

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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WINDY CITY TIMES' WERQ! LGBTQ JOB FAIR

PHOTOS ON PAGES 16-17

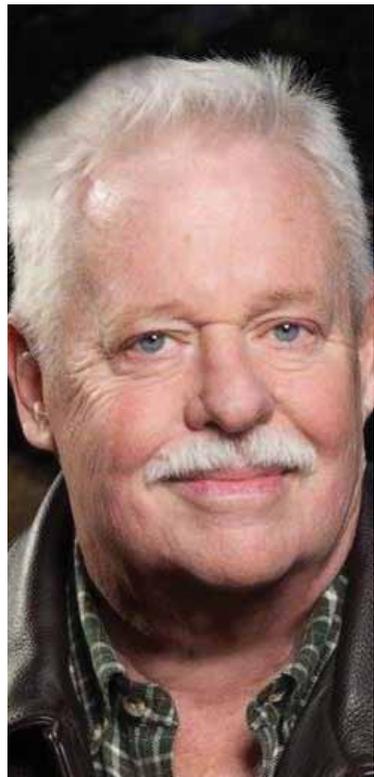


LOVE TRUMPS HATE

Bradd Easton and Jeff Zacharias speak about the hate graffiti they faced at their home in Lincoln Square.
Photo by Liz Baudler

PAGE 4

Rallies back gay couples affected by hate graffiti



ARMISTEAD MAUPIN
New memoir is released.
Photo by Christopher Turner 24



LAMONT ROBINSON
Gay man to run for state rep.
Photo by Matt Simonette 9



NANCY KATZ
Judge reflects on career.
Photo courtesy of Katz 10



AIDS RUN/WALK
Thousands take part in 16th annual event.
Photo by Carrie Maxwell 27



BI WRESTLER
Anthony Bowens talks coming out.
Photo by Ricardo Muniz of Coqui Chulo Images 26

BRAD LIPPITZ GROUP FEATURED PROPERTIES



530 W HAWTHORNE

Grand 8,300 sq. ft. 6 bedroom vintage estate on 5+ city lots with enormous yard and 3.5 car garage on best block in all of East Lakeview. \$4,575,000



2212 N BURLING

Classic Vintage Estate gut-renovated on a double lot with a protected private side yard, rare coach house & 4-car garage. \$4,690,000



1259 W WRIGHTWOOD

Extraordinary home where fantasy meets reality. Extravagant indoor and outdoor entertaining spaces. Must be seen to be believed! \$3,895,000



647 W MELROSE

Spectacular new construction by GVP Development! Luxurious full-floor residences in sophisticated elevator building. 50' wide in East Lakeview. \$1,950,000-\$2,299,000



3846 N OAKLEY

All-brick custom 5-bedroom Mangan home on wide 30' lot on premier block in Bell School District perfectly balances high design with practicality. \$1,695,000



6 N MICHIGAN 503

Experience urban sophistication in this stunning 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath designer showplace overlooking the Bean & Millennium Park. 2-car garage available. \$1,150,000



1827 W BELLE PLAINE

Wonderful vintage treasure on over sized 37.5 foot lot with enormous yard. Oozes character, charm and warmth at every turn. 2-car garage. \$949,000



517 W ROSCOE 2W

Sprawling exquisite 3 bedroom, 3 bath vintage residence in boutique building in the heart of East Lakeview with garage. \$749,000



3740 N LAKE SHORE DR 11B

Move right into this super smart, super stylish perfectly renovated 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath vintage condominium. \$624,900



2423 W FLETCHER

Light-filled renovated house is open and airy with wonderful finishes throughout. Rental unit provides extra income! \$599,000



3750 N LAKE SHORE DR 4D

Serene sophistication and high design in this stunning east-facing 2,200 sq. ft. showplace, completely renovated with new infrastructure, and amazing finishes. \$595,000



545 W ALDINE 2C

Exceptionally spacious 1,850 sq.ft. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in newer East Lakeview boutique elevator building with attached heated garage available. \$529,000



3750 N. LAKE SHORE 16C

Enjoy amazing views in this tastefully renovated 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath unit in a classic full-service pre-war cooperative. \$495,000



3750 N LAKE SHORE 13C

This wonderfully updated 3 bedroom, 3 bath residence in an established vintage cooperative building offers the best of city living. \$479,000



924 W CORNELIA 4E

Sensational extra-wide open-concept 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in boutique elevator building in the heart of it all. Deeded parking space available for \$35K. \$449,000



PINK HAT RUN

SATURDAY, NOV. 4

SOUTH LOOP, 9 AM

5K RUN, 1 MILE WALK, RUN OR ROLL

The Pink Hat Run will benefit organizations that provide services, advocacy and support to women and girls, and are central to improving the lives of Chicago communities.

The 5K/1 mile run, walk or roll is a pledge drive along Chicago's beautiful lakefront and museum campus downtown, with a starting point on Prairie Avenue in the South Loop neighborhood, next to the Women's Park & Gardens.

PINK HAT RUN CHICAGO'S 2017 BENEFICIARIES INCLUDE:

Access Living, Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW), Chicago Women Take Action (CWTA), Chicago Women's AIDS Project, Fierce Over 40, Mujeres Latinas en Acción, Chicago National Organization for Women, Personal PAC, Planned Parenthood Illinois Action, A Sister's Hope, Women's March on Chicago and YWCA Metropolitan Chicago.

The Pink Hat Run brings together women, allies and families - "pink hatters" - to participate in a day of community and wellness. Participants will enjoy a morning of fun, conviviality and sisterhood while raising funds for these worthy organizations. The registration fee includes a T-shirt and pink hat. This is a pledge drive event, with each organization fielding teams of participants to raise funds for their agency.

pinkhatrun.com

[pinkhatrun](https://www.facebook.com/pinkhatrun) [f](https://twitter.com/pinkhatrun) [t](https://www.instagram.com/pinkhatrun) [i](https://www.instagram.com/pinkhatrun)



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WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS

Lincoln Square rally for gay couples	4
Chicagoans for Puerto Rico	5
Gay state rep candidate Lamont Robinson	9
Judge Nancy Katz; TasP awareness	10
Howard Brown unveils Hyde Park clinic	11
TPAN marks 30 years	12
Victory Fund's champagne brunch	13
South Side Help Center holds 30th-anniv. gala	14
WERQ! job fair	16
Viewpoints: Mombian; letter	18

INDEX

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ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Dancin' Feats	19
---------------	----



Theater reviews	20
-----------------	----

Music Box red-carpet events	22
BOOKS: Armistead Maupin's latest	24
Dyke Spaces exhibit	25
Bisexual pro wrestler Anthony Bowers	26
Thousands take part in AIDS Run & Walk	27
NIGHTSPOTS	28
Classifieds; calendar	30

Above: Lane Anthony Flores and Eric Lindahl in *Perfect Arrangement*.
Photo by Paul Goyette

online exclusives at
www.WindyCityTimes.com

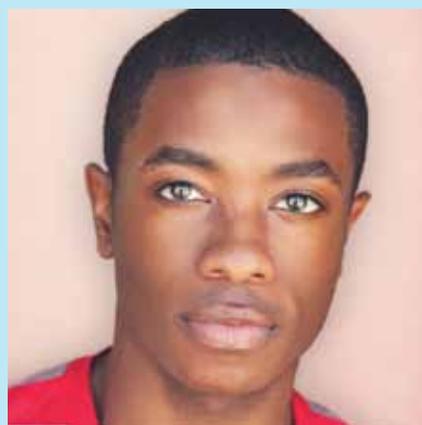


HIT PARADE

WCT reviews the theatrical parodies
26: *Net-Flix and Kill*, and *The Rocky Balboa Picture Show* (left).

Photo by Michelle Leatherby

TUCKER UP



Cartreze Tucker talks about being in
Motown the Musical.
PR photo

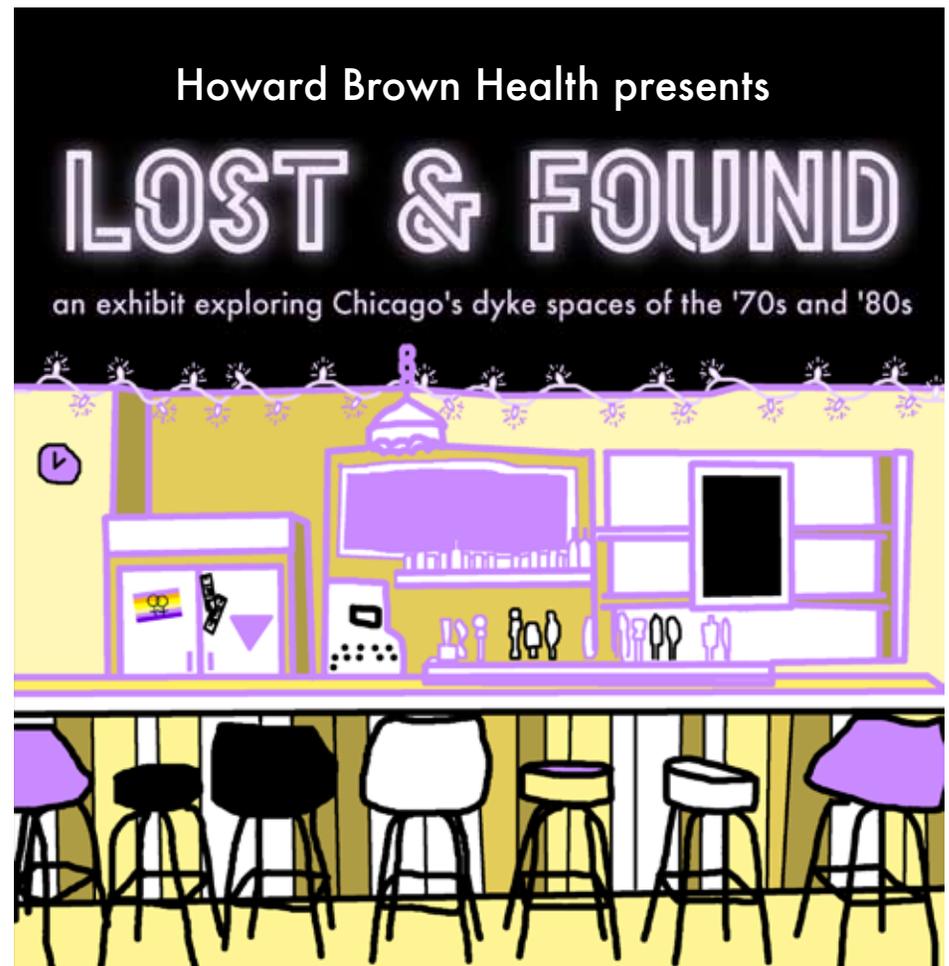
IT'S A HISTORY TO ME

The LGBT History Month Series
begins with a look at Stonewall.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Ricky
Martin, Megyn Kelly and Sebastian
Stan.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS



Howard Brown Health presents

LOST & FOUND

an exhibit exploring Chicago's dyke spaces of the '70s and '80s

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Opening Night: Coming Out Day queer comedy show

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Queer Family Day: Family portraits, StoryCorps recordings,
artmaking activities

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Open hours

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Curator hours / Guided tours

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

Panel Discussion: Dyke Spaces of the '70s-'80s

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Closing Night with Slo 'Mo Party

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FREE WRITE
SOUND & VISION

SLO'MO



Lincoln Square rallies to back gay couples affected by hate graffiti

BY LIZ BAUDLER

About 150 community members—many being families with young children—gathered Oct. 1 to protest against hate graffiti spray-painted in the Lincoln Square area of Chicago's Northwest Side.

Community members met at Waters Elementary School, 4540 N. Campbell Ave., in front of a map of the Lincoln Square area. They were there to gather and distribute signs reading "Hate Has

hate or community support.

Jessica, from Indivisible, recalled trying to explain the recent NFL protests to a coworker who didn't believe white men held the majority of power in this country. "The first thing to sacrifice is our comfort," she said as she led the mostly white crowd in a pledge to end racism.

Andre Vasquez, from Chicago Progress, said he became more involved in community organizing because of having children. He wanted the crowd



Ugo Okere of Fuerza Del Sol.
Photo by Liz Baudler

No Home Here," "Love Is Love" and "Black Lives Matter."

The action was a response to two Lincoln Square LGBT couples who, a week earlier, found their yard signs defaced and hate graffiti spray-painted on the sidewalk in front of their homes.

"I know this is not what we stand for," Indivisible Lincoln Square's Jason Rieger said as he began the rally, alluding to other recent incidents of hate graffiti in the neighborhood. Indivisible Lincoln Square and Chicago Progress helped organize the event and signage distribution plan. In a media release prior to the rally, the organization said they planned to distribute 4,000 signs, and by the event's end, the map was dotted with colorful highlights from volunteers committing support. "They're not just signs, they're an entryway to getting to know your neighbor," Rieger, also a Lincoln Square resident, told the crowd. He asked them to make a deliberate effort to connect with neighbors, such as sitting out on front stoops and sharing donuts.

State Rep. Ann Williams summed up the rally's overall message succinctly. "Talk about love with your neighbors," she told the crowd. Many speakers shared anecdotes about recent incidents of

to reach out to their neighbors and be fearless and powerful in their organizing, calling the rally an amazing "first step" for continued action.

U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley reflected on responding to similar incidents of hate, such as the Loop synagogue defaced with swastikas earlier this year. Quigley felt that community events were the best medicine against hate. "The only way we can meet hate is with love," he said.

State Rep. Greg Harris said that recently, while walking down Clark Street, he was called an anti-gay slur for the first time in years. He noted that hate groups now feel like they have permission to spread their message. "There's a group of people who feel like we can turn back the clock," said Harris.

Ugo Okere, from the community group Fuerza Del Sol, remembered how loved he felt when his white neighbors put a Black Lives Matter sign in their window.

"Our struggles are interconnected," Okere said, telling the crowd that his Pilsen-based organization, along with many across the city, was in solidarity with their goal.

Chicago Ald. Patrick O'Connor reminded the crowd that they outnumbered the perpetrators.



Above: Rally attendees. Below: State Rep. Greg Harris speaks at the rally.
Photos by Liz Baudler



He mentioned that in the past week his office has given out more than 200 signs to constituents, many taking multiple signs to cover their block. O'Connor also urged the crowd to be vigilant and to keep volunteering, saying it made the neighborhood better.

"We are a great place to live because we are so diverse," O'Connor said.

Alderman/gubernatorial candidate Ameya Pawar echoed the call for neighbors to connect, and talked about how divisiveness gets manufactured on a national level.

"I won't allow a few people to tell us we're all so different from each other," Pawar said. Pawar also encouraged local citizens, particularly women and people of color, to run for office.

Jeff Zacharias, half of the one of the couples at the center of it all, said he and husband Bradd Easton had their signs up for two years without incident—in fact they often sparked conversation with neighbors and delivery people.

"It felt safe for us to have it," said Zacharias, as Easton showed the crowd their sign, now defaced with black spray paint. Zacharias said that the couple still feels "some level of trauma" from the incident, but that they appreciate all of the cakes, cards, flowers and Facebook messages they've received since.

"We're glad all of you are here to choose love," Easton told the crowd, who applauded.

A few blocks away from the home of Zacharias and Easton, another family's home was also targeted with vandalism in the early morning hours of Sept. 24. Kat Hindmand (who lives with her wife Jennie Brier and their 8-year-old son) opened the front door at about 8:15 a.m. to retrieve The New York Times from the porch when she saw the sign that is affixed to the outside of their front door (there is also a screen door) that reads "Hate Has No Home Here" in multiple languages spray-painted over in white.

Chicagoans gather for resources, awareness for Puerto Rico

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A group of Chicagoans gathered Sept. 30 at the Home Depot at 3500 N. Kimball Ave. to collect food and supplies to be sent on to Puerto Rico as the island begins its slow recovery from the devastation there after Hurricane Maria.

The collection was organized by a local chapter of the group Puerto Rico Rises, a national effort by Puerto Rican persons and their friends to collect money and resources for the people on the island. The chapter had, as of Sept. 30, raised just over \$2,000, according to its fundraising page, which states that, "All of this money will be directly impacting the people on the island

Arts groups start relief funds

The Puerto Rican Arts Alliance and National Museum of Mexican Art have created relief funds for individuals and interested parties to provide financial assistance to people affected by the recent earthquake in central Mexico and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

Donations will be accepted:

—By check at Wintrust's Pilsen branch located at 1800 S. Blue Island Ave., Chicago, IL 60608, during business hours Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; and

—Online with a credit card at PRAAChicago.org/relief-fund. Also, the museums are accepting donations.

in coordination with the Government's official effort, Unidos Por Puerto Rico, and the Red Cross' local PR chapter. The funds will be used for additional supplies needed, transportation costs and to donate directly to the people of Puerto Rico."

A local organizer, Eric Correa, told Windy City Times that the food collected on Sept. 30 would be directed through a private channel to four different municipalities outside San Juan.

"Point A is here; Point B is the people who need [these items]," Correa said. "It's not going to get stuck at the airport. ... We're going to fill a container and we've got a plane ready. So we will make sure that we get full visibility when this stuff gets delivered to Puerto Rico."

Correa was born and raised on the island. "There was massive devastation there and they needed help," he said. "[Chicagoans] got connected ... and we created the group."

Relief efforts have been complicated by infrastructure largely dependent on wireless communications, much of which was wiped out by the hurricane. As such it's been difficult to establish regular communications and pinpoint Puerto Rico's needs specifically.

An emergency rally was also held by Chicago Boricua Resistance Sept. 29 in front of the Trump International Hotel and Tower. Among the demands of that group, according to a Facebook post, are distribution of food, water and fuel authorities are holding; the use of military equipment and personnel for transportation, distribution of aid, rescue, and clean-up efforts; a permanent lifting of the Jones Act; full funding of the recovery; and cancellation of the island's



Eric J. Correa collects donations for Puerto Rico Rises-Chicago.

Photo by Tracy Baim

debt.

Juan Carlos Vega has compiled an extensive list of resources for persons wishing to help. It is available at ActivistLibrarianPR.wordpress.com/2017/09/.

A fundraising page has been set up by CenterLink, the organization of LGBT community centers, to direct contributions to Centro Comunitario LGTB de Puerto Rico, which in turn will direct the money towards resources to aid Puerto Rico's LGBT community. The page is at connect.clickandpledge.com/Organization/lgbtcenters/campaign/PuertoRicoRelief.

For more information on Chicago Boricua Resistance's work, go to facebook.com/decolonizepr/.

For more information on Puerto Rico Rises—Chicago's work, go to Facebook.com/PuertoRicoRisesChicago/.

Note: On Wed., Oct. 4, Puerto Rican leaders, community allies and Ald. Roberto Maldonado (26th Ward) will rally at 11 a.m. outside Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, 225 W. Wacker Dr., to demand immediate and sufficient federal aid to relieve and rebuild hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico. "The group will rally outside Merrill Lynch Wealth Management's offices to draw attention to the banks that helped create the Puerto Rican debt crisis and insist on continuing to profit after Hurricane Maria devastated the island," a press release read.

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WHAT IS GENVOYA®?

GENVOYA is a 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older who weigh at least 77 pounds. It can either be used in people who are starting HIV-1 treatment and have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements. These include having an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) for 6 months or more on their current HIV-1 treatment. GENVOYA combines 4 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day with food. GENVOYA is a complete HIV-1 treatment and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking GENVOYA. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

GENVOYA may cause serious side effects:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** GENVOYA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking GENVOYA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take GENVOYA?

Do not take GENVOYA if you take:

- **Certain prescription medicines for other conditions.** It is important to ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA. Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.
- **The herbal supplement** St. John's wort.
- **Any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection.**

What are the other possible side effects of GENVOYA?

Serious side effects of GENVOYA may also include:

- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking GENVOYA.

- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking GENVOYA.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking GENVOYA?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how GENVOYA works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take GENVOYA with all of your other medicines.
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take GENVOYA.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if GENVOYA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking GENVOYA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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

Please see Important Facts about GENVOYA, including important warnings, on the following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if GENVOYA is right for you.

GENVOYA.com

GENVOYA does not
cure HIV-1 or AIDS.



SHOW YOUR ▶ POWER

Take care of what matters most—you. GENVOYA is a **1-pill, once-a-day complete HIV-1 treatment** for people who are either new to treatment or people whose healthcare provider determines they can replace their current HIV-1 medicines with GENVOYA.

Genvoya 

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200mg/tenofovir alafenamide 10mg tablets

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INSIDE™

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elvitegravir 150mg/cobicistat 150mg/emtricitabine
200mg/tenofovir alafenamide 10mg tablets

(jen-VOY-uh)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GENVOYA

GENVOYA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** GENVOYA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking GENVOYA. Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older who weigh at least 77 pounds and have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. GENVOYA can also be used to replace current HIV-1 medicines for some people who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL of virus in their blood), and have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months and have never failed HIV-1 treatment, and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- **GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

Do NOT take GENVOYA if you:

- Take a medicine that contains: alfuzosin (Uroxatral[®]), carbamazepine (Carbatrol[®], Eptol[®], Equetro[®], Tegretol[®], Tegretol-XR[®], Teril[®]), cisapride (Propulsid[®], Propulsid Quicksolv[®]), dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45[®], Migranal[®]), ergotamine (Cafergot[®], Migergot[®], Ergostat[®], Medihaler Ergotamine[®], Wigraine[®], Wigrettes[®]), lovastatin (Advicor[®], Altoprev[®], Mevacor[®]), lurasidone (Latuda[®]), methylergonovine (Ergorate[®], Methergine[®]), midazolam (when taken by mouth), phenobarbital (Luminal[®]), phenytoin (Dilantin[®], Phenytek[®]), pimozide (Orap[®]), rifampin (Rifadin[®], Rifamate[®], Rifater[®], Rimactane[®]), sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio[®]), simvastatin (Simcor[®], Vytorin[®], Zocor[®]), or triazolam (Halcion[®]).
- Take the herbal supplement St. John's wort.
- Take any other HIV-1 medicines at the same time.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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

IMPORTANT FACTS

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF GENVOYA

GENVOYA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About GENVOYA" section.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

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

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

BEFORE TAKING GENVOYA

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

HOW TO TAKE GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a complete one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine.
- Take GENVOYA with food.



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Lamont Robinson launches run for state House seat

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Lamont Robinson—who runs two Chicago All-state Insurance offices, one in Bronzeville, the other in Humboldt Park—recently announced that he’s campaigning to fill the Illinois House’s 5th District post currently held by state Rep. Juliana Stratton, who is running for Lieutenant Governor alongside gubernatorial candidate J.B. Pritzker.

Should he be elected, Robinson would be the first openly gay African-American state legislator in Illinois history.

Besides being active with his business, Robinson, who has lived in the district for 14 years, has had a great deal of involvement with the LGBT community, often through his business. He said that he’d marched in the Pride Parade through Allstate, taken part in Love Fest and spoke about entrepreneurship at Center on Halsted. Robinson recently spoke with Windy City Times about his campaign.

Windy City Times: Why are you running?

Lamont Robinson: What possessed me to run is wanting to have representation in the state at the legislative level. As a small business owner, I bring a skill set to the district. I have two All-state Insurance Agencies, one in Bronzeville and my second location is in Humboldt park. I also am director of a non-profit that mentors high school students at Kenwood High School for a college preparedness program. So we prepare them for SAT-prep and we also send our young men overseas. I also am an adjunct professor at Harold Washington College, so when you look around my experiences in education and business, it’s one of the things that makes me want to step out and run for office.

WCT: What are the most pertinent issues facing the district right now?

LR: The most pertinent issues are economics and economic development—trying to bring in or support small businesses like mine in the area. As a small business owner, I create jobs; that’s very important to the livelihood of the neighborhood. We also drill that down to some other things, looking at violence in the district. We can equate violence to the lack of economic development and the lack of jobs. Those are the two most important pieces of the puzzle, and education is a part of that—the lack of school funding that makes sure that our kids are getting a good, solid education. They all tie in together. We can add health to that as well. ... I just don’t see that we [as a state] are focusing in on those things.

The district is very diverse. It goes from South Shore to Old Town. My mission is to make sure that we have prosperity throughout the entire

district. We look at the Gold Coast, Old Town, the Loop, then we come south, to areas like Bronzeville, Washington Park and Woodlawn, that have not been able to catch up, from a lack of resources. From a district standpoint, we need an even playing-field across the district.

WCT: How do you think the state representative can bring that about?

LR: The first thing is being able to build alliances from the north end of the district and the south end of the district, understanding that we are all in this together. There shouldn’t be a “tale of two districts.” This district should be equal across the board, being able to build relationships that are in the Loop, and to look at companies like Allstate, Boeing, Amazon. Those companies need to be able to create jobs for folks who are in South Shore, Washington Park and Woodlawn.

I see it coming about, as someone able to build relationships as a business owner and as someone involved in the Chicago Chamber of Commerce, by being able to build those relationships at the city, state and county level. As a state legislator, we need to bring in our other counterparts at the state and city levels to put together a plan for the south side of the district.

WCT: Business owners and executives often say that their experiences adequately prepare them for politics. How would your work history contribute to success in Springfield, where the dynamic can be considerably different?

LR: I run a business on the north end of the district and the south end of the district. Right now, I still, as a small business owner, pull in a lot of calls from different constituents, with issues regarding the community and insurance; I need to be able to filter those concerns. Even though I’m not a public official, I still filter in calls on a day-to-day basis from people across the district. That can be as simple as helping someone find a contractor or try to figure out issues in their word, connecting them to their alderman or Cook County commissioner. Some of these things I already do as a small business owner.

WCT: What do you think are the most pertinent issues for the LGBT community in Illinois right now?

LR: The piece of the puzzle that is important for our community is inclusion, and of course it’s to make sure that there is support for AIDS research and HIV-testing. But we also cannot forget about our community from the standpoint of persons with disabilities as well as our trans brothers and sisters. Those are the areas I would like to focus in on.

WCT: Can you speak a bit more on the issues for persons with disabilities in the LGBT com-



Lamont Robinson.
Photo by Matt Simonette

munity?

LR: One of the things is that, when we think about “LGBTQ,” we forget about our brothers and sisters who have disabilities. Those can vary—it can be mental health, it can be some type of disability keeping them away from work. From a holistic standpoint, only one part of the community can’t have prosperity. We need to make sure that we have prosperity for everyone. We need to be inclusive of everyone.

WCT: Can you speak about issues pertinent to LGBT youth in your district?

LR: I think places like Center on Halsted are doing great work, and there are organizations doing great work in the community here. But we need to make sure that we are supporting and putting funding toward our LGBTQ homeless teens. I certainly am an advocate for that. That goes back to education and programs. We need to create programs that support folks who are struggling, and make sure they know there are resources for them.

When I’m out talking to folks, I think that’s one of the issues that I think, unfortunately, that we’re not discussing. What are some of the core support groups? What are some of the shelters and are we supporting them? Are they widely known? Are we putting money into the organizations? Again, we can look at the state, but we have to be looking at our private companies. We can’t just rely on the state. We have to be able to get private funding in as well.



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Judge Nancy Katz reflects on career

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Judge Nancy Katz—recently retired from the Cook County Circuit Court and the first openly lesbian judge there—said that judges have an important role to play in bringing about social change.

“You certainly advance justice on a case-by-case approach, by making good, impartial decisions based on the law, facts and a compassionate approach to people,” she explained. “One-by-one-by one, [judges] make a difference. But there are systemic issues in the law: how people access justice; how they interact with the court system; how they are listened to; and how interpreters are provided. Those affect people’s access to justice.”

Katz has had a storied career as an activist, lawyer and judge, with accomplishments not only in the realm of family-law, her professional specialty, but in LGBT-rights as well. Among her community-service accomplishments were posts on the board of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago, the former Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, and Cook County Hospital’s Women and Children with AIDS Project advisory board. In June 2017, she was awarded the Community Leadership Award by Illinois State Bar Association’s standing committee on sexual orientation and gender identity. Katz was named to the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame—now the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame—in 2000.

Though she stepped down from the bench, where she presided in the Cook County Circuit Court’s domestic relations division, in July, Katz has shifted gears only slightly. She has gone to work for the JAMS Foundation, a nationwide organization providing mediation and arbitration services. She specializes in family-law cases.

“I’ve been really enjoying that,” she said. “It’s been a lot of fun to build a business that is so people-oriented.”

Katz said that her background as a feminist and an activist really influenced her decision to focus on family law issues. “I saw the need for services for women who have been subjected to domestic violence,” she added. “... In my teenage years and early-20s, we did a lot of work on domestic violence, such as Take Back the Night [marches]. I worked with some people that started one of the first domestic-violence shelters for women and [another] woman who had a domestic-violence legal clinic. It was kind of natural that I would gravitate to that area as I became a lawyer and as a judge, where I ended up in the domestic relations division, [and] where we dealt with all kinds of issues.”

She credits colleagues—especially Judge Sebastian Patti and former Judge Tom Chiola, the first openly gay men on the Cook County bench—with “being a wonderful source of support” while she was a judge.

“I was surprised at how collegial [most of]



Judge Nancy Katz.
Photo courtesy of Katz

the judges were,” she recalled. “They were very welcoming—much more than I expected. I knew that being out was a very important thing. For them, it ‘normalized’ gay people in a way that they hadn’t experienced before. They were very receptive to the message, and very open. The task was not as hard as it could have been. From the top down, there was a very concerted effort to be a very diverse and welcoming bench.”

When Katz began her work on the bench in 1999, she was assigned to a marriage court. She told a colleague how ironic it was that she had the power to join people in matrimony, but could not, at the time, be legally married herself. Her colleagues “all looked at me, with their eyes wide open. One of them said, ‘Do you want me to take your shift?’ I think it opened their eyes.”

There are now multiple openly LGBT judges, Katz noted. “It has really come a long way. [The judiciary] went from being ‘out in the wilderness’ to being a good home for LGBTQ lawyers.”

She won’t miss the sense of separation that comes from being a judge, however.

“You can’t do some of the activist work that you did previously, because of the ethics rules that govern judges,” Katz explained. “There’s a certain amount of isolation that goes with the territory. ... I’m not complaining, because there’s other benefits that go along with it. Chief among them is, you get to go to work every day and do justice. There’s nothing like it.”

City endorses global campaign for TasP awareness

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicago Department of Public Health announced on Sept. 28 that city officials were joining the international “U=U” promotional campaign that is aimed both at raising aware-



CDPH Deputy Commissioner Dave Kern.
Photo courtesy of Kern

ness about the effectiveness of HIV treatment and reducing stigmatization of persons with HIV/AIDS.

“U=U” is an abbreviation for “Undetectable=Untransmittable.” The campaign was launched in 2016 by the Prevention Access Campaign, an international coalition of advocates and service providers which, according to its website, united “to clarify and disseminate the revolutionary but largely unknown fact that people living with HIV on effective treatment do not sexually transmit HIV.”

Providers and advocates have already referred to the strategies U=U endorses as TasP. Behind those strategies is the idea that infected persons with undetectable viral loads both cannot transmit HIV and can enjoy good health.

CDPH Deputy Commissioner Dave Kern said that the endorsement is part of the framework of the Getting to Zero campaign the city launched Sept. 19 aimed at eliminating new HIV infections by the year 2027, and puts the city’s weight behind solid scientific evidence about the effectiveness of TasP interventions.

“It will really challenge both the public-health community and health care providers to unify around this message, and begin to move away from messaging that has been inconsis-

tent and confusing to people living with HIV,” he acknowledged. “We use the science to drive our messaging and provide correct information to residents.”

Kern added, “We hope it will get people living with HIV to begin anti-retroviral therapy and other therapies to keep them and their partners healthy. Persons living with HIV oftentimes live with stigma, shame and fear, and this will help reduce that, which is critical.”

Agencies and providers will likely adopt the U=U messaging in marketing campaigns promoting TasP, he said, noting that the endorsement “will also allow the city to work with the partners that we currently fund to ensure that the programs and services that they are implementing also adopt this philosophy, and that the services that they are offering are also in line with this message.”

Kern emphasized, however, that the TasP interventions are only applicable with HIV-prevention, not prevention of other STIs.

“As [a public-health agency], we’re still concerned about rates of sexually-transmitted diseases, but we have tools and strategies for diagnosing and treating those,” he explained. “We know that, while HIV is treatable, people live with the virus their entire lives, so it’s critical that we not mix our messages with U=U. With the evidence that we have, we have to embrace it but still address other public-health concerns.”

In a Sept. 28 statement, CDPH Commissioner Julie Morita said, “HIV treatment works. We are proud to join U=U as we continue to fight to get to zero and ensure that every Chicagoan living with HIV receives the treatment they need to keep themselves and their partners healthy.”

Rauner meets with LGBTQA leaders

LGBTQ and allied groups met with Gov. Bruce Rauner to discuss challenges that LGBTQ Illinoisans face, according to a press release from Equality Illinois.

Issues discussed during the meeting at Equality Illinois included healthcare and human services, youth and schools, housing, immigration, LGBTQ cultural competency of state-funded programs, and the protection and promotion of civil rights.

The governor also presented ceremonial copies of two bills he signed this summer that were part of the 2017 Equality Illinois legislative agenda—bills that modernize the birth certificate law for transgender Illinoisans needing to correct their gender marker and ban the anti-LGBTQ panic defense in murder cases.

In addition to Equality Illinois, the organizations represented at the meeting included ACLU of Illinois, Affinity Community Services, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action (ALMA), Chicago House and Social Service Agency, Howard Brown Health, Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, Lambda Legal, and Pride Action Tank.

Howard Brown Health unveils Hyde Park clinic

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Howard Brown Health held a grand opening on Sept. 27 for its newest location at 1525 E. 55th St., in Hyde Park.

The new location is Howard Brown's second South Side location—the first is on 63rd Street, in the Englewood neighborhood—and is part of the organization's continuing efforts to expand its services beyond the city's North Side.

The organization had been operating a small office in the location for some time, but this expansion will allow them to see about 2,500 patients annually. The new clinic features six exam rooms and will operate six days a week with a staff of five or six persons, according to Howard Brown Health President and CEO David Munar. He added that one full-time and three part-time providers will be on site.

"It's our dream to expand our LGBT-focused health care to this part of the city," said Munar.

John Schneider, MD, will head the facility. He

has long worked with persons with HIV/AIDS locally; he called the clinic "part of a long journey to change the climate" for health care in the area.

"We're first and foremost very patient-centered," Schneider said. "... It's really important that they have a good experience."

The location is part of what Munar characterized as a "strong partnership" between Howard Brown Health and Chicago Center for HIV Elimination (CCHE), an educational research center affiliated with University of Chicago. Rebecca Eavou, CCHE's director of prevention, said that such a cooperation has been a rarity: "There are not many models for a for a research institution partnering with a [Federally Qualified Health Center]."

Howard Brown Health Board Chair Mario Treto Jr., told Windy City Times, "We've been focusing on providing comprehensive health care across all of Chicago. We think this will be a great space for Howard Brown. It's an exciting day for all of us."



From left: David Munar, Mario Treto, India Willis-Jackson, Andrew Richardson and John Schneider. Photo by Matt Simonette



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Left: Keynote speaker Peter Staley. Above: From left: Dr. Robert Garofalo, Enid Vasquez, Peter Staley and Jeff Berry. Below left: TPAN CEO Patti Capouch. Below right: Bernie Brommel.

Photos by Vern Hester. Many more photos on page 28 and with the online version of this story.



TPAN marks 30 years

BY VERN HESTER

Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) threw itself a 30th anniversary celebration, “30 Years of Hope,” Sept. 28 at Moonlight, 1446 W. Kinzie.

Several of TPAN’s founders attended the event, which featured an address by former ACT UP activist Peter Staley. Others spoke about the early days of the organization. The night included live music, a live auction, a raffle, and DJ.

The anniversary kicked off with a small awards ceremony where the founders and longtime supporters of TPAN were awarded for their many years of service. Founders Bernie Brommel and Bill Rydwell greeted peers that they had not seen in years.

Brommel spoke about his personal journey with TPAN, his coming out and his own health battles. He spoke about how his children didn’t know what he was doing with his evenings, and how they would often ask, “Did you have a good time, Daddy?” He also spoke about Oprah Winfrey’s early involvement in the organization and how TPAN made a strong impact during the height of the early years of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s by creating an atmosphere of friendship and compassion while some other health organizations shunned those who were positive or had AIDS.

The night then moved into festive mode as the near overflow crowd made its way to a large event space and were greeted by Master of Ceremonies Rob Racine.

Through a series of speakers, the history of TPAN unfolded with stories of “the three angels

(massage therapists Lisa Congleton, Hannah Hedrick and Mary Pat Brown who had no problem giving hands-on treatments to individuals with AIDS when at the time many health professionals refused to touch them); TPAN founder Chris Clason (who, once he realized that he had AIDS started the organization by placing an ad in Gay Chicago for other unprepared HIV-positive gay men); the

importance of family and friendship; the critical role of the TPAN drug guide (which has enabled many newly HIV-positive men to navigate health-care); the various off-shoot groups which have aided minorities and other high-risk groups; and the struggle of maintaining a grassroots organization with very few financial resources.

Staley and TPAN CEO Patti Capouch spoke about how the fight is far from over, especially in the shadow of the Trump Administration. Capouch noted that, “It is more important than anything that we keep Chris Clason’s living legacy alive.”

With an evening packed with heavy subjects such as AIDS, slashed healthcare budgets, terminal illness and struggle, the night was buoyed by musical performances from Kiki Russell and Molly Farrelly as well as DJ Moose, who provided dance music during intermissions. For the close of the evening, auctioneer Steve Zick led a high-speed, comedic session of bidding on various prizes which included vacation packages, a bourbon collection, and various works of art. By the end of the evening \$7,500 had been raised from the auction and raffle.

Rauner signs pro-choice law

In a development that could affect his reelection, Gov. Bruce Rauner signed into law HB40—a bill that guarantees abortion rights in the state (even if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*) and authorizes insurance coverage for the procedure.

“I’ve tried to find common ground on this issue. We were unable to do that,” Rauner said during a press conference last week, adding that while he respects the moral arguments against the measure, “a woman must have the right to decide what goes on in her body,” according to a Crain’s Chicago Business item.

As expected, the signing has put Rauner in the cross-hairs of the pro-life contingent (such as most fellow Republicans), especially since he had promised to veto HB40. Even Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti issued a statement saying, “As a pro-life Republican, I disagree with the Governor’s decision to sign HB 40. I wouldn’t be

here today if it weren’t for a 15-year-old refugee who chose to have me and keep me.”

However, the pro-choice demographic praised Rauner’s decision. “Thank you Governor Rauner for signing HB 40,” said Planned Parenthood of Illinois President/CEO Jennifer Welch in a statement. “With access to abortion under attack at the federal level, it is essential to make sure that women will have access to safe and legal abortion in Illinois.”

The Crain’s article is at ChicagoBusiness.com/article/20170928/NEWS02/170929857/rauner-signs-controversial-abortion-legislation.

Transgender teen brutally murdered

Three suspects were arrested in conjunction with the graphic murder of a transgender teenager in Texas County, Missouri.

The body of Ally Steinfeld, 17, was discovered near the residence of 24-year-old Briana Calderas, who was arrested along with Isis Schauer

and Andrew Vrba, both 18. Vrba told police he repeatedly stabbed Steinfeld, gouging out her eyes and genitals; the women then helped him wrap her body, take it outside and set it on fire.

A fourth person, 25-year-old James Grigsby, has been charged with abandoning a corpse and tampering with physical evidence.

Steinfeld is believed to be the 21st trans person killed in the U.S. since the start of the year.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) released a letter calling on Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley to oversee the investigation into Steinfeld’s murder. The letter, from HRC Legal Director Sarah Warbelow, states, in part: “We are deeply troubled by the statements of Texas County Sheriff James Sigman and prosecutor Parke Stevens Jr., which suggest both are dismissive of their role in enforcing Missouri’s hate-crimes law. I ask your office to closely review the investigation and to bring justice to Ally and her family.”

The letter says that Sigman said, “You don’t kill someone if you don’t have hate in your heart. But, no, it’s not a hate crime.”

Victory Fund holds champagne brunch

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Speaking at the Victory Fund's Oct. 1 champagne brunch for Chicago supporters at Ignite Studios, 401 N. Armour St., executive director Aisha Moodie-Mills acknowledged numerous stressors befalling LGBT Americans right now, from destructive weather to unfriendly politicians, but said that many in the LGBT community "are the ones who are leading the resistance."

LGBT politicians, Moodie-Mills added, are "putting into place policies that insulate us from the crazy things that [President Donald Trump] is trying to do."

Victory Fund is dedicated to identifying and training out LGBT political candidates at the local, state and national levels.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore presented her namesake award to Chicago Police Board President Lori Lightfoot.

Shore praised Lightfoot's work on behalf of people of color and the LGBT community, noting that Lightfoot "leads with values and tells it like it is" and is "a shining example of why LGBT representation is important."

Lightfoot discussed the main principle that guides her work: "If people don't feel safe—if

they don't feel like they're safe in their homes, if they don't feel like they're safe in the way they can walk down the street and claim the geography under their feet—nothing else matters."

Wisconsin state Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa spoke

about the liberating effect of the being an openly bisexual legislator. "I served my whole first term in the closet, and I wouldn't wish that pain on my worst enemy," she said.

That sentiment was echoed by Ohio state Rep. (and Minority Whip) Nicky Antonio, who became involved in politics when the state government rallied against marriage equality in the early 2000s. She started at the city level and moved on to the statehouse; Antonio said she plans a senate run in 2018.

"I'm proud of the fact that under my watch,

there haven't been any anti-LGBT bills passed in the legislature," she said.

Antonio also discussed the impact being openly lesbian had on her colleagues in the legislature; many did not know, or think they knew, an LGBT person. "Sometimes the most courageous act someone can do is show up and be their authentic self," she added.

Communications strategist Justin DeJong introduced the presentations, and Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim spoke on the history of LGBT politics and elected officials in Chicago.



Left: Lori Lightfoot (right) and with spouse Amy Eshleman; Lightfoot received the Debra Shore Leadership Award. Right: Victory Fund Executive Director Aisha Moodie-Mills.

Photos by Tracy Baim



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South Side Help Center marks three decades of service

BY VERNON HESTER

The South Side Help Center celebrated 30 years of service with a gala event titled Keeping the Legacy Alive Sept. 30 at the famed Parkway Ballroom.

The event attracted a near-sold-out audience which included many health and mental health providers, faith-based community leaders, community activists and family members.

Keeping the Legacy Alive featured an informal opening reception, a dinner, musical performances by noted artists Maggie Brown and Kenny Latimore, an awards ceremony and a DJ.

Vanessa Smith, executive director of the South Side Help Center, greeted the audience before turning over emcee duties to local NBC news anchor Dorothy Tucker, who spoke about the role of the organization in the Roseland and other South Side communities.

Founded by Betty Smith in 1987, the center was created to improve the quality of life of people in the Black community, especially those who were most "at risk" of unhealthy and violent outcomes.

Smith targeted those who were living with HIV/AIDS and noticed that many families and pastors of these Black men would not touch, or even enter the room to speak to them. The result was that Smith established her non-profit organization to educate and provide healthy alternatives including youth mentoring programs, health and mental health resources, and violence prevention programs.

Enlisting the help of volunteers, staff, donors

and her own daughters, Smith created a lasting legacy which has touched hundreds of lives. Vanessa, her youngest daughter, became executive director of SSHC in 2007 and continues to integrate cutting-edge methodology as well as to partner with other health organizations to engage and provide needed services not only on the South Side of Chicago but on a national level.

A major part of the evening was an award ceremony, which acknowledged partners in health and mental healthcare, activism on the street as well as in public office, and a special Legacy Youth Leader Award.

There were several honorees:

—Former troubled youth program participant Sergeant Keith Parks, who was involved in SSHC's youth programs, is now head of a gang prevention squad in South Carolina and is a graduate of the FBI's Supervisor Leadership Institute, among other titles.

—Ald. Carrie M. Austin (34th Ward) has taken up the mission of her late husband, Ald. Lemuel Austin, to head numerous committees as well as her work in promoting community-based resources and initiatives like the South Side Help Center, BridgeScape Academy, and a new emergency room and clinic at Roseland Community Hospital.

—Cynthia Tucker has been working in HIV prevention for 20 years and not only coordinates several community partnership programs at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago including Project Elevate, Corrections Case Management Initiative, and The Learning Circle Collaboration, but serves as vice president of prevention and community



From left: John Peller, Vanessa Smith, Cynthia Tucker, and Simone Koehlinger.

Photos by Vern Hester. Many more photos with the online version of this story.

partnerships at the foundation.

—Mark Ishaug has a long history in partnership with SSHC, first through his decades-long work as CEO of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and now at the helm of Thresholds, an innovative community-based service provider for more than 17,000 people with serious mental illnesses each year in nine Illinois counties.

—The Chicago Defender was recognized as one of the community's strongest foundations through its long history as "the most important" newspaper in the African-American press.

—The final recipient, Harold Cherry, has served as the director of outreach at SSHC for more than 22 years and has conducted HIV/AIDS, STD street intervention outreach to individuals who were at risk for infections relating to injecting drugs.

All of the recipients were present, with the

exception of Austin; Dr. Yvonne Wilson accepted the award for her.

Noted vocalist Maggie Brown started the evening with a brief performance of an original song that celebrated the great migration. Then it was time for Grammy-nominated artist Kenny Latimore, who channeled his heroes Frank Sinatra and Donny Hathaway while touching on the Parkway Ballroom's history with his rendition of "Take Me to the Moon." He later dedicated his song "For You" to Vanessa Smith.

A surprise for Vanessa Smith arrived with an award presented to her by Roseland community representative Sharron Curry for her many years of service to the local community.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation sponsored the event.

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Mistress of Ceremonies Dorothy Tucker.

Photos by Vern Hester

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- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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

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- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
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More than 600 attend Windy City Times Job Fair at Center on Halsted

More than 85 major corporations, small businesses, government agencies and nonprofits participated in the third annual Windy City Times WERQ! LGBTQ job fair Friday, Sept. 29, at Center on Halsted. An estimated 600 people attended the event, which included two panel discussions.

The Job Fair coincided with the launch of the Windy City Times #HireTrans citywide campaign to push all employers to increase their hiring and workplace inclusion efforts for the transgender community. #HireTrans is a visibility campaign that features more than 60 trans and gender nonconforming people who were photographed by award-winning filmmaker Andre Perez.

The Job Fair, which was free and open to the public, was hosted by Windy City Times with Center on Halsted, MB Financial Bank, US Bank, Howard Brown Health, Pride Action Tank, Chicago House, Association of Latino/as Motivating Action, Affinity Community Services, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Out & Equal Chicagoland and Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus.

The first workshop at the job fair was Trans and GNC in the Workplace, moderated by Vanessa Sheridan of Center on Halsted, with panelists Lathem Bonem, Trans Works Program Manager at Chicago House; LaSaia Wade, member of Chicago TGNC Collective and the

Trans Liberation Collective, and director of Brave Space Alliance; and Denise Bowker, who has worked for Northern Trust for 30 years in the technology area.

At noon, the Building Confidence for Job Searchers Over 50 panel was moderated by Imani Rupert-Gordon of Affinity Community Services, with panelists Ashley Brazil, Senior Career Specialist in the Employment Program at Chicago House and Social Service Agency, and Darryl Grant, who brings nearly 10 years of experience as a professional recruiter, interviewer, job search coach, and resume advisor in the Chicago area.

Late in the day, about a dozen people showed up to protest the participation of A Wider Bridge in the fair. The organization promotes Israel in the LGBT community and the protesters accuse it of "pink washing" the country's policies and actions toward Palestine and Palestinians. A Wider Bridge Midwest Manager Laurie Grauer was among the three women who had been asked to leave the post-Dyke March rally in June, sparking an international controversy on all sides of the debate. By the time protesters arrived at the job fair, however, A Wider Bridge's Grauer and a few of the other exhibitors had already packed up for the day. The protesters stayed for awhile, posting photos and video from their action.

Turn to page 17

Photos from the Windy City Times WERQ! LGBTQ Job Fair.
Photos by Hal Baim, unless otherwise noted



JOB FAIR from page 16

Exhibitors in the 2017 job fair were:

- ACLU
- AIDS Foundation of Chicago
- ALMA
- Alight Solutions
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
- AON
- Astellas Pharma
- AT&T
- A Wider Bridge
- Barilla America, Inc.
- BD Medical Supply
- Betancourt Realty
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Illinois, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas
- Blue Plate
- CDW
- Central States SER
- Charles Schwab
- Chase
- Chicago Center for Arts and Technology
- Chicago Commission on Human Relations

- Chicago House
- Chicago Sky
- Chicago Women in Trades
- Christy Webber Landscapes
- City Staffing
- CME Group
- CNA Insurance
- Comcast/Xfinity
- Conagra Brands
- Edelman
- Education Pioneers
- Exelon Corp.
- Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
- Fifth Third Bank
- GameStop
- Gap Inc. and Old Navy
- Glenkirk
- Grainger
- Google
- Grassroots Campaigns Chicago
- Groupon
- H&M
- Heartland Alliance
- Heels and Hardhats Contracting Co
- Hilton Worldwide

- Howard Brown Health
- Hyatt Hotel
- Indiana Tech
- The Jellyvision Lab, Inc.
- John Casablancas: Modeling, Acting
- The John Marshall Law School
- The Kellogg Co.
- KPMG
- Lawrence Hall
- LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois
- Mariano's/Kroger Co.
- Marriott Hotels
- MB Financial Bank
- Morningstar
- The Nature Conservancy
- Navy Pier
- Northern Trust
- Northwestern, Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing
- Pace Suburban Bus Company
- Paul Mitchell the School Chicago
- Planned Parenthood of Illinois
- Renewal Care Partners
- ResourceMFG
- Riveron Consulting

- Robert Bosch LLC
- Roosevelt University
- Rush University Medical Center
- Savor...Chicago at McCormick Place Convention Center
- Schafer Condon Carter
- Skills for Chicagoland's Future
- Smart Resources
- Stomp Exterminator
- Test Positive Aware Network
- The Night Ministry
- Thresholds
- TransUnion
- Trilogy, Inc.
- Trunk Club
- Uber
- United Airlines
- Uptake
- US Bank
- Walgreens
- Windy City Limousine
- Zurich North America

Employers have been encouraged to post jobs on the job fair's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LGBTQJobFair.



Protesters who were against the job fair having a booth for A Wider Bridge.
Photo by Tracy Baim

viewpoints



**Dana
RUDOLPH**

MOMBIAN Showcasing images, experiences of people with LGBTQ parents

Award-winning photographer Gabriela Herman knew that for her new book, *The Kids: The Children of LGBTQ Parents in the USA*, “the images would be portraits of the children, with no one else in them.” She wanted to show what life with LGBTQ parents “is like through their eyes.”

That vision has given us a striking, powerful book of 75 images and essays that remind us never to forget the perspectives of the children in any discussion of LGBTQ families. It should become a must-have for LGBTQ parents and their older children as well as for schools and libraries interested in supporting them.

Herman’s subjects come from all over the country, from areas urban and rural, liberal and conservative, and in all shades of skin. Some, like her, are children of parents who divorced when one came out or transitioned; others are part of families created by already-out LGBTQ people. Some are biologically tied to their parents and others are not.

They range from college age to middle age, testament to the fact that LGBTQ people have been raising children for much longer than many think. Herman didn’t seek out younger children, she said in an interview, because she wanted to make sure her subjects “had the language to talk about their experience.” Each person offers a short essay next to their photo in which they describe what growing up with an LGBTQ parent or parents was like for them. Not all found it easy, and to her credit, Herman doesn’t edit out the difficult journeys some had in a world of minimal information, misinformation, and bias about LGBTQ families. Nevertheless, the children’s resilience and ultimate love of their families shines through.

Her own experience reflects those struggles. When Herman was in high school, more than 20 years ago, her own mom came out. It was “traumatic” at first,

Herman said. “I resented her and her partner for a while and didn’t feel comfortable discussing it with anyone.” She and her mom barely spoke for a year.

By the time her mom married her new partner, however, “things had been patched up a bit,” and Herman went to the wedding—one of the first legal same-sex weddings in the country. Now, “Our family is still strong and together,” she said, and they all go on vacation with her dad and his girlfriend.

She knew that her family’s success story was a privilege, though—and seven years ago, that led her to envision a project about other people with LGBTQ parents, drawing on her skills as a commercial photographer. Around the same time, her sister connected with COLAGE, the national organization for people with LGBTQ parents, and invited Herman to one of their gatherings. It was the first time Herman had met anyone else with LGBTQ parents and realized, “I’m not alone.”

She began photographing people she met through COLAGE and through friends. In 2015, she sought publication of the project to coordinate with the U.S. Supreme Court’s marriage equality ruling, and both the *New York Times Sunday Review* and the U.K.’s *Guardian* newspaper ran excerpts. Herman knew the project wasn’t over yet, though. People with LGBTQ parents began seeking her out after the newspaper coverage, and she kept shooting. Last summer, she connected with *The New Press*, a non-profit publisher with a focus on using books for social change, which is now publishing her book as part of their ongoing series about LGBTQ communities around the world.

She often chose the settings for her photos by asking her subjects to “think about the moment your parent came out or the moment you realized your family was a little bit different.” Where they were then or what they were wearing often became inspiration for the photo. All the photos used natural light, she said, as befitted “such an intimate moment.”

The hardest part of the whole project, however, was sharing her own story, something she hadn’t intended to do but that the *New York Times* had requested. “I was very nervous about sharing it with my mom,” she said. “I went from not being able to say ‘My mom is gay’ to screaming it in the *New York Times*,” she reflected. It turned out that her mom posted her essay to Facebook and said she was proud of her daughter.

She hopes that her work will resonate for “any



kid or adult who has a parent who’s come out.” For those growing up without knowing anyone else with an LGBTQ parent, she said she wants it to convey that “You’re not alone. There’s a community out there of people who love and support you.” And for queer parents, she hopes it helps them “see things from the children’s perspective.”

Their stories are inspiring but not saccharine; thoughtful but more quickly read than a book-length single memoir; and touching but at times harshly honest and gently funny. They show a cadre of people with a diversity of backgrounds, family structures, and experiences, united by a common bond and sharing a fierce love of their families, warts and all.

In the future, she thinks having LGBTQ parents “won’t be an issue at all, and people will think it silly that there was a book dedicated to this.” Until that time, though, *The Kids* deserves wide dissemination. As she writes in the introduction to the book, “We—the children of LGBTQ parents—are not hypotheticals. Our stories need to be told.”

Learn more about the project at thekids.gabrielaherman.com, or look for the book in stores and online.

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

Some of the personal attacks you have received around the issue of homelessness in the Uptown area, in my opinion, have been inexcusable ugly. Like all working on the issue of homelessness, there should be a framework of fraternal good will.

It is one thing to be respectful in one’s criticism of a politician; however, ad hominem trashing is total out of bounds when it comes to respectful dialogue. As a person of faith, I cannot remain silent when I see such behavior play out in the printed word.

The public bitterness directed at you over this

matter is both unjust and unwarranted and runs counter to the gospel. One must always stand up to bullies and their cyber-militias.

You, your partner and your home are in my thoughts and prayers.

Joe Murray
Executive Director
Rainbow Sash Movement (LGBTQ Roman Catholics)

letters

Cappleman support

Dear Ald. Cappleman,

I hope this note finds both you and your partner in good health.

In the past we have had our differences, but I never doubted your personal commitment to social justice to the poor of our community. People of goodwill can have differences of opinion and approach, but they can also work together.

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PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis
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(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com or
Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
podcast: WindyCityQueercast.com

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WINDY CITY TIMES

DIVERSIONS

THEATER • FILM • ENTERTAINMENT • SPORTS



28

Chef Gil Horav.



22

Signature Move at Music Box.



'Shrew' attitude

20

WCT reviews a new version of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Photo of Alexandra Henrikson (left) and Crystal Lucas-Perry by Liz Lauren

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Prison take

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Gay playwright Michael Allen Harris' world-premiere drama *Punk* is set in a prison's separate unit for gay, bisexual and transgender inmates. Harris got the idea after a fellow playwright friend forwarded him a short-film documentary exploring the topic.

"Queer people in prison are often forgotten about, or they're never considered. There are people who live their life within the prison system—good, bad or indifferent—what they did or who people think they are, they're still human beings," Harris said. "I would like for questions to be raised on how we can reform prison system policies and the prison system as a whole."

Punk started out just as a 10-minute three-character drama. But after a relatively quick development period through an associate company of The New Colony, *Punk* was expanded into a full-length play for the theater company's main-stage season.

"I wasn't really interested in telling a story about the suffrages of queer people in prison or a play about the prison system. What I was curious about was that these individuals had made a life and were able to navigate the system that is super hyper-masculine and in an environment where they are preyed upon," Harris said. "The biggest thing that I would like the audience to walk away with is broadening their sense of empathy... (It) is very important especially in these polarizing times because of our political climate."

Harris sets *Punk* in a LGBTQ unit at an American maximum security prison. Yet tensions rise when Travis, a young inmate serving a life sentence for the murder of a gay man, asks to be transferred to this special prison unit.

Like many productions developed by The New

Colony, *Punk* featured improvisation exercises for the actors and director to build up their roles.

Actor Daniel Shtivelberg portrays Travis in *Punk*, and he really appreciated the many developmental workshops and rehearsals to help craft his complicated character.

"[Travis] is obviously very troubled and excitable. He gets really angry and can spark really quickly," Shtivelberg said. "As an actor, I don't try to judge him. Travis is not the best of people, but what has been fun through the process is trying to find the lighter moments and the times that Travis really cares about others. He cares deeply about his daughter, his girlfriend, Emily, and then finds a lot of care through the prison unit he is in as well."

Also in the cast of *Punk* is transgender actress Evie Riojas, who portrays the transgender inmate Sonya. (Riojas requested that feminine pronouns to be used on second reference).

"It's really important that when writing a trans character to have trans input involved through as much of the process as possible," Riojas said. "We don't get many parts, so having those opportunities taken from us before we're even given the chances can be disheartening."

Riojas joined the cast after the initial developmental *Punk* workshops, but was still able to generate her input to the character.

"The New Colony is really cool and I actually feel a little spoiled with this project with them being my first go at theater," Riojas said. "Their process is really in-depth and a team effort. It's cool not only to watch my character grow and change into a full-fleshed out person, but every-one else."

Riojas was also able to correct a few instances of Harris' dialogue in *Punk* that didn't feel authentic to her.



Michael Allen Harris, the playwright behind *Punk*.
PR photo

"Little things involving the character where I was able to feel comfortable with the group and say, 'Hey, this might not necessarily be something that I would want other trans people to come and see and experience,'" Riojas said. "Tiny little nuances within the script and stuff like that. We were able to build the best possible character of a trans woman in a men's prison."

Both Riojas and Shtivelberg had praise for *Punk*'s dramaturg Ryan Oliveira. He was on hand to provide articles and other information for the cast and crew, including helping to set up interview for the ensemble with a trans woman who spent 25 years in various Illinois prisons.

"Working with The New Colony has been a bless-

ing. I love that they cater to new work and that they're looking to tell stories that largely aren't being told," Harris said. "I always felt supported by the company with my ideas and I felt like I could always be brave in the rehearsal space—I also felt like I was in a safe space as well."

The New Colony's world premiere of *Punk* continues through Sunday, Nov. 5, at The Den Theatre's Upstairs Main Stage, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave. Previews (\$15) run through Sunday, Oct. 8. Regular-run performances are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 3 p.m. matinees on Sundays. Regular-run tickets are \$20; visit TheNewColony.org.

THEATER REVIEW

The Legend of Georgia McBride

Playwright: Matthew Lopez

At: Northlight Theatre at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

Tickets: \$30-\$81

Runs through: Oct. 22

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

There was a time once, when men who did drag were regarded as specialty performers, a cult fraternity schooled in arcane skills forbidden to ordinary actors. Times have changed, of course, and now it is not only commonplace to see drag divas out of uniform (so to speak), but also for their craft to be embraced by all males pursuing a career in the theater. Playwright Matthew Lopez now takes another stiletto-heeled step toward the demystification of drag in a comedy



Nate Santana and Sean Blake in *The Legend of Georgia McBride*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

proposing an all-American het boy who becomes a better man after donning lipstick and wig.

It helps that Casey was an enthusiastic participant in high school drama club before forging a part-time career as an Elvis impersonator—but this is Panama City, in the unfashionable panhandle district of Florida, where his lip-synced mimicry (despite being “more Ed Sullivan than Graceland”) draws few customers to Cleo’s Club.

Owner Eddie is desperate enough to hire his brother Bob’s lip-sync drag revue, starring the aforementioned sibling as the ebullient Miss Tracy Mills, along with her dumb-bunny assistant Anorexia “Rexy” Nervosa. (“It’s Italian.”)

When the latter passes out drunk one night, Casey volunteers to go onstage in her place and a star is born—but how will he explain the source of this new-found prosperity to his pregnant

wife?

Lopez consolidates the Kinky Boots six-step agenda to an efficient 90 minutes—brevity sometimes demanding the suspension of credulity found in a universe where people say things like “we’re going out with tits up and testicles tucked.” He accomplishes this without a musical score, too, though his hero’s road to enlightenment involves plenty of strut-your-stuff-girl classics, as well as a sweet acoustical ballad (also by Lopez), and an unforgettable rendition of Edith Piaf’s “Padam, Padam.”

Tracy and Casey’s effervescent repartee, swapped by Sean Blake and Nate Santana with the precision of rapier duelists (a glossary is provided in the playbill for those unversed in the jargon), eventually gives way to the author’s manifesto. “Drag is protest. Drag is a raised fist in a sequined glove. Drag is *not* for sissies” declares Jeff Kurysz’s defiant Rexy, thus affirming the power of masquerade as a gateway to the self-discovery at the foundation of liberation from restrictive social roles.

THEATER REVIEW

The Taming of the Shrew

Playwright: William Shakespeare, additional text by Ron West

At: Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand Ave.

Tickets: \$48-\$88

Runs through: Nov. 12

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Yes, it’s Shakespeare and, yes, its text includes the male-female repartee we find so sexy, but there’s no disguising a plot that revolves around

a bunch of men bullying a lone woman. That’s not the way we do things nowadays, so how do you make this repugnant behavior funny in 2017?

Barbara Gaines’ solution is to frame the offending scenario in a dramatic universe ensuring that we comprehend the folly of its prejudices—in this case, Chicago during the summer of 1919, where the Columbia Women’s Club are rehearsing an amateur production of Shakespeare’s *Taming of the Shrew* in competition with their fellow civic sororities for the distinction of having staged the Bard’s entire canon.

On the eve of the Columbia Club’s triumph, however, not only have torrential rains flooded the basement of their clubhouse, but outside, on Michigan Avenue, a protest rally in support of women’s right to vote is in full fever. As the blue-

stocking matrons doggedly pursue their thespic activities, the commotion in the streets begins to infect the ladies’ perceptions of their personae.

To be sure, some of the clubwomen already favor equal suffrage—Mrs. Victoria Van Dyne and Mrs. Fannie Emmanuel, for example, who play the flagrantly sexist Petruchio and Baptista, secure in their feminist convictions. Club chairwoman (and resident portrayer of privileged Elizabethan males) Mrs. Mildred Sherman, on the other glove, has instructed her husband to oppose the bill currently undergoing ratification hearings in the state senate and ordered her daughter, cast as the meek Bianca, to comply. Meek Mrs. Louise Harrison initially relishes her role of Katherine for reasons of vanity, but upon hearing herself declared a spouse’s “chattel, barn, horse, ox, [his]

anything” suddenly unleashes a cry of dissent raising the consciousness of her peers.

Chicago playgoers recalling other all-female and play-within-play versions of “*Shrew*” know that if these conceits are to be viewed as anything but actorly indulgence, the metaphor must be as immediately apparent as it is airtight. Fortunately, Second City’s Ron West has constructed a backstage comedy replete with local references (e.g., a rival theatrical society housed at 1616 Wells Street) for an all-star ensemble led by Crystal Lucas-Perry and Alexandra Henrikson and anchored by sturdy precision-timed performances from veteran character divas E. Faye Butler, Hollis Resnick, Heidi Kettenring and Cindy Gold. (What? Warblers aren’t allowed to *speak* verse, too?)

THEATER REVIEW

Perfect Arrangement

Playwright: Topher Payne

At: Pride Films & Plays, 4139 N. Broadway

Tickets: 00-737-0984;

PrideFilmsAndPlays.com; \$25-\$35

Runs through: Oct. 22

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Perfect Arrangement is billed as a comedy and begins as a witty parody of white, smartly dressed 1950s sitcom America. However, the increasingly serious Act II ends up anything but funny. Structurally, as distinct from the ideas expressed in it, the play definitely wants to remain a comedy; but had done so it probably wouldn’t have received the several national awards which have come its way (one from the American Theatre Critics Association of which I’m the immediate past Chairperson).

It’s set in 1950 Washington, D.C., where Bob Martindale (Eric Lindahl) is a thirtyssomething

up-and-coming State Department bureaucrat, married to socially graceful Millie (Riley Mondragon). Bob’s secretary, Norma (Autumn Teague), is married to Bob’s best bud, Jim Baxter (Lane Anthony Flores), a school teacher. They live in adjoining Georgetown apartments. In fact, Bob and Jim are lovers and so are Millie and Norma. Their marriages of convenience are the perfect arrangement for insuring their careers and social acceptance in the era of the Red Scare and McCarthyism.

The shit hits the fan when Bob and Norma are ordered to create programs to ferret-out State Department homosexuals (which actually happened). Bob’s boss (Armando Reyes) says homos are men who “read motion picture magazines, attend the opera.” A glamorous State Department linguist, Barbara Grant (Kelli Harrington), who was a college fling of Millie’s, is an additional complication.

It’s a recipe for comic triumph—even physical farce—as the four queers game *The System*, outwit the boss and his dense-as-a-dodo wife (deliciously funny Amber Snyder) and outface the cunning linguist ... but that’s not what author Topher Payne wants. Instead, threatened

with exposure, three of the four decide to come out publicly, knowing it will end their careers and, perhaps, subject them to prosecution. It also rips apart the marriages and one set of lovers.

It’s a fast-moving show with energetic, solid performances (and funny performances in Act I) under director Derek Van Barham, and Noel Huntzinger’s period costumes (chiefly for the women) are a treat. But it’s a heavy load for 1950 when people with such careers to protect would not have revealed themselves.

True, the Mattachine Society was being created then in Los Angeles by Harry Hay, Rudi Gerreich and a few others ... but they were political radicals with less susceptible artistic careers (although not beyond legal persecution). The gay characters—three of them, anyway—behave in a contemporary manner at odds with the time and place Payne takes care to establish. He wants his play to be progressive more than comic—and it is—but I wanted to see the couples win because they are gay and clever, not destroy themselves because they feel they must.

CRITICS’ PICKS

A View from the Bridge, Goodman Theatre, through Oct. 15. Arthur Miller’s tale of immigrants and family strife is ageless, but Ivo van Hove’s lends it an opera verismo grandeur to resonating in full blood with first-time viewers of the American classic. MSB

Honeymoon in Vegas, Marriott Theatre, Lincolnshire, through Oct. 15. This jazzy 2015 musical featuring a score by Tony Award-winner Jason Robert Brown may not have lasted long on Broadway. But it’s still plenty of wacky fun despite its problematic gender dynamics and potentially offensive depiction of minorities. SCM

The Rembrandt, Steppenwolf Theatre, through Nov. 5. Art endures, and so what better than a 17th-century masterpiece to remind us that life is short and we must make the most of what time we have (but don’t let the museum guards catch you pawing the paintings). MSB

Trevor: The Musical, Writers Theatre, through Oct. 8. This world-premiere musical about a 13-year-old discovering he’s gay is too ebullient for the subject matter (although it never should be a tragedy), but the production’s joyous merits are indisputable. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan



Danni Smith in Fun Home.
Photo by
Liz Lauren

THEATER REVIEW

Fun Home

Book and Lyrics: Lisa Kron;
Music: Jeanine Tesori
At: Victory Gardens Theater,
2433 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: 773-871-3000 or
VictoryGardens.org; \$15-\$75
Runs through: Nov. 12

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Thank your lucky stars for Victory Gardens Theater's emotionally heartfelt production of the 2015 Broadway hit *Fun Home*. The five-time Tony Award-winning musical previously was in Chicago for a two-week stint last November, but much of *Fun Home*'s intimate power felt dissipated within the grand expanse of the Oriental Theatre.

At Victory Gardens' far cozier Biograph Theater,

everything comes into a sharper focus. That's an enormous boon to playwright Lisa Kron and composer Jeanine Tesori's brilliantly contemplative adaptation of the best-selling 2006 graphic memoir by lesbian cartoonist Alison Bechdel (*Dykes to Watch Out For*).

Fun Home shifts through time as a 43-year-old Alison (Danni Smith) reexamines her own coming out journey by literally illustrating key life moments. Stella Rose Hoyt and Sage Elliott Harper alternate in the role of "Small Alison" growing up in the small Pennsylvania town of Beech Creek, while Hanna Starr plays "Medium Allison" as an exaggeratedly self-aware student at Oberlin College.

But in a stranger-than-fiction twist, *Fun Home* also explores the painful closeted existence of Alison's gay father, Bruce (Rob Lindley). Before he died in 1980 at the age of 44 in a likely suicide, Bruce was an obsessive historical home restorer, English teacher and mortician. ("*Fun Home*" was

SPOTLIGHT

Music Theater Works' new revue *Duke Ellington's Greatest Hits* features plenty of jazz standards like "Mood Indigo" and "Sophisticated Lady" composed by the late esteemed American title composer. But also be on the lookout for other numbers like "Take the 'A' Train" and "Lush Life" composed by Ellington's late and openly gay songwriter friend Billy Strayhorn, too. *Duke Ellington's Greatest Hits* plays Oct. 6-15, at Northwestern University's Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$34-\$64; call 847-920-5360 or visit Music-



TheaterWorks.com.

Caption: A historical image of the late American composer and performer Duke Ellington

the family nickname for their funeral home.)

Fun Home affectionately shows the trepidation and joy of Medium Alison's first romantic fling with her activist girlfriend, Joan (Danielle Davis). Yet the musical also digs into the psychological hurt of Alison's parents—particularly her long-suffering mother, Helen (McKinley Carter), who quietly endured her husband's infidelities with younger men (played by Joe Lino).

All this emotionally complex material is masterfully realized under the smart direction of Broadway veteran Gary Griffin and his all-around superlative cast and production team. Music director Doug Peck also deserves praise for guiding the ensemble's passionate performances of the eclectic score.

There's a great 1970s comic pastiche number

with the kids' Jackson Five-inspired commercial jingle "Come to the Fun Home" (featuring Pre-tish Chakraborty and Leo Gonzalez as Alison's brothers). There's also gut-wrenching sung soliloquies, including Small Alison's touching song of self-realization called "Ring of Keys," Helen's heartbreaking lament of a wasted life in "Days and Days" and Bruce's unsettling breakdown in "Edges of the World."

With *Fun Home*, the personal is deeply political as shifting attitudes toward LGBTQ openness and acceptance is contrasted within two generations of the Bechdel family. *Fun Home* is also universal as it shows how one grown child tries to artistically make sense of her own complicated life in relation to the situations and times that shaped those of her parents.

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The cast and crew of *Signature Move*.
Photo by Jerry Nunn

'Hello' and 'Move' screen at Music Box

BY JERRY NUNN

Chicago's Music Box Theatre has held several recent red-carpet events to premiere exciting new LGBT films.

Opening night for the Reeling Film Festival screened the musical *Hello Again* on Sept. 21. While guests enjoyed drinks and hors d'oeuvres in the lounge nearby, several of the stars and production team stopped to talk with *Windy City Times* before entering the theater.

Tyler Blackburn, who plays Jack in the film, said he was a bit intimidated by the singing. "We performed it live while filming," he said. "I have been singing for a long time, but the way the music is written it is all over the place. They are not pop songs, so it was different to learn. It really got me out of my comfort zone. I needed to stretch as an actor." He mentioned a new thriller he has coming out soon called *Tarot*.

Jenna Ushkowitz, who many know from the television show *Glee*, plays multiple roles in the film and spoke of the challenges, stating, "Even baring my midriff while singing live was pretty new for me—much less having simulated sex."

She recently appeared in the hit *Waitress* on

Broadway. "It was such an honor to be a part of that," he said. "Sara Bareilles wrote a beautiful musical. To work with an all female team was really wonderful and powerful. I loved telling the story every night." When asked about her favorite musical she said *Les Miserables* was the first one she ever saw and it has her heart.

As an avid LGBT-rights supporter, she explained that she has dated a lot of gay men and has lots of friends who are gay. "When I did the *King & I* at age 9, my parents explained to me why all the men were laying on top of each other at rehearsal. I was told they were really happy! It has always been a part of my circle."

Partners Tom Gustafson who directed and writer/producer Cory Krueckeberg discussed their overall experience with *Hello Again*. Krueckeberg said, "Every movie we have made have been music driven. We wanted to make something based on a music property. This seemed like an interesting, weird movie to try to make."

With such a large cast, schedules were a major challenge for Gustafson and the team.

The two added they met at Berlin Nightclub and

their first date together was at the Music Box.

The day after *Reeling* closed, *Signature Move* debuted at The Music Box on Sept. 29. Directed by Jennifer Reeder, this film tells the tale of an interracial lesbian love story. Several of cast walked the red carpet outside of the theater—including writer/actress Fawzia Mirza, who plans to screen the movie at least 20 more times and hopes to bring it to Brazil for the film festival there.

Star Sari Sanchez said she hopes people will see themselves on the screen. "We filmed in places in Chicago that you normally don't see on film," she stated.

Actress Molly Brennan said she had to pull back from her theatrical gestures for the *Signature Move* film. She returns to theater playing the *Ghost of Christmas Past* in the upcoming Goodman Theatre production of *A Christmas Carol*. "It will be more like Carol Kane in *Scrooged* than the traditional version," she said. "I get to fly!"

Q&A portions followed both screenings.

See MusicBoxTheatre.com.



Hello Again's Jenna Ushkowitz, Tom Gustafson and Cory Krueckeberg.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

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.

'Bad Taste' on first Wednesdays

Hell in a Handbag Productions and Mo Less's revue *Bad Taste* will play the first Wednesday of every month—beginning Oct. 4—at The Charnel House, 3421 W. Fullerton Ave.

The evening of queer and camp curiosities features what's being called "a rotating cast of Chicago's most daring and disgusting performance artists: burlesque, drag, clowning, sideshow, comedy and cosplay—all with a shocking and hilarious twist!" There will also be games, adult beverages and raffle prizes.

Tickets (\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door) are at BadTasteChicago.com.

CULTURE CLUB

Elton John to release greatest-hits collection

Elton John announced that *Diamonds* will be released Friday, Nov. 10 through UMe.

Diamonds is the ultimate greatest hits collection from John; it will be available on as a one-, two- or three-CD limited edition box set; two-LP heavy-weight gatefold vinyl; and digital formats.

The three-CD limited edition box set contains 34 tracks over two discs, plus 17 bonus tracks of personal favorites curated by John himself. It also contains a 72-page hardback book containing annotations for the stories from each song plus a set of five postcard illustrations of John.

Just a few of the songs on the three-CD set include "Philadelphia Freedom," "Candle in the Wind," "Your Song," "I'm Still Standing," "I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues" and "Bennie and the Jets."

A-Squared arts fest Nov. 9-12

Links Hall, 3111 N. Western Ave., is presenting the second edition of the A-Squared Asian American Performing Arts Festival—co-produced in partnership with Links Hall Curatorial residents A-Squared Theatre (Hope Kim, Cary Shoda, and Giau Truong)—on Nov. 9-12.

Co-presented by A-Squared Theatre, Asian Improv Arts Midwest and Links Hall, the A-Squared Asian American Performing Arts Festival will feature contemporary dance, music, performance art, sound art and theater by U.S. artists descended from the Asian diaspora.

See Ticketfly.com for tickets.



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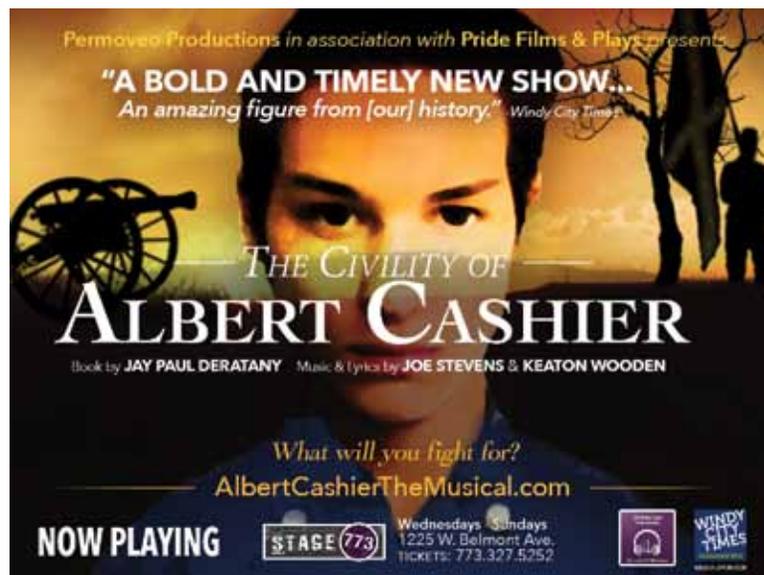
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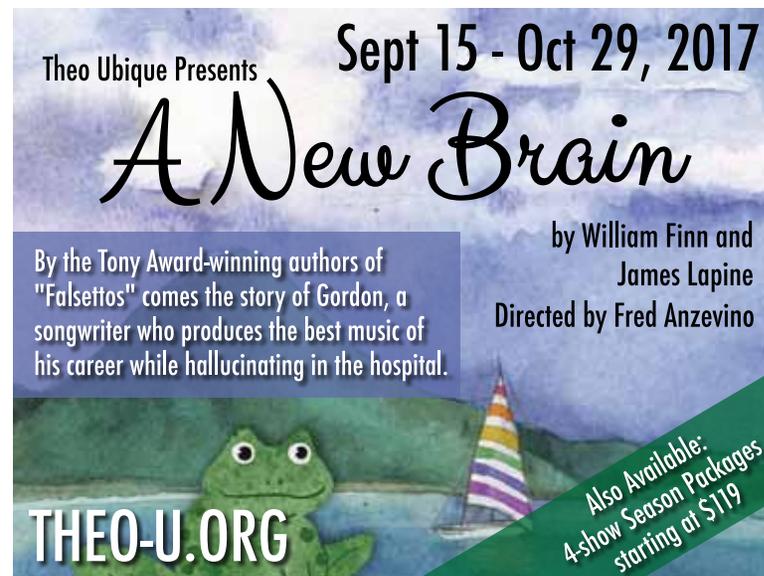
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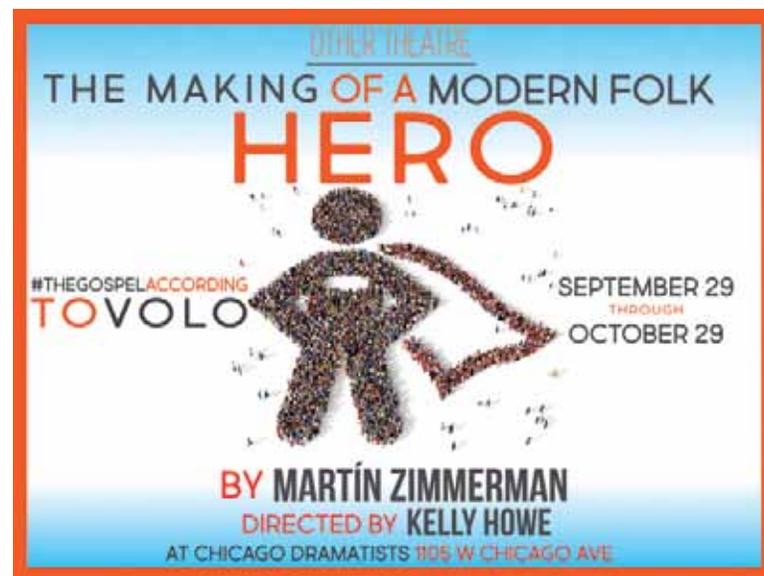


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BOOKS

New memoir reveals Armistead Maupin's true tales of the city

BY TONY PEREGRIN

Armistead Maupin spent four decades creating memorable characters in his Tales of the City novels but it's real-life individuals like Rock Hudson that kindle his new memoir *Logical Family*—illuminating the coming of age and coming out story of one of America's most indelible authors.

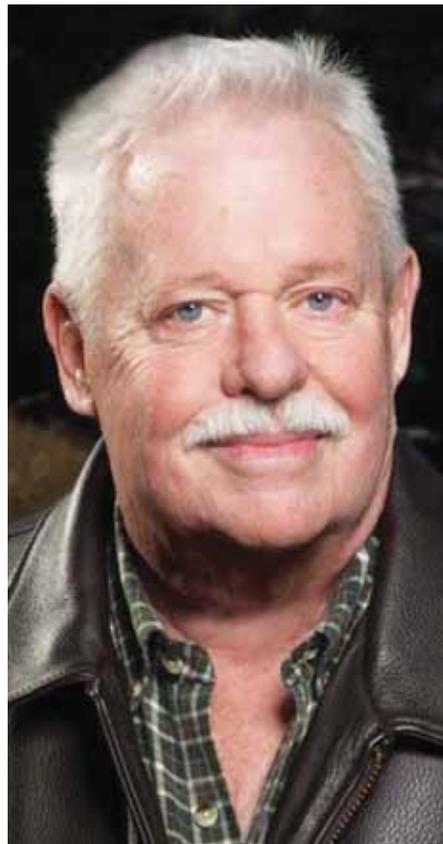
In anticipation of the release of *Logical Family: A Memoir* on Tuesday, Oct. 3, Windy City Times spoke with Maupin from his home office in San Francisco's iconic Castro neighborhood about his quest to locate a "logical family," one not defined by DNA, his approach to writing non-fiction, and his decision to write about his "clumsy sex" with Rock Hudson.

Windy City Times: What prompted you to write a memoir? Why now?

Armistead Maupin: Because I won't be able to write one when I'm 100! [Laughs] Isn't this the right time to write a memoir? I thought it was time to explain a little about my life and how I got here.

WCT: At various points in *Logical Family*, you speak directly to the reader and acknowledge that—while something might sound made-up—it's actually true.

AM: I have to give credit for that trick to Mary Karr, the wonderful memoirist. I read *The Art of Memoir* rather recently and she said it's always a good thing to point out what may look like inconsistencies in your own memories to acknowledge the serendipity involved. My agent, Binky Urban,



Armistead Maupin.
Photo by Christopher Turner

who knows everybody in town, recommended Mary Karr to me. I knew I needed guidance on the memoir process and I got real information from her that helped a lot.

WCT: You also occasionally admit to the reader that a detail or two might actually be a product of your "theatrical memory." I think this actually endears you to the reader and makes us care less about the veracity of specific details and more about the emotions you felt around a specific memory.

AM: Oh, that's nice to know. So, my trick worked.

WCT: It absolutely did.

AM: You know, Google is enormously helpful when you're checking on your own memory, and when it proves contrary to what you remember, I think it's worth remarking. It says something about the writer himself and the way he collects the pieces of his own life. In my novel, *The Night Listener*, I described the autobiographical central character as someone who is like a magpie who

collects only the shiny bits and discards the rest. And I think that's ... I'm talking about myself there.

WCT: Speaking of shiny bits of memory—I was surprised to learn that at one point, you and Sir Ian McKellen fell in love with the same man, the Broadway and daytime television actor Curt Dawson. What was it about Mr. Dawson that drew both of you into his orbit?

AM: He paid attention. He was completely with you when he was with you and that was extremely charming. And he was engaged in life. A lot of actors have that quality. He was very excited about the world. I remember watching him studying a tide pool up in Mendocino with utter fascination and being touched by the moment.

WCT: In the book you describe Rock Hudson as a "buddy with occasional benefits." Your first sexual experience with Hudson, however, didn't actually go off with a bang. Did you have any trepidation about describing that first sexual encounter with him?

AM: Well, in the first place, I wrote that scene because sex isn't very interesting if it goes off well—it's just porn. There is something much more human about clumsy sex, and it was clumsy alright. And it also illuminated something about the nature of his life—that people had a hard time connecting with him on a personal level because he was competing with his own image on the screen.

WCT: Why did you title the memoir "Logical Family?"

AM: I coined that term about 10 years ago for my novel *Michael Tolliver Lives*. It comes from Mrs. Madrigal, the land lady at Barbary Lane who has formed her own family of tenants and friends and strays and it's her way of saying that yes, you have a biological family, but then you have a logical family, the one that actually makes sense for you. The one that accepts you as you are and loves you for who you are and doesn't put requirements on you.

WCT: You initially resisted using that title.

AM: Chris [Turner, Maupin's husband] said "Logical Family is the perfect title for your memoir, you've got to use it." And I'm not quite sure why I resisted it. Maybe because it felt like I was quoting myself, but I can't imagine it being called anything else now. A lot of people nowadays are taking comfort in that phrase and not just gay folks. People whose families are, for instance, supporting Trump and a fascist regime that is using gay people once again as scapegoats, those people have to draw on the strength of their logical families and tell their biological families to fuck off.

Both Chris and I did that this year with members of our family. For some reason, people think that it's okay to support a religion or political party that denigrates your own blood kin if the subject is queer. It's not okay if you follow a religion that says your own children are evil people. If you do, then you should get another religion or shut the fuck up.

And we have to be the ones to say that. We can't go home at Christmas and bite our tongues and giggle behind our hands and let them get away with it, because the future of the country depends on it.

WCT: Absolutely. Do you think it's more chal-

lenging to gather our tribe and form sustainable logical family bonds in the age of social media and the proliferation of dating and hook up apps?

AM: Well, if you're following them all according to dick size, you may have problems. I think social networking is wonderfully useful in terms of meeting people and forming families, but you still have to operate from the heart. You still have to have discriminating taste when it comes to how people behave.

WCT: Netflix is producing an updated version of *Tales of the City*. What can you reveal about the miniseries?

AM: It will be eight or 10 episodes set in the present day with Mary Ann Singleton, played by Laura Linney. Mary Ann has returned to San Francisco after 20 years in the East with a lot weighing on her mind—and that's all I can say about that.

WCT: Will the Netflix adaptation, written by Michael Cunningham (*The Hours*), characterize San Francisco as it is today—warts and all?

AM: The short answer is yes. We're folding in a new reality. Mrs. Madrigal is still holding her own in the old house on Barbary Lane...but change is in the air.

Armistead Maupin's *Logical Family: A Memoir* is now in bookstores and online.

'The Cher Show' in Chicago next June

Producers Flody Suarez and Jeffrey Seller, along with Broadway in Chicago, announced that *The Cher Show*—the new musical based on the life and six-decade career of the iconic singer and actress—will have its pre-Broadway world premiere in Chicago next year.

Previews will take place June 12-July 15, 2018, at the Oriental Theatre before making its Broadway debut at the Neil Simon Theatre in the fall. *The Cher Show* will be part of the next Broadway in Chicago Season Subscription Series, which will go on sale to the public Oct. 18, 2017.

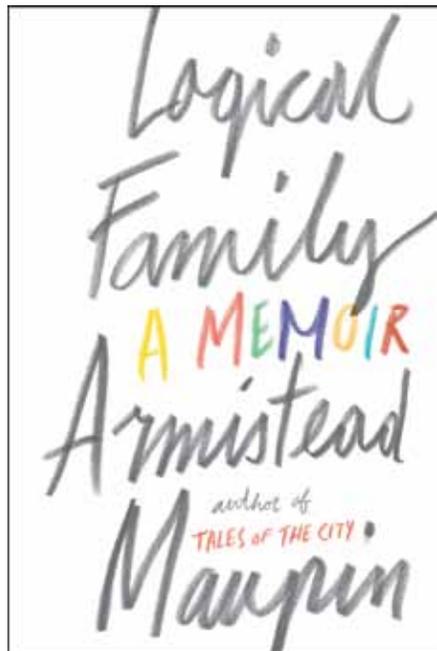
Flody Suarez (*What's New Pussycat*) and four-time Tony Award-winner Jeffrey Seller (*Hamilton*) will produce the new musical. Additional information, including casting, will be announced at a later date. For more information, visit TheCherShowBroadway.com.

Hell in a Handbag 15th-anniv. event on Oct. 15

To mark Hell in a Handbag Productions' 15th anniversary, it will hold a quinceañera-style party on Sunday, Oct. 15, 5-10 p.m., at The Edge Theater, 5451 N. Broadway.

The evening will include a Mexican buffet, cocktails, games, a silent and live auction, the world's greatest raffle, and a live performance of Handbag highlights (and lowlights) spanning the past 15 years.

Tickets are \$75-\$85 each; visit HandbagProductions.org or call 800-838-3006.





Vintage image in exhibit.
Image courtesy of Tracy Baim

Exhibit explores city's dyke nightspots

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

On Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day, Howard Brown Health's "Lost & Found: An exhibit exploring Chicago's dyke spaces of the '70s and '80s" will open for a limited run (through Oct. 28) at Reunion Chicago, 2557 W. North Ave., in Humboldt Park.

The exhibit is co-organized by producer Kristen Kaza (co-founder of Slo 'Mo Party and co-director alongside Elijah McKinnon of Reunion Chicago)

and curator Ruby Western (curator of AKR: A Beauty Salon and writer of OpenTV's Afternoon Snatch) with input from Howard Brown's Director of Social Services Liz Weck and will feature items from Gerber/Hart Library and Archives and this publication's archives.

Reunion Chicago is an art gallery, event space and studio that was opened to fill a void in Chicago's venue landscape for women, LGBTQ people and people of color to showcase their work.

"The exhibit completely aligns with our mission

to create more opportunity for dialogue and connection within our diverse community as well as being intersectional, intentional and accessible," said Kaza.

When asked why they wanted to put this exhibit together, Kaza noted that there has been a growing conversation about where all the queer women spaces have gone. She said that part of the reason for this erasure is the divide between generations so this exhibit will be a space for communion and conversation.

Western explained that Weck wanted to do something with Gerber/Hart Library and Archives scheduled around National Coming Out Day.

Weck said that oftentimes LGBTQ women harbor distrust of medical systems and care environments due to real and perceived discrimination and she wants Howard Brown Health to be a key healthcare resource for this community. This exhibit, Weck noted, is a way for Howard Brown Health to invest in LGBTQ women's community and holistic health.

"We have so many delicious surprises," said Western. "Everything from apparel, to sports team trophies, to oodles and oodles of books. You are going to see some photos of folks from the '70s and '80s in the dyke spaces we're talking about—some activist's faces you will recognize (like Vernita Grey) and some people out on the town enjoying themselves. My personal favorite involves some truly incredible haircuts, a saxophone and a trumpet."

"There's a neon sign I am pretty excited about, and [this publication's Publisher and Executive Editor] Tracy Baim was kind enough to let us in to her catacombs of queer history (aka her basement) and some of those photos are really incredible," said Weck.

In addition to the exhibits, there will also be a variety of other events. Opening night will feature queer comedy hosted by Ashley Tribble (\$10 suggested donation with all proceeds going to Howard Brown Health) and a pop-up dyke bar while a '70s and '80s horror film Halloween-

themed "Slo 'Mo: Slow Jams for Queer Fam" dance party with jams by Audio Jack (\$15 ticket price) will close out the exhibit.

There will also be a number of free events including a queer family day with StoryCorps on hand to do recordings, family portraits and radical button making with Busy Beaver Buttons; guided tours and a panel discussion featuring owners and organizers of dyke spaces and parties —Marge Summit (His n Hers), Kathy Munzer (Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children), Pat McCombs (Executive Sweet parties) and Baim (RSVP to slomoparty@gmail.com for the discussion).

Howard Brown, in collaboration with The Morten Group, will be launching their women's health needs assessment, #ChicagoHealthLooks-Like, on the night of the panel discussion.

"I hope people learn a little more about the history of our community due to this exhibit and it starts dialogues about the future of queer spaces," said Western.

"I want people to keep the conversation going," said Kaza. "We hope people will be inspired to tell their own stories, build spaces, and keep researching and honoring their queer history. I hope people of different generations in the queer community connect with each other because of this exhibit and that our elders get their due for blazing the trails we are able to traverse today. I also hope allies will realize their role in investing in queer people's economies and futures."

"Survival, self-care and stories of resilience are often passed down from parents to children in marginalized communities," said Weck. "The queer community does not have a traditional avenue for passing down cherished lessons. We must find our history, build our own families and learn how to survive from each other and I hope this exhibit will be one of the avenues that ignites conversation and created intersectional connections so this history will continue to be shared."

See DykeBarChi.com and <https://www.instagram.com/dykebarchi/> for more information.



From left: Kristen Kaza, Ruby Western and Liz Weck.
Photo courtesy of Kaza

Horror-film marathon Oct. 7 at Music Box

The 24-hour horror-movie marathon known as "Music Box of Horrors" will return to the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., on Saturday, Oct. 7, at noon.

Along the films that will be shown, there will be tributes to horror-film directors George Romero and Tobe Hooper. Some of the movies slated to run include Land of the Dead (2005), The Cat and the Canary (1928), In the Mouth of Madness (1994), Hellraiser (1987), Ginger Snaps (2000) and Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare (1991).

Director Mariano Bano will appear live at The Music Box Theatre to conduct a Q&A after his film, Dark Waters.

This year's food trucks include Viet Nom-Nom, Empanada Girl and Taco in a Bag; Kitley's Crypt, House of Movie Monsters, Severin Films and tattoo artist Chloe Pinnock are some of the vendors slated to appear.

Admission is \$25-\$35 each; see MusicBoxTheatre.com.

Park at Wrigley has Oct. 8 classical show

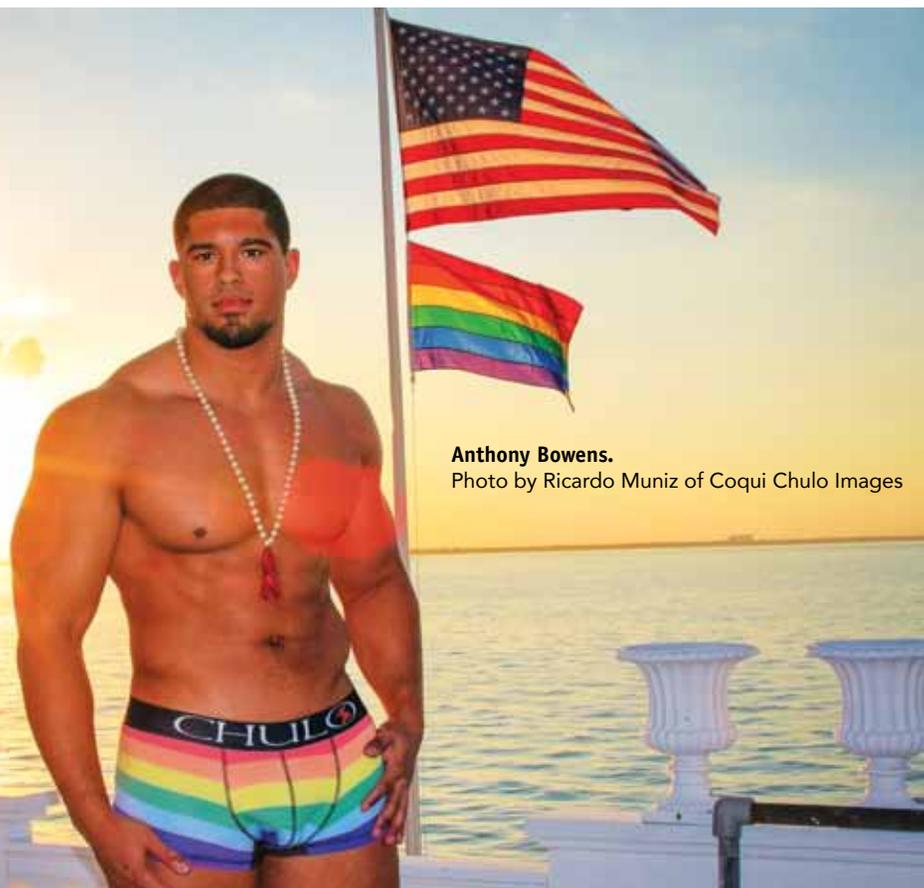
The Park at Wrigley, 3637 N. Clark St., has announced its first outdoor classical music experience, showcasing Chicago musicians on Sunday, Oct. 8, 2-4 p.m.

"The Line-Up"—a three-part classical music showcase—is a free live music experience featuring selections for brass, strings and woodwinds. Edwin Outwater (music director Laureate of Ontario's Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and director for summer concerts at the San Francisco Symphony) and Tim Higgins (principal trombone for the San Francisco Symphony) co-curated the event, engaging Chicago-based musicians to perform works by J.S. Bach, Bruckner, Ravel and more to be announced.

Guests are invited to bring blankets and pack picnics for the concert. Food and beverage will be available for purchase. For the complete line-up of guest musicians and works to be performed, visit ParkAtWrigley.com/events.

PRO SPORTS

Wrestler Anthony Bowens: Talking about sport, coming out as bi



Anthony Bowens.
Photo by Ricardo Muniz of Coqui Chulo Images

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Earlier this year, professional wrestler Anthony Bowens made waves and amassed support when he came out as bisexual.

However, he also experienced some negative feedback, including from those within the LGBTQ community, who questioned the validity of his orientation—and of bisexuality in general.

Bowens (who said he's "still getting used to everything") recently talked with Windy City Times about his sport (including stereotypes), coming out and the stigma he faced after doing so.

Windy City Times: I want to start talking about the sport itself. I go back to the days of [former pro wrestlers] Harley Race, Nick Bockwinkel, Wahoo McDaniel and others. I'm curious as to how you even got involved in wrestling.

Anthony Bowens: Well, I was a big fan, too. I didn't know if I could do it, because most people don't realize how you can become a wrestler in the first place. Back in those days of Bockwinkel, Race and [Ric] Flair, business was a lot more protected. You had to have a connection to get in, and then you really had to pay your dues to be accepted. Nowadays, you can just join a wrestling school, which I found out after my college days.

I played baseball for 11 years. I stopped playing due to injury and I was kind of losing my mind; I was used to being on a baseball field for five or six hours a day. All of a sudden, it was gone—and I didn't know what to do with myself. Long story short, I started to look into wrestling. I happened to be lifting at my gym (and the WWE was in town) and a wrestler was there; I bothered him, asking for a picture. He

then stopped me and a buddy, and asked me if I ever thought about being a wrestler. I went to the Creative Pro Wrestling Academy and, a week later, I started training.

WCT: Who was your main inspiration?

AB: Looking back, Sting was the main one who got me into it. Jeff Hardy inspired me as a person; he's always fearless and jumping off ladders. I was a shy young man, and he got me to be myself. I also got to appreciate wrestlers such as Chris Jericho and Eddie Guerrero—guys like that.

WCT: What do you think is the biggest misconception about pro wrestling? People talk about how fake it is, and also about the supposed rampant use of steroids, pointing to people like Chris Benoit [a wrestler who used illegal steroids, and who killed his wife and son before committing suicide in 2007].

AB: To be honest, it's both of those. I hate the F-word [*laughs*]; I prefer the word "scripted." It's certainly not fake when I wake up the next morning and I feel like I've been hit by a truck. You have to look at it as scripted entertainment. The ring is not a trampoline; there's maybe an inch of padding, if it's a good one. It's a very physical sport.

Everything hurts—but we do it in ways that we don't get injured, if that makes sense. I've even had my tooth go through my bottom lip from a dropkick, and I've [severely] hurt nerves in my back; I've also gotten concussions. You usually walk away with something after each match.

There's also a misconception about the lifestyle. The lifestyle was way different in the '80s and '90s than it is now. Steroids and drugs were rampant, and combining those with being in the ring could be bad news. Now, there's a strict

policy—and the guys don't even go out anymore; they tend to play video games. We're definitely moving forward in a better way.

WCT: With the injuries you've suffered, are you concerned with how you're going to be when you're, say, 50? [Bowens is 26.]

AB: Um ... that thought crosses my mind sometimes, but I try to live in the present a little bit. I try not to let it deter me, though. Also, everyone's body is different; one wrestler can wrestle for a year and get injuries that last a lifetime, while others—like Jeff Hardy, who's been flipping off ladders for 15 to 20 years—can wrestle forever.

WCT: You made news earlier this year with Outsports. It's interesting: You came out as bisexual and got some blowback, including from those in the LGBT community. What's your response to someone who thinks, for example, that you're gay and not ready to admit it?

AB: Like I've said before, it's LGBTQ before for a reason. [Critics] have no right to say what a person should define themselves as; that's that person's choice. I know plenty of people who define themselves as bisexual; some prefer men over women, others like women more than men and some don't care. Yes, bisexuality exists.

If you have an attraction to both genders, you have, for example, an attraction to men that doesn't go away—even if you marry a woman for the rest of your life. I don't think people really understand that. It's not right for someone to tell others how they should identify themselves.

WCT: I don't know if you saw [Green Bay Packers quarterback] Aaron Rodgers when he said [on ESPN.com] that gay NFL players are still afraid of losing their jobs.

AB: Oh, I didn't see that.

WCT: OK. Well, I'm wondering if the wrestling community was very supportive when you came out.

AB: Oh, yes—and it was such a big relief. Wrestling was the reason why I hadn't come out a lot earlier. I'm not blaming wrestling—I had this fear of the unknown, and I was putting pressure on myself. I was very happy and relieved that nobody cared. Plus, I'm well-liked, so it made my friendships stronger because I wasn't hiding anything.

WCT: Are you comfortable with the label "role model?"

AB: Yes. When I sit down and think about it, it's crazy. I just want to affect someone's life positively because I've had people help me, whether directly or indirectly, with issues that were sports-related or personal. I never thought I'd help people on this grand level—especially after I first came out and I got all these messages from all over the world.

WCT: And it's not just the support where you felt relief in coming out. It was also in the act itself, right?

AB: Oh, yeah. I was tired of dodging conversations, and I was dating Michael [Pavano], who is an absolutely amazing person. It was unfair to him once we entered that relationship. I told him I wouldn't be in the closet forever, but I had to censor certain things—like I couldn't put photos of us together on social media. I know it killed him, but he cared about me enough to go through that time period. You should never ask someone to have a relationship under those circumstances, but I give him a ton of credit for sticking with me.

WCT: My last question has nothing to do with sexuality. [Bowens laughs.] Pro wrestler Nikki Bella is competing on Dancing with the Stars. Would you ever try that if asked?

AB: That's interesting, because I was asked that the other day. I am a *horrible* dancer! [*Laughs*] I have zero rhythm—but I would try it. It'd be ugly for the first week or two, though. [*Laughs*] However, I am a quick study.

Pink Hat Run on Nov. 4

The first-ever Pink Hat Run will take place in Chicago on Saturday, Nov. 4, in Chicago's South Loop.

The 5K/1-mile run, walk or roll will start at Prairie Avenue, next to the Women's Park & Gardens.

The Pink Hat Run will benefit organizations that provide services, advocacy and support to women and girls, and are central to improving the lives of Chicago communities.

Pink Hat Run Chicago's 2017 beneficiaries include Access Living, Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW), Chicago Women Take Action (CWTA), Chicago Women's AIDS Project, Fierce Over 40, Mujeres Latinas en Acción, Chicago National Organization for Women, Personal PAC, Planned Parenthood Illinois Action, A Sister's Hope, Women's March on Chicago and YWCA Metropolitan Chicago.

See PinkHatRun.com.



Participants take part in the annual AIDS Run & Walk.

Photos by Carrie Maxwell. Many more photos with the online version of this story.

Thousands take part in AIDS Run & Walk

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

About 2,500 participants gathered Oct. 1 for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's (AFC) 16th annual AIDS Run & Walk outside of Soldier Field.

Like last year's event, this year's theme was "Band Together."

For the third year in a row, participants were able to pick out a COLORband denoting their status at the event—green for corporate team, blue for rookie (first time), purple for AFC fundraiser, yellow for Community Direct team, black for veteran (four-plus years) and orange for volunteers. Participants were also able to show why they were running by decorating their T-shirts.

WGN Entertainment Reporter Dean Richards emceed the opening ceremonies. He spoke about the importance of this event and the advances science has made in helping people live with HIV in a more humane way. Richards noted there is still a need for more research, services and education especially since healthcare budgets are being cut.

AFC President/CEO John Peller kicked off the opening ceremony alongside Hamilton Chicago cast member Carl Clemons-Hopkins, Jeff Award winning director Christopher Pazdernik and AIDS Run & Walk participant and activist Armando Ramirez-Guzman while singer-songwriter Steve Grand, Jeff Award nominee Donica Lynn and the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus sang for the crowd.

Peller noted his late friend Larry McKeon (the first openly gay and openly HIV-positive state Representative) and what he would think of the current political climate.

Hopkins read the names of the Chicago-area individuals featured on the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt on display during the event.

Both Ramirez-Guzman and Pazdernik spoke about being HIV-positive, the importance of having a support system and erasing the stigma of the disease.

Fitness Formula Clubs Joy Miles led the warm-up stretch session for participants ahead of the 5K walk, 5K run and 10K run.

Peller and U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley announced the runner/walker groups at the starting point of the race.

"We are so happy it is not raining this year and the weather is beautiful," said Peller. "Our fundraising has been really strong. As of this morning, we have raised over \$415,000 which is well on our way to our target of \$500,000. What is amazing about AIDS Run & Walk is our community organizations that use this event to build capacity and learn how to be better fundraisers from individuals and sponsors. We are so grateful to them for making this event possible.

"Rep. Quigley is a tremendous supporter of HIV/AIDS services. He is on the House Appropriations Committee that oversees housing among other issues and in that role he has been an incredible champion for the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS Program. That program

helps provide housing to thousands of people living with HIV. We are delighted to have his support and appreciate everything he is doing to lead the #Resistance."

"Since the election and Charlottesville the most common question I get is what can we do," said Quigley. "I tell people the best way to react to hate is love each other in word and deed and that is what this event is all about. I cannot think of any other place I would rather be this weekend."

AFC Participating Community Direct partners receive 90 percent of the money raised at this event and fundraising will be ongoing through Nov. 15.

This year's recipients are Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance, Austin CBC, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Center on Halsted, Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, Chicago Center for HIV Elimination, Chicago House & Social Service Agency, Chicago Recovery Alliance, Chicago Women's AIDS Project, Erie Family Health, FCAN, Heartland Alliance, Howard Brown Health Center, Legal Council for Health Justice, Lurie Children's SID, Men & Women in Prison Ministries, Mercy Michael Reese Research & Education Foundation, Midwest AIDS Training

+ Education Center, New Age Services, Open Door Clinic, Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative, Project VIDA, Puerto Rican Cultural Center-Vida/SIDA, CORE Center, Season of Concern, Sinai Health System, The Night Ministry and Youth Outlook.

Non-binary trans singer/songwriter, actor and activist Dani Shay (currently onstage as Civil War Union soldier Albert D.J. Cashier in Stage 773's production of *The Civility of Albert Cashier*) hosted the closing ceremony, with DJ Harry Tyner providing music.

"With all this BS going on with banning transgender people from the U.S. military right now, this is a really important story to tell," said Shay.

First-place winners in the 10K race included Kimberly McClain in the female category, Brett Peterson in the gender-neutral category and Brock Thompson in the male category. The 5K race first-place winners were Vanessa Rigeimer in the female category, Bryan Blaise in the gender-neutral category and Aaron Skelly in the male category.

The event also featured HIV testing and information courtesy of Howard Brown Health; a MillerCoors Beer Garden; and sponsor tables.



Hamilton Chicago cast member Carl Clemons-Hopkins and the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus.

Theater community comes together to fight racism, other biases

BY TRACY BAIM

The Chicago theater community came together to fight racism in a special event co-produced by Black Ensemble Theater and Steppenwolf Theatre Company Sept. 25.

This special one-night event, Chicago's Theater Community Coming Together to Fight the Ism's "Highlighting Racism," was hosted at Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center, 4450 N. Clark St.

The event confronted racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and other biases people experience on a daily basis. There were performances from Teatro Vista, About Face Theatre, Black Ensemble Theater, Her Story Theatre and Firebrand Theatre. Featured speakers were Ty-

ronne Stoudemire (vice president global diversity and inclusion, Hyatt Corporation) and Angelique Power (president, The Field Foundation and co-founder of Enrich). The evening was motivated by recent discussion within the Chicago theater community regarding racism, including among theater critics.

"This is a necessary evening of education, understanding and coming together," said Black Ensemble Founder and CEO Jackie Taylor. "We must understand the systemic process of racism and oppression—what is it and how can we remove it from our community? This is a way to bring us together so that we can begin the healing process that is so necessary in a racist and oppressive society."

Taylor added in a prepared statement: "This is an event to enlighten, to inform and to inspire the theater community artists, administrators and critics to work together. Racism is a very, very difficult subject. Many don't even really understand it—however it is a subconscious and conscious reality that we all live every day of our lives. Let me assure you that this is not

an event that will attack anyone or subject any one individual. It is not about Black critics or white critics—it is about the responsibility that we all have to recognize our part in eradicating all forms of oppression and bigotry within our community."

David Schmitz, executive director of Steppenwolf Theatre, in his prepared statement, said: "Jackie Taylor and Black Ensemble Theater have been leading this crucial work since the organization's founding 41 years ago! We join Jackie's call for an ongoing, community-wide dialogue about racism in our field and an experience-sharing process for artists, administrators and critics. Steppenwolf leadership is eager to participate in this dialogue, and will offer whatever resources we can to aide and further the discussion."

The evening provided a great opportunity have a "taste" of Chicago's diverse theater community, and it would be great to continue this tradition and expand it to an even wider audience.

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Israeli TV chef talks food, family

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Despite being a prominent TV personality, food journalist and chef in Israel, Gil Hovav, who is gay, insists that he's "not that infatuated with food."

Hovav—who recently passed through Chicago on his way to a speaking engagement elsewhere in the States—explained, "I love food, but I don't think it's the most important thing in life. But still it's a part of everyone's life. We enjoy it, so why not?"

Even if Hovav is not infatuated with food, many in his country are.

"Israel, since the '80s, has been a foodie nation," he said. "People have become all about what they eat and what they drink. They're very interested in their food. ... Food is immense."



Gil Hovav.
PR photo

Despite his professed ambiguity towards food, Hovav has contributed to his nation's love for it; he's written and spoken for years about the nation's diverse cuisine, and promotes cooking at home. He comes from a prominent family; his great-grandfather, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, helped establish modern Hebrew as the nation's language.

Hovav and his partner, Daniel Halperin, have a teenage daughter, Naomi. He said that, "It is not really difficult, but not really 'special,'" to be

openly gay and a celebrity. "I'm 55-years-old. All of my gay and lesbian friends have children—all of them. Gay families are very strong in Israel."

Adoption by gay couples is more of a prominent social-issue than marriage is, he noted. Adoption by same-sex couples is technically legal, but opposite-sex couples are given preference by authorities.

"According to old laws, they are given first to religious Jewish families, and later, to [other]

straight families, but not to gay families. Later, it was in the Supreme Court, where the government said that, 'Adoption is very complicated—for the benefit of the child, maybe it would be better to live in a family that is ordinary.' That caused a huge outcry in Israel. Within one week, the state reversed its declaration, and the government said that that [same-sex couples adopting is 'kosher.' It still has to be legislated, but it is going to happen soon."

He added, "We still don't have marriage yet. You have to get married through the rabbinical system, which is of course not going to have gay marriage. Most of my secular friends don't get married according to this system—if they want to 'marry,' they just live together and that's it, or they go Cypress or someplace else. If they get married anywhere else, it's immediately recognized by the state, along with gay marriage."

He noted that he and his partner have been together for 30 years. However, he said, "We never bothered or tried to get married. I don't think it's important. It's an 'un-Israeli thing' to care about that."

Hovav, Halperin and Naomi live in the same neighborhood in Tel Aviv as Naomi's biological mother, he said. Naomi goes between the two houses, "like a happily divorced family," Hovav said, laughing.

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

more from TPAN's 30th anniversary

Photos by Vern Hester.





BILLY Masters

"I am definitely not your daddy."—**Nick Jonas** responds to a tweet saying "Nick Jonas is literally my daddy." I believe people should really learn the meaning of the words literally, figuratively and, in many cases, versatility.

After a month abroad, I am finally back on U.S. soil. While my trip was entertaining and enlightening, it was also exhausting. I don't believe I've ever been more tired than the 48 hours it took to travel home. At least that's the excuse I used for my outburst in the Athens airport, where I found myself screaming at a swarthy security guard, "What's it to you, you Greek bastard?" Note to self—avoid directing inflammatory remarks to anyone holding a rifle and a drug-sniffing dog near my crotch! As I apologized profusely, I got a better look at the officer from all angles and decided to—how shall we say—rectify the situation. After all, when in Greece...

The new TV season started, and many people were annoyed at how casually **Kevin Can Wait** dealt with the death of the matriarch, **Erinn Hayes**. Kevin complained that his late wife's gym was still sending her notices saying, "We miss you." He said, "It's been a year and I miss her, too. So, who wants pancakes?" And, poof, it was over.

Meanwhile, **Will & Grace** dealt with rewriting history with a wink and a nudge. As you'll recall, the original series finale flashed forward to Will and Grace's kids serendipitously meeting in college. In the new series premiere, Karen comes out of a daze and asks what happened to their kids who grew up and got married. Will says, "That never happened." Karen slyly replies, "What a relief—nobody wants to see you two raise kids." And that's that. The rest of the episode found the quartet regaining their familiar footing with a respectable script. Aside from the addition of a brass section to the theme song (it sounds like they're trying a bit too hard), I enjoyed it.

Any day now, we'll be getting a reboot of **Dynasty**. So it's fitting that one of the original series stars is back in the news. What makes it newsworthy is that **Gordon Thomson**, who played Adam, has come out of the closet. Of course, I can't imagine anyone is particularly surprised—the dark, brooding, chiseled-featured actor always came off as a snappy queen...and I say that with affection. If I'm not mistaken, during his "Dynasty" years he was married to a significantly older woman. Anyway, last week he officially came out as gay at the ripe old age of 72. He told *The Daily Beast* there was never any thought of doing so in the '80s, saying, "To come out would have been professional suicide, without question." Part of the issue was playing a leading man on a soap. "You're also a source of fantasy," he added. "Ian McKellen and Derek Jacobi are wonderful people but, pardon me, how many audience members fantasize about fucking either one of them? Really. It had a lot to do with what you looked like, I'm afraid." Meow!

Even in today's world, Thomson thinks looks



Nick Jonas had to correct someone, Billy says.
Photo by Michael Loccisano

and money are the prime considerations when it comes to an actor contemplating going public about their sexuality. He thinks **Matt Bomer** is "extraordinarily good-looking and talented." But he doesn't think his coming out was much of a risk "because he has a rich, successful husband. He doesn't need his work to live." His candor extends to the topic of his old show returning to the airwaves. "I have had a look at the new *Dynasty* and I am appalled. What the fuck is *The CW* doing? It's utter shit."

Proving how times have changed, **Russell Tovey** seems to be working steadily, playing both straight and gay roles. He's just joined the cast of *Arrow*, where he will be someone called *The Ray*, a gay superhero who can channel light—like a human Clapper! He's scheduled to be in four episodes.

Sometimes a show is cast so well, it's worth taking a special trip to see it. That seems to be the case with the production of *The Rocky Horror Show* at the Bucks County Playhouse in Pennsylvania. They've enlisted the services (so to speak) of three of our favorite fellas. **Randy Harrison** will be playing Dr. Frank-N-Furter, **Nick Cearley** is playing Brad and **Nick Adams** is playing Rocky. And, you know, there are other people in the show who I'm sure are fine. This sizzlingly stellar cast hits the stage Oct. 13-29.

Leave **Kim Cattrall** alone—it's not true. We're defining "it" as the story that she single-handedly torpedoed *Sex and the City 3*. A British rag claims that the flick was ready to start filming this fall when Cattrall's diva demands brought everything to a screeching halt. As if! Kim even went public denying the report, posting, "The only 'DEMAND' I ever made was that I didn't want to do a 3rd film ... & that was back in 2016." One part of the report is true—Cattrall does have other films in development, but she never used their status as leverage for a third "SATC" flick. In

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fact, my sources say no discussions on the topic ever happened.

I may be back on native soil, but our "Ask Billy" question this week comes from across the pond. Lloyd of London asks, "Did you Yanks get Queers yet? It's great and I think you'd definitely enjoy it."

Queers is a BBC series of eight 15-minute monologues commemorating the 50 years since the UK's Sexual Offenses Act of 1967, which decriminalized homosexual acts. Each of the monologues is handled by a different actor, including such luminaries as **Alan Cumming**, **Russell Tovey** and **Ben Whishaw**. While the whole thing will air on BBC America on Oct. 14, we'll post the aforementioned three on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm looking forward to clapping on Russell Tovey, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Be sure to check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's queer as folk. If you have a question for me, dash it off to BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I stuff someone's grape leaf! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Oct. 4

Author Conversation and Book Signing: Nicole Krauss with Aleksandar Hemon
Forest Dark. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St.; <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-conversation-nicole-krauss-aleksandar-hemon>

Thursday, Oct. 5

Thrive: Weekly group for HIV-positive YMSM Open process group facilitated by a licensed counselor open to all HIV-positive young men who have sex with men, 18-29. A safe space to process one's HIV status, emotional and mental health, relationships, identity, and personal growth. Also fun activities and cultural outings once a quarter. 6:00pm Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) 5537 N Broadway St Chicago <http://www.tpan.com/events/thrive-edition>

Senior Yoga Classes - Restoring Bodies and Minds with Keith McElroy Yoga for those aged 40+. Suitable to all experience levels. Free. For more information, RSVP to Todd Williams, 773-472-6469 x426 or toddwilliams@centeronhalsted.org. 6:30pm Center on Halsted



LAVEY'S LEGACY Monday, Oct. 9

A memorial for Steppenwolf Artistic Director Martha Lavey will be held at the theater.

Photo by Lisa Predko

3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=14431>

Friday, Oct. 6

Midwest LGBTQ Health Symposium Howard Brown Health hosts. Kenyon Farrow, the US & Global Health Policy Director

for Treatment Action Group, in critical conversation on healthcare access and racial justice, and other healthcare advocates in the MLHS Legal, Policy and Advocacy track. Symposium through Oct. 7 9:00am JW Marriott Chicago, 151 West Adams St., Chicago <http://www.cvent.com>

Chi-Town Squares The Great Chicago Crossfire 2017 Annual fly-in featuring Sandie Bryant and Dayle Hodge. \$90 full weekend rate in effect until September 11. Register online. 6pm registration, pot luck, 7pm dancing. 6:00pm - 10:00pm Ebenezer Lutheran Church 1650 W Foster Chicago Tickets: <http://chitownsquares.org/form/crossfire-2017-registration-form>

The Civility of Albert Cashier Starring Glee Project star and America's Got Talent Contestant Dani Shay. True story set between 1862 and 1915 when a Civil War soldier in a small southern Illinois community was prosecuted for impersonating a soldier, requiring fellow soldiers to return after 60 years to detail Albert's heroism and life. Jay Paul Deratany and Director Keaton Wooden worked with acclaimed trans composer Joe Stevens to tell Albert's story in music. Through Oct. 15. \$30; 8:00pm Stage 773, 1225 W Belmont Ave.; www.stage773.com

Saturday, Oct. 7

North Park Art Walk Stained glass, woodwork, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, paint-

ings and more by 30-plus Chicago-based artists in 11 storefront pop-up galleries. Kids art activities. Dine and drink in cafes and restaurants. Continues on Oct. 8. Suggested donation: \$5 12:00pm - 6:00pm Koh-Varilla Guild, 5518 N. Kedzie and along Kedzie and west Bryn Mawr Avenues <http://www.facebook.com/events/1633129023373666>

Sunday, Oct. 8

Alcoholics Anonymous Open to those with a desire to stop drinking. 9:30am Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.chicagooa.org/about-caso>

Weekly Qigong Classes Contact Francesca (312-823-9045) or Lynn (wcflynn@gmail.com) with questions or to sign up. 9:30am - 10:30am Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N Clark St., <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/tai-chi-qigong-classes>

Monday, Oct. 9

Illinois Safe Schools Symposium Day-long gathering of students, parents, PreK-12 teachers and administrators, lawyers, healthcare professionals, and advocates to share skills and clarify shared goals. Keynote speaker is Alex Gino, author of George, first trans-related book sold through Scholastic. Free for 18 and under. \$120 Symposium only. \$180 symposium and 10/8 cocktail reception. 8:00am - 5:30am University of

Illinois at Chicago Forum, 725 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/illinois-safe-schools-symposium-2017-tickets-37020189383>

Martha Lavey Memorial Steppenwolf Theatre Company will host a memorial to celebrate life and legacy of the artistic director 1995-2015. Open to the public. Tickets free but reservations required. RSVPs from the public accepted by phone. Curated by Steppenwolf Artistic Director Anna D. Shapiro and ensemble member Amy Morton. 7:00pm Steppenwolf, 1650 N Halsted St.; 312-335-1650

Tuesday, Oct. 10

Andersonville's Arts Week Celebrate many of the artists and designers who live and work in the neighborhood with Andersonville Arts Week. Through Oct. 15 Time:TBA Women & Children First Books and many other locations <http://andersonville.org/aaw/>

Wed., Oct. 11

Lost and Found: Exploring Chicago's Dyke Spaces of the 1970s and 1980s Lost and Found is an exhibited exploring Chicago's once-thriving lesbian scene using sources from the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives and Windy City Times. Runs through Oct. 28. 7:00pm - 1:00am Reunion Chicago, 2557 W. North Ave.; <https://howardbrown.org/event/lost-and-found-dyke-bar-chi/>

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Legacy Walk dedication Oct. 15

The Phase 6 dedication of the Legacy Walk Outdoor LGBT History Museum will take place Sunday Oct. 15.

This year, there will be the addition of a bronze memorial commemorating The Harlem Renaissance, the cultural watershed that established the first urban LGBTQ community in the United States.

The public ceremony will start at 2 p.m. at 3247 N. Halsted St., and will feature remarks from Mona Noriega, chair of the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations; Dr. Kevin Mumford, professor of history at the University of Illinois and the consulting scholar on the endeavor; Paul Highfield, representing The Highfield Group, sponsor of the bronze memorial; and Victor Salvo, executive director and co-founder of the Legacy Project.

Following the ceremony, a dedication cel-

ebration will take place at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., 3-5 p.m., emceed by NBC Chicago's Wayne Johnson ("Wayne's Weekend"), and starring jazz vocalist/recording artist Tovi Kahli.

Tickets (\$50 each) may be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/legacy-walk-dedication-6-tickets-38013139323>.

Trans Disaster Relief Fund site launched

The TFA Trans Disaster Relief Fund website has been launched to aid trans, intersex and genderqueer community members affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

The TransAdvocate's parent organization, the Transgender Foundation of America, has organized a community disaster relief fund. The website provides step-by-step instructions for those needing medical, housing and financial assistance.

The site is at <http://TDRFund.us>.



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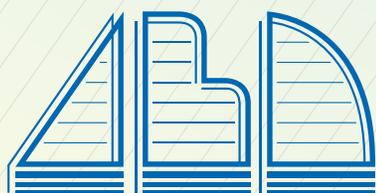
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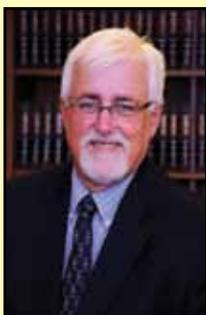
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