/AIDS. An evening of design and business professionals dancing in hues of lily-white around the 75' lap pool and 8,400 sq. ft. outdoor garden. Venue Tours 5pm. Early tickets \$75, regular \$95. 6:00pm Exhibit on Superior residential tower, 165 W. Superior St., Chicago Tickets: <http://diffachicago.org/EVENT/E625703985>

**Genderqueer Chicago** A community space for individuals to talk about, think

GOING GAGA  
Friday, Aug. 25

Lady Gaga will entertain the masses at Wrigley Field.  
Photo by Jerry Nunn

about, explore and express gender. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.facebook.com/groups/75187866592/>

## Thursday, Aug. 24

**Co-Ed Volleyball** All experience levels are welcome. Daily pass \$7. Monthly pass \$30. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Hal-

sted 3656 N Halsted St., Chicago  
**Community Cave Chicago** A peer-led group for individuals who were assigned female at birth and who ALSO identify as anything other than cisgender. 6:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St., <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

## Friday, Aug. 25

**Lady Gaga's 2017 Joanne World Tour** \$139-\$5400 7:00pm Wrigley Field 1060 W Addison St # 1 Chicago Tickets: <http://www.vividseats.com/concerts/lady-gaga-tickets/lady-gaga-wrigley-field-8-25-2270286.html>

**The Joel Futterman/Ike Levin Duo** Dialogues & Transitions & Resolutions: An Evening of Musical Explorations & Discoveries. Inventive musical explorations 8:00pm Constellation 3111 N. Western Avenue, Chicago <http://www.joelfutterman.com>

## Saturday, Aug. 26

**From Russia with Love benefit concert for Artem Kolesov** Rachel Barton Pine to perform. Chicago LGBTQ community leaders host benefit concert for 23-year-old gay man who came out earlier this year on YouTube as part of a video project where most speakers shielded identities but where Kolesov bravely did not. He now lives in Chicago and can never return home. Benefits legal costs associated with Kolesov's pursuit of citizenship; American Friends of Rain-

bow Railroad; and Chicago LGBT Asylum Support Program (CLASP). Doors 6:30. \$50 7:00pm Hoover-Leppen Theatre | Center on Halsted 3656 N. Halsted St., <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/pages/from-russia-with-love>

**Gypsy** This ambitious musical features a rousing score by Jule Styne and Stephen Sondheim, with a savvy script by Arthur Laurents based upon the memoirs of famed 20th century burlesque star Gypsy Rose Lee. Through Sunday, Aug. 27. \$34-\$96 but half-price for audiences ages 25 and younger 7:00pm Cahn Auditorium Northwestern University 600 Emerson St Evanston, IL 60208 847-920-5630 <http://MusicTheaterWorks.com>

**Bi\* Discussion Group** A bi-weekly gathering to discuss upcoming events, express concerns and answer each other's questions about the community. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

## Sunday, Aug. 27

**Fahrenheit Chicago-Pride South on the Lake** International queer rap artist Cakes da Killa and singer-songwriter Cor. Ece highlight plus rap artists, R&B and house singers, drag performers, and DJs at an end-of-summer beach party. Chicago comedians hosting are Mz Ruff n Stuff, Trina Tru Luv, and Otis Mack "The Heavy Diva," and poet/singer Storie Devereaux. Free. 11:00am - 7:30pm Oakwood Beach, 41st Street and Lake

Shore Drive <http://tinyurl.com/Fahrenheit2017>

**Chuck Renslow Public Memorial and final White Party** Founder of International Mr. Leather to be celebrated at the 36th and final White Party with a memorial merging into a dance party. Renslow died at age 87 June 29. 7:00pm Metro Chicago 3730 N Clark Chicago <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Legendary-Chicago-businessman-activist-Chuck-Renslow-dies-/59676.html>

## Monday, Aug. 28

**TransSafe: Weekly Transgender Care Services** TransSafe is a once weekly service for transgender and gender non-conforming (GNC) individuals age 18 and up, providing a safe and trans affirming space where trans and GNC individuals can access referral and linkage to housing, medical, legal, employment, and HIV services. 2:00pm - 5:30pm Heartland Health Outreach Clinic, 4750 N. Sheridan Rd, 5th floor <http://www.chicagohouse.org/transsafe-4/>

## Wed., Aug. 30

**Tap into Change: Affinity Happy Hour** Join Affinity for happy hour and stay for R&Bey Night! 5:00am - 5:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.affinity95.org>

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