

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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POPULAR VOTES

Record number of LGBTs seek office



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Debra Shore.
Photo from Shore. Other photo credits on index page.

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Activist reflects on leaving Lambda Legal.
WCT archival photo

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DEATH OF A PIONEER

Jackie Anderson dies

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Jackie Anderson.
Photo by Hal Baim

In adults with HIV on ART who have diarrhea not caused by an infection



Tired of planning your life around diarrhea? Enough is Enough

Get relief. Pure and simple. Ask your doctor about Mytesi.

Mytesi (crofelemer):

- Is the **only** medicine FDA-approved to relieve diarrhea in people with HIV
- **Treats diarrhea differently** by normalizing the flow of water in the GI tract
- Has the same or fewer side effects as placebo in clinical studies
- Comes from a tree sustainably harvested in the Amazon Rainforest

What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

For Copay Savings Card and Patient Assistance, see Mytesi.com

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

NP-390-23

Mytesi[®]
(crofelemer) 125 mg
delayed-release tablets

RELIEF, PURE AND SIMPLE

IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

Do Not Take Mytesi if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- 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.

Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- 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
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.



Rx Only

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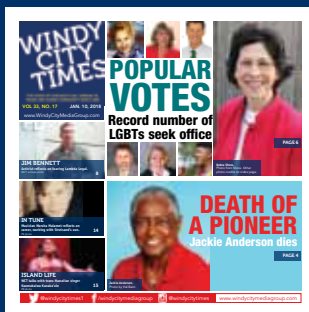
Mytesi comes from the *Croton lechleri* tree harvested in South America.

WINDY CITY TIMES

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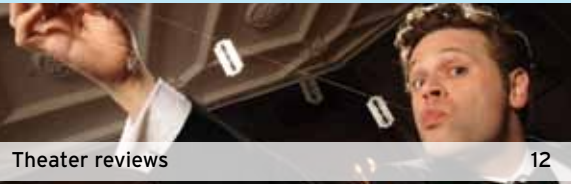


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Photo credits for cover collage: Top row, left to right: Gaylon Alcaraz, courtesy of Alcaraz; Jill Quinn and Ed Underhill, photos from campaign websites. Bottom row, left to right: Mike Forti, photo from Forti; Stephanie Miller, photo from Miller; Rev. Marcus Fogliano, photo from Facebook account.

Above: WCT reviews the production *The Magic Parlour*.
Photo by Ryan Bourque

online exclusives at
www.WindyCityTimes.com



SPOKEN PROMISES

WCT talks with out spoken-word artist
Andrea Gibson (left).

Photo by Coco Aramaki

NAVAL-GAZING



Norfolk, Virginia, has a lot to offer—including a ton of naval history.

Publicity photo

THE DINER THINGS

The Dining News column has news of restaurant specials and more.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Caitlyn Jenner, the show *EastSiders* and Ellen Page.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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Move right into this super smart, super stylish, perfectly renovated 2 bedroom, 2 full, 1 half bath vintage condominium.



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Judge refuses families' locker-room injunction request

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A federal judge has refused a request by Palatine families for an injunction that would prohibit a transgender student from utilizing locker room facilities designated for females at her school in Township High School District 211.

The order on the injunction, by Judge Jorge Alonso in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division, was issued Dec. 29. He refused the request primarily because the student in question had graduated and federal guidelines impacting the situation had been lifted by the Trump administration.

It is the latest development in an ongoing case that shook the Northwest Suburban community in late 2015, when a transgender student—referred to in court documents and media as “Student A”—sued for the right to use public accommodations designated for female students. The Obama administration intervened, and said the district was skirting Title IX violations that imperiled its federal funding. The district relented, over the objections of several local families, and made accommodations for the student.

The following summer, a group of families sued the district as well as the federal, state and county governments, charging the school violated or could potentially violate their children's privacy. The lawsuit was filed by an ad hoc group, Students and Parents for Privacy, who are largely represented by the anti-LGBT organization Alliance Defending Freedom. The federal defendants were dropped from the case after the Trump administration subsequently lifted federal guidelines protecting transgender students.

“Because the Federal Defendants have been dismissed, Plaintiffs' motion as to the federal rule embodied in the guidance documents is now moot,” wrote Alonso. “Likewise, because Student A has graduated and the Locker Room Agreement has been terminated, this aspect of Plaintiffs' claims is also moot.”

In a Jan. 2 statement, John Knight, director of LGBT and HIV Project at the ACLU of Illinois, said, “Judge Alonso recognized the careful application of the law by the magistrate judge in this case, and denied this effort to re-institute segregation of transgender students in District 211.

“Throughout this litigation, one thing remains clear. The groups who filed this case remain unable to demonstrate any harm to their clients resulting from sharing restrooms and locker rooms with students who they perceive as different. ... There have been no reported incidents of harm to a student from the presence of a transgender student in a gender-appropriate locker room or restroom anywhere across the country. And furthermore, as Judge Alonso's opinion once [again]

confirmed, there is no constitutional right to refuse to share a restroom or locker room with students because they are transgender.”

Another transgender student sued the district in late 2017, maintaining that District 211 had similarly prohibited her from using the girls' locker room. That student said District 211 only developed the rules as they applied to Student A, not the entire student body. Alonso noted that development in his decision.

“The fact that other transgender students want or might want to use sex-segregated facilities consistent with their gender identity, however, neither suggests that the injury of which Plaintiffs complained is continuing or that the injury complained of will be repeated,” he wrote.

A status hearing on the matter is set for Feb. 8.

TPAN CEO Capouch steps down

Test Positive Aware Network has announced that Patti Capouch has resigned as CEO; the board has named Julie Supple, director of client services, as the organization's interim CEO.

“Patti has made significant contributions to TPAN's visibility and success that have stabilized the agency over the past several years,” said Michael Murphy, TPAN's board chair, in a press release.

Capouch said, “I will miss working with the talented and dedicated staff at TPAN. I am very proud of our work in the community.”

Capouch left TPAN Jan. 4 to pursue another career opportunity.

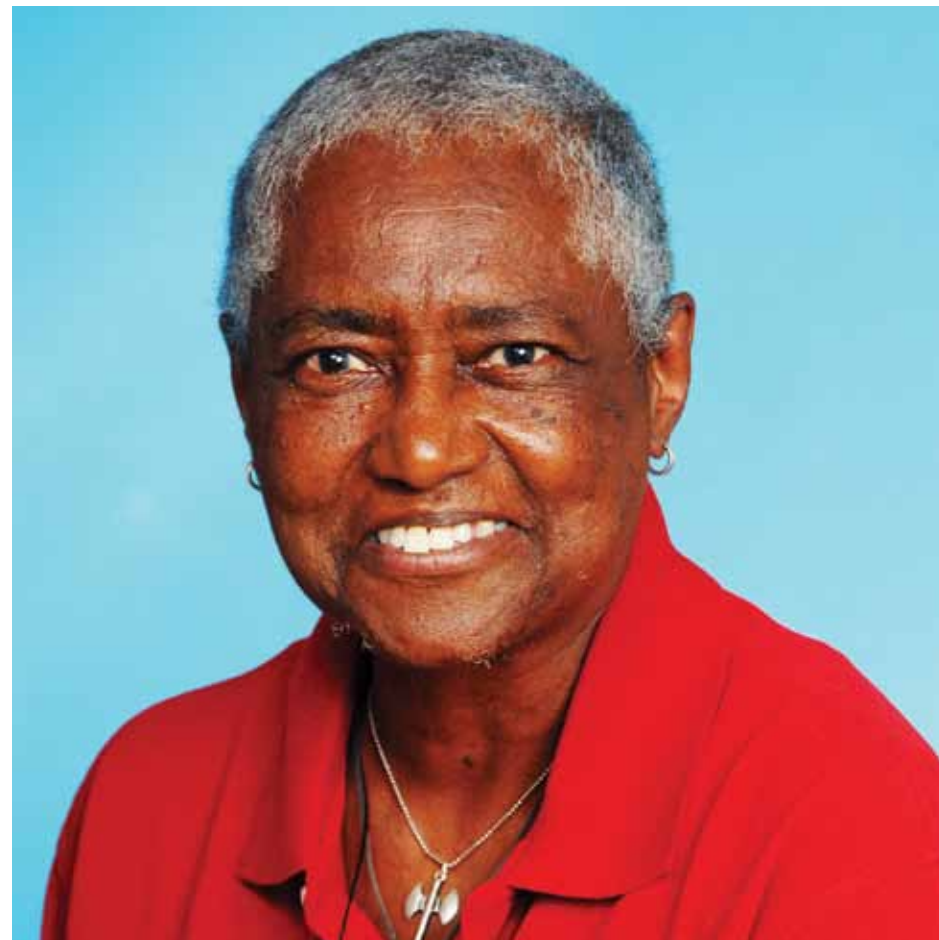
TPAN celebrated its 30-year anniversary in September and, this past spring, opened a co-located medical clinic with Howard Brown Health in their new office space at 5537 N. Broadway.

Blood-ban resolution hearing Jan. 12

On Friday, Jan. 12, the Chicago City Council's Committee on Health and Environmental Protection will hear a resolution that calls on the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) to remove the ban on blood donations by men who have had sex with men (MSM) within the last year.

The hearing will take place at 12 p.m. in Room 201A at City Hall.

The resolution's sponsors include the LGBT Caucus (Ald. Tom Tunney, Raymond Lopez, James Cappleman, Carlos Ramirez-Rosa and Deb Mell) as well as Alds. Scott Waguespack and Harry Osterman.



Jackie Anderson.

Photo by Hal Baim

Activist, professor Jackie Anderson dies

BY TRACY BAIM

Chicago lesbian pioneer and civil-rights activist Jackie Anderson died after a short illness on Jan. 7, surrounded by family and friends. She was 75.

Anderson is survived by her daughter Tracey Anderson and her grandson Torrence “Doc” Gardner. The family requests privacy at this time.

Born in Chicago, Anderson graduated from Roosevelt University and retired from a long career as assistant professor of humanities and philosophy at Olive-Harvey College, where she started work in 1975. She twice served as department chairperson.

Her brilliant academic mind was among things her friends remembered most about Anderson. A steadfast feminist, she especially supported African American lesbian projects on Chicago's South Side.

Anderson helped launch the Lesbian Community Cancer Project clinic on Chicago's South Side; was the leader of Yahimba, which held citywide conferences on African American lesbians' needs; and supported the Institute of Lesbian Studies, the Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, and Gerber/

Hart Library. She was a member of Stud 4 Life, was on the board of LesbBiGay Radio, and was a central figure in the beginnings of Affinity Community Services. She is a past board president of POWWOW, an African-American lesbian community arts organization dedicated to supporting the arts and providing safe space for women from vulnerable communities.

A 1996 inductee into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, Anderson was a supporter not just of groups, but of individual women. She mentored and empowered many creative women.

She was published in journals including Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society.

Second-generation Chicagoan Jackie Anderson was born in 1942, into a middle-class African American family that she credits with starting her on her path of lifelong activism. “I felt strongly that there was an obligation to pay back the debt I owed to other Black folks who made me possible,” she recalled in a 2006 interview for the book *Out & Proud* in Chicago.

As a young woman she joined the Young People's Socialist League and read leftist politics and

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PASSAGES

Art teacher/advocate Patrick Rand dies

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Patrick Charles Rand Jr., 54, died Dec. 25. The cause of death is unknown.

At the time of his death, Rand was an art teacher at Tilden High School. He previously taught art in Chicago at Pickard Elementary School, Agassiz and secured multiple grants from a variety of entities to expand the art resources at the school and collaborated with other teachers to enrich student learning.

While at Pickard, Rand focused on cultural practice sharing and art techniques/history. He wrote and secured multiple grants from a variety of entities to expand the art resources at the school and collaborated with other teachers to enrich student learning.

Rand also took every K-8 student on fully grant funded annual field trips to museums, musical concerts (including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra) and theater performances (including the Hubbard Street Dance Chicago) with the goal of exposing them to a wide variety of artistic disciplines. He also brought Yo-Yo Ma to Pickard for a performance and organized and led the annual

talent show there.

In addition to these endeavors, Rand implemented a partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) and oversaw the in-school Kids Healthy Market that provided free fresh food and staples twice a month to needy families. Rand was also recruited by the GCFD to train people at the National Conference on Hunger. He was featured on GCFD's Meet the Advocates video series <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILS3iw4t9YA>.

He also established a partnership with Impact in the Northern suburbs to provide Christmas gifts for K-5 students.

Rand was born Aug. 1, 1963 in Richmond, Virginia, and spent his childhood there. He graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a bachelor of fine arts degree with a focus on studio art and sculpture, and an art education certificate. He moved to Chicago in 1995 after a vacation to the city to see his friend.

While teaching at Pickard, Rand got his masters degree in curriculum and instructional leadership as well as a Type 75 administrators certificate from National-Louis University.

Rand is survived by partner Jose Avila; their dog; Heath; mother Marge Rand; sisters, Missy Rand (Wayne Connors), Dee Dee (Lake) Critzer, Melanie Rand (Bantz Wyant) and Lori (Mike) Kennedy; his nieces and nephews Patrick (Rachel) Rand and their son Riley, Ashlie (Tyler) Buell and their daughter Leah, Brian Horning, Kate Horning, David Horning, Morgan Barker and Haley Barker as well as countless friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Patrick C. Rand Sr.

"Patrick believed that folks should never just 'speak their mind' recklessly because he said words mattered and how you use them should not be done thoughtlessly, especially around children," said Avila.

"Patrick was a gifted artist, passionate teacher, voracious reader and avid traveler," said his niece Kate Horning. "He was always happiest when surrounded by friends, particularly at biannual group vacations to Provincetown, Massachusetts. Known as his herd or—thanks to a typo with staying power—his 'birches,' Patrick's friends illuminated his life. Patrick lived with an intentional heart and open mind. But most of all, he was a beautiful soul, generous spirit, gracious host, enthralling storyteller, the life of the party and light of our lives."

"He was such a force of brightness," said longtime friend and fellow teacher Sue Stone. "People only had to meet him once and they instantly felt a connection. Patrick cared so deeply for his family, friends and especially his students. He was more than a teacher, he was an advocate for all the kids. I have been receiving emails from students we taught. They all remember his kind heart and caring spirit. Although his subject area was art, he was about developing the whole child. He



Patrick Rand.

Photo by Dee Dee Rand Critzer

taught in underserved neighborhoods and had a keen instinct for what would open doors for these kids. He brought them experiences and helped them dream bigger—beyond what they thought they could be or do.

"If you read the book Wonder, there is a teacher

named Mr. Browne. He gives the students a saying to analyze and interpret each month. One of them is 'Your deeds are your monuments.' Patrick embodied this in the truest sense. Personally he was one of the dearest people I have ever met. He was tender, kind and had a razor-sharp wit. He loved big and embraced adventure. I will miss his beautiful spirit every day."

"Patrick was a wonderful human being," said longtime friend Dan Olson. "He was the most thoughtful, kind and warm person I have ever known. Patrick was very passionate about teaching and his students and always went above and beyond for them and others in the community. He loved reading, traveling, cooking and hosting people for dinner. Finally, he adored and loved his and Jose's dog Heath. I will miss him so much."

"Patrick was a kind soul that was thoughtful until the very end when he cooked a meal, entertained and gave gift bags to his friends in his home on Christmas Eve, the night before he died," said friend and Windy City Times contributor Jerry Nunn. "I was honored to have been there and to have known him."

"Patrick was smart and fun," said longtime friend Curt Schade. "He loved travel, art and music and being with his family, friends and students. He was a gracious host and a welcome guest, always laughing, smiling and being the life of every party. His many friends already miss Patrick so much."

A memorial service will be held March 3 in Chicago (details are forthcoming). In lieu of flowers, the family asks that people donate to a children's charity or food bank of their choosing.

Town Hall Apartments to open waiting list

Heartland Housing and Center on Halsted have announced that on Saturday, Jan. 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., the waiting list will open for Town Hall Apartments, the Midwest region's first LGBTQ-friendly, affordable senior housing development.

This is the first time the waiting list has been opened since the launch of Town Hall Apartments, located at 3600 N. Halsted St., in September 2014.

According to a press release from the Center on Halsted, "The need for LGBTQ-friendly senior housing was proven when Town Hall originally reached full occupancy within the first two weeks of opening in 2014. In addition, Heartland Housing received more than 400 applications during that first year.

"The announcement to open the waiting list has been greatly anticipated by the more than 50,000 LGBTQ seniors in Chicagoland, of which approximately one in five live in poverty."

The Center's Senior Program resides in the first floor of Town Hall, which used to be a police station.

Interested persons are urged to bring current and valid identification to register for the waiting list.

WINDY CITY TIMES

Windy City Times is collecting reader input for the upcoming 2018 election primary in Illinois.

This data includes reader priorities on the races, the issues, and a straw poll on the governor's race.

The survey link is here, and deadline is Jan. 15, one survey per person:

<https://tinyurl.com/WCTReaderSurvey>

If you are a candidate for any office in Illinois, we also invite you to complete one of our two candidate surveys.

For all candidates except judicial, deadline Jan. 10:

<https://tinyurl.com/WCT2018Survey>

For all judicial candidates, deadline Jan. 10:

<https://tinyurl.com/WCTJudicialSurvey>

Record number of LGBTs running in March Illinois primary election

This year's elections feature a record number of openly LGBT candidates throughout Illinois. The following individuals have publicly stated that they are LGBT and were on the March 2018 primary election ballot as early January.



Gaylon Alcaraz.
Photo courtesy of Alcaraz

—**Gaylon Alcaraz**

Race: Cook County Board of Commissioners (4th District)

Website: Gaylon2018.com

The skinny: Alcaraz, who was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (now the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame) in 2013, is a lifelong Chicagoan who has made significant impacts in local progressive politics. She was a founding member of Affinity Community Services in 1997, and was executive director of Chicago Abortion Fund from 2005-2014, among her many accomplishments.



Kelly Cassidy with children.
Photo courtesy of Citizens for Cassidy

—**Kelly Cassidy**

Race: Illinois state representative (14th District)

Website: <http://citizensforcassidy.com>

The skinny: Cassidy, who recently wed activist Candice Gingrich, has served her district since 2011. Seeking to get re-elected, Cassidy (the only openly lesbian member of the General Assembly) will clash with Arthur Noah Siegel in the primary.



Ebonie Davis.
WCT archival photo

—**Ebonie Davis**

Race: Illinois state representative (25th District)

Website: <https://www.eboniesdavis.com/>

The skinny: Davis is one of almost 10 candidates vying for the seat that longtime state Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie is vacating. Davis—a longtime advocate who has worked as an instructor and facilitator for Illinois Department Human Rights' Institute for Training and Development—has also been active in a number of community LGBT organizations, including Affinity Community Services and Equality Illinois.



Rev. Marcus Fogliano.
Photo by from Facebook account

—**Rev. Marcus Fogliano**

Race: Peoria County Precinct Committeeman
Website: None

Only in their mid-20s, activist Fogliano (who is president/CEO at Peoria Proud as well as part of the board of trustees at Interfaith alliance of Central Illinois) stands to truly make history, as being elected would make them the first trans/genderqueer person elected to any office in Illinois.

—**Mike Forti**

Race: 8th Subcircuit, Cook County judge (Liu Vacancy)

Website: JudgeForti.com

The skinny: In September 2016, Judge Michael

Jan. 10, 2018

WINDY CITY TIMES

A. Forti was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court of Cook County. He has backing from political heavyweights such as U.S. Reps. Jan Schakowsky and Mike Quigley as well as Illinois Senate President John Cullerton.



Mike Forti.
Photo courtesy of Forti



Daniel Foster.
Photo from campaign website

—**Daniel Foster**

Race: Cook County Board of Commissioners (13th District)

Website: <https://commissionerfoster.com>

The skinny: A current resident of Skokie, Foster was raised in Evanston and Wilmette, and obtained his BS in mathematics and computer science from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He and Gaylon Alcaraz are vying to be the first members of the LGBT community to be Cook County commissioners.



Greg Harris.
Photo by Matt Mills

—**Greg Harris**

Race: Illinois state representative (13th District)

Website: GregHarris.org

The skinny: Harris—who was chief co-sponsor of SB10, the legislation that brought about marriage equality in Illinois—has a district that includes several North Side neighborhoods. Harris (who was first elected to the state House in

2006, and is the first openly gay person in Illinois to become a member of legislative leadership) is running unopposed in the March 20 primary.



Cecelia Horan.
Photo from campaign website

—**Cecelia Horan**

Race: Cook Circuit judge (Hartigan Vacancy)

Website: <https://voteforjudgehoran.com>

The skinny: The Illinois Supreme Court appointed Horan was appointed a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County on Jan. 19, 2017. She is presently assigned to the First Municipal Division where she hears cases involving alleged breaches of contract, the rights of landlords and tenants, debtors and creditors, and traffic matters. Prior to her judicial appointment, Horan was a litigation partner at the 500-attorney law firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, where she practiced for 20 years.



Andy Kirchoff.
Photo courtesy of Kirchoff

—**Andy Kirchoff**

Race: Berwyn Township Republican Committeeman

The skinny: Kirchoff ran in 2016 for state representative in the 24th District as the Republican candidate.

—**Raymond A. Lopez**

Race: U.S. Congress (4th District)

Website: The15thWard.org

The skinny: Lopez is another of a fistful of Democratic candidates (and one of two gay candidates, besides Carlos Ramirez-Rosa) to seek election to this post. Lopez is the 15th Ward alderman in Chicago, having been elected in 2015. Lopez was first elected as Democratic Committeeman of the 15th Ward in 2012, becoming the first openly gay Mexican-American to be elected in Illinois.

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**ELECTIONS 2018:
WATER RECLAMATION**

Debra Shore discusses plans during a third term

BY SYDNEY BOLES

Debra Shore has served on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District MWRD board since 2006. She is a member of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership and served on the board (and was past chair) of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. She is running for her third six-year term in the 2018 election.

Windy City Times: What changes have you ushered in during your twelve years in this position?

Debra Shore: I've had a hand in a number of major initiatives. Almost nothing gets done by a single member of our board, and there's little I can point to that only I have done—though there may be a couple of things. I certainly have been the most ardent conservation advocate.

Last year I worked for eight months on a measure that was adopted unanimously by the Cook County Board to expand safe, secure collection sites for people to dispose of their unused or expired medicine so they don't flush it down the toilet, but also so medicines don't accumulate at home, where they become a risk to seniors or young adults.

I've also been a part of moving this agency from being a waste treatment to being a resource recovery agency.

WCT: What do you mean by waste treatment and resource recovery?

DS: The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District was established in 1889 to protect the drinking supply for Chicago by keeping sewage out of the Lake Michigan. At that time, people were dumping all manner of human, animal and

industrial waste directly into the Chicago River, which flowed into Lake Michigan. People were getting sick from water-borne diseases like cholera and typhoid.

The agency decided to reverse the Chicago River, build the North Shore Channel and the Cal-Sag Channel, and create a massive public works project to move sewage away from the lake.

For most of its history, up until a dozen years ago, the MWRD mostly treated sewage. But in late 2004, it got authority for storm water management for all of Cook County.

What's happened in the last six or seven years, though, is the recognition that the things we used to consider waste have real value. We're in the process of trying to capture and monetize that value for taxpayers.

One resource is nutrients. The water and solid waste flowing into our sewage plants have a lot of nutrients in them, principally phosphorous and nitrogen. Phosphorous is essential for food to grow, but in waterways it causes algae to grow. Too much algae sucks up all the oxygen in a waterway, leaving none for fish and other aquatic life and creating dead zones. The MWRD is going to be able to capture that phosphorous before it's discharged into the Chicago waterways and turn it into non-soluble phosphorous crystals that can be sold to a commercial fertilizer blender and then to farmers.

Another resource is human waste. We're now mixing treated biosolids with woodchips from the City of Chicago's forestry waste and producing a high-quality compost that we can sell to landscapers.

We also have a project to increase the biogas



Debra Shore.

Photo by Tracy Baim

we're producing. Part of the waste treatment process generates methane, which we use to heat our anaerobic digesters and some of our facilities. By increasing the amount of methane we produce, we can capture some on the back end and either feed it back into the natural gas pipeline or produce compressed natural gas that can be used to fuel Pace buses or truck fleets.

The fourth piece of resource recovery is water itself. Every day, the City of Chicago withdraws 800-900 million gallons of water from Lake Michigan, filters it, treats it and sends it to our homes and businesses, where we use it once. And then we treat it and discharge it into the Chicago waterways, and it ends up in the Gulf of Mexico. We ought to be able to use that water more than once. We're looking for water-intensive industries close to our treatment plants that could use our treated water instead of our drinking water.

Looking into the future, as water quality and water supply become more fractious issues elsewhere, the fact that we have a ready source of

dependable, available water can attract the water-intensive industries of the future and help us grow our economy.

WCT: How progressive is the MWRD, compared to similar agencies in other cities?

DS: The National Association of Clean Water Agencies a few years ago put together a report that describes wastewater utilities as resource recovery agencies. That's the model. I would say not that many clean water agencies have yet embarked on this path, although a few have. San Francisco's way ahead of us in terms of using food waste to generate electricity.

But there's a real incentive to be second, rather than first. When you're working with water, people ingest what you produce, unlike electricity. You have to be careful, so we're conscious of using new technologies that haven't been proven to work at scale. That said, I think we're doing a lot of innovative things and I'm really excited about it.

WCT: Environmental pollution doesn't affect us all equally. Does your work consider the way race and class impact communities' access to clean water?

DS: I'll give you an example. The Water Reclamation District opened a sewage treatment plant on the Far South Side in the late 1920s or early 1930s when the area was very remote. Later, the Chicago Housing Authority built a public housing complex across the street from the sewage treatment plant, so those residents have had to deal with odors at times.

Our agency wasn't the one that positioned the sewage plant near an economically challenged community; the housing authority put that housing project near us. We didn't engineer that environmental justice issue, but we need to be part of the solution. So we're working on odor management solutions.

We are certainly looking to do more in terms of our construction contracts and our storm water projects to employ locals if we can. We're looking to collaborate with trades unions to train more

Turn to page 17

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After 11 years, Lambda Legal's Jim Bennett steps down and reflects

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Jim Bennett remembers what he thought of Lambda Legal before they hired him.

"My first impression was that they were extraordinarily smart nerds," he said with a laugh. But this impression belies deep respect. "I realized they were key to nearly every single victory our community had ever had," he continued. "The work they do is phenomenal. There's nothing that compares to it."

Even though Bennett wasn't a lawyer, he knew Lambda could use his skills. "For my background to be more in marketing and fundraising, and nonprofit management, I felt like, 'I'm something they don't have,'" he recalled.

Bennett was Lambda's longtime Midwest regional director before becoming chief development officer in late 2016. After 11 years, Bennett leaves Lambda Legal this month—as equally impressed as when he first arrived.

"I'm honored to have been part of the work, even if I played a very small role in a very big movement," he said.

Many would argue that Bennett played a big role in the fights for marriage equality in Iowa and Illinois. Hired in July 2006, Bennett jumped straight into the string of early Iowa court battles, thanks to former Marriage Project Coordinator and Lambda's current Acting Legal Director Camilla Taylor.

"Camilla was trying to get an amicus brief, and she was really frustrated because she could not get churches to sign on on this pro-marriage equality brief," Bennett recalled.

A member of the Broadway United Methodist Church, Bennett started explaining the nuances of church procedures to Taylor. "She just looked at me like I was speaking in tongues and she was like, 'You're going to Iowa,'" he recalled. He ended up meeting with churches all over the state, and went on to help create Iowa's first state equality group.

"We built a really robust coalition with the goal of trying to win marriage in the hearts and minds of Iowans at the same time we were winning in courts," Bennett said. "We had realized by then that we could have a victory in the court but if the public was too far behind we wouldn't be able to hold onto it."

His time at Lambda indicates that the extroverted Bennett is a natural coalition-builder. "I try to make all of the projects I'm working on fun, like Tom Sawyer getting everyone to paint the fence," he joked.

However, marriage equality in Illinois would be an unexpected battle.

"I think for Lambda Legal in particular, our goal was, we want marriage, and we want it as fast as we can get it, and we were not willing to compromise," Bennett recalled. "There was a push in Illinois primarily driven by the Catholic Church to make carve-outs in our human-rights ordinance



Jim Bennett.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

in exchange for a marriage vote. We had a very hard line and the whole coalition stood behind us. There would be no compromises to the Human Rights Act, and if that's the way it went, we would just prefer to win it outright in court."

Initial attempts to bring a vote in the state legislature failed, and looking back, Bennett, who chaired the coalition, sees a failure to bring everyone to the table. The coalition redoubled its efforts with a more inclusive focus, and Bennett cites the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality on Oct. 22, 2013 as "the final catalyst" to bring marriage equality to a successful vote.

"I grew up in Springfield and I've been around a million marches and rallies and the LGBT community is not known for driving down four hours from Chicago to make an incredible showing," Bennett explained. "On the crappiest of rainy days, we had thousands of people down there, from all over the state, straight and gay, standing in the rain demanding full equality. There was definitely an understanding after that day that that vote had to take place. The best day to me in my life is that march: to be in my hometown and watch all of these gays around the capital. Even though we were demanding our rights—it's gay, so it was beautiful."

Outside the office, Bennett's passion is improv comedy and storytelling. He was a longtime member of GayCo, Second City's LGBTQ improv group, and is a Moth GrandSLAM winner, with a story pulled directly from his time working with Lambda in Iowa.

"I love comedy. I think the most upsetting thing I ever did to my father was in grade school when he asked me if it was more important to be funny or respected, I said, 'to be funny,'" he

laughed. "Some of my greatest scenes that I've written come out of my experiences from Lambda."

But Bennett said he sees overlap beyond the material. "A lawyer's work is storytelling," he stated. "Nothing moves when we just talk about rights and responsibilities. The thing about Lambda is people's worst thing that happened in their life is often our best test case. These brave plaintiffs that are willing to put themselves out there and tell their story is what changes everything."

There will be a farewell party for Bennett on Friday, Jan. 5, 6-8 p.m., at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. See "The Jim Bennett Party: A Lambda Farewell" on Facebook.

Orr issues final 1st marriage license

Cook County Clerk David Orr issued his final first marriage licenses of the year (to opposite- and same-sex couples) on Jan. 2.

He was announced that he will not seek re-election.

The clerk's office issued 1,689 marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2017, according to the office. (In 2016, it was 2,004.) The total number of marriage licenses issued in 2017 (all couples) was 35,802.

Through the end of 2017, the Cook County clerk's office has issued 12,456 marriage licenses to same-sex couples. In 2018 (through Jan. 5), approximately 20 licenses were issued to LGBT couples.

AFC launches 'Getting to Zero' fact-finding tour

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Speaking about the Getting to Zero project—a recent initiative launched by AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) and other community collaborators to reduce new HIV infections—as well as increase viral suppression amongst those who are already infected, Project Manager Sara Semelka said success depends on cooperation from every corner of Illinois.

"We can get there, but we have to get there together," said Semelka, who's also AFC's prevention technology education manager.

Semelka and collatorators will be touring many Illinois locations throughout the winter to gather data on local requirements to put into place the Getting to Zero initiative, which was largely conceived in 2016. That was when an ad hoc group of health officials, service providers, community members and advocates began to conceptualize a plan that could eliminate new HIV infections and ensure full viral suppression amongst Illinoisans with HIV by 2027.

"A lot of other states and jurisdictions have

started doing these sorts of plans—for example, New York State, San Francisco, Washington State, Houston," explained Semelka. "There are a lot now. You are starting to see a lot of these maps and blueprints for eliminating HIV, whether on a city or state level."

Getting to Zero stakeholders thought such a goal could be accomplished, given potential widespread use of both PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and TasP (Treatment as Prevention) interventions, both of which have been shown to significantly reduce the possibility of new HIV infections.

"If we increase the uptake of PrEP by 20 percentage points, and we increase viral suppression by 20 percentage points, those two things will kind of bend the curb down, where we can end the epidemic," Semelka added, clarifying that the concept would be reflected in no new infections and all persons living with HIV receiving medical treatment.

But getting those resources into the hands of every Illinoisan who needs them will be the overall challenge the stakeholders face. While PrEP is

more widely used by middle-aged gay men, for example, providers and advocates have had difficulty making it available for populations that are most at risk for infection, among them young men of color who have sex with men.

Other variables remain to be addressed: availability of community health funding; community proximity to HIV resources; intersectional socio-economic challenges often faced by those at risk, including housing stability and immigration issues; and lingering stigmas about persons with HIV. The statewide tour is to gauge what challenges different parts of Illinois face. Cook County forums have already taken place, Semelka added.

"We have forums in each region of the state," she said. "It's not 'Chicago Getting to Zero.' It's 'Illinois Getting to Zero.' It's all of us together. So we're really trying to get perspectives, insights and wisdom from people living and affected by HIV, and the [healthcare] workforce from all over the state."

After the information is gathered, stakeholders will aggregate the data and present a five-year plan later in 2018.

"It really is possible to end HIV in Illinois," Semelka said. "I know it's easy to just say that, and I hope that brings hope to people. ... We also are trying to keep in mind that HIV disproportionately affects our populations, and we have amazing treatment medications, but if they're not getting in the hands of people who need it, we're not going to end HIV."



From 2016's Burning Bowl event. WCT archival photo

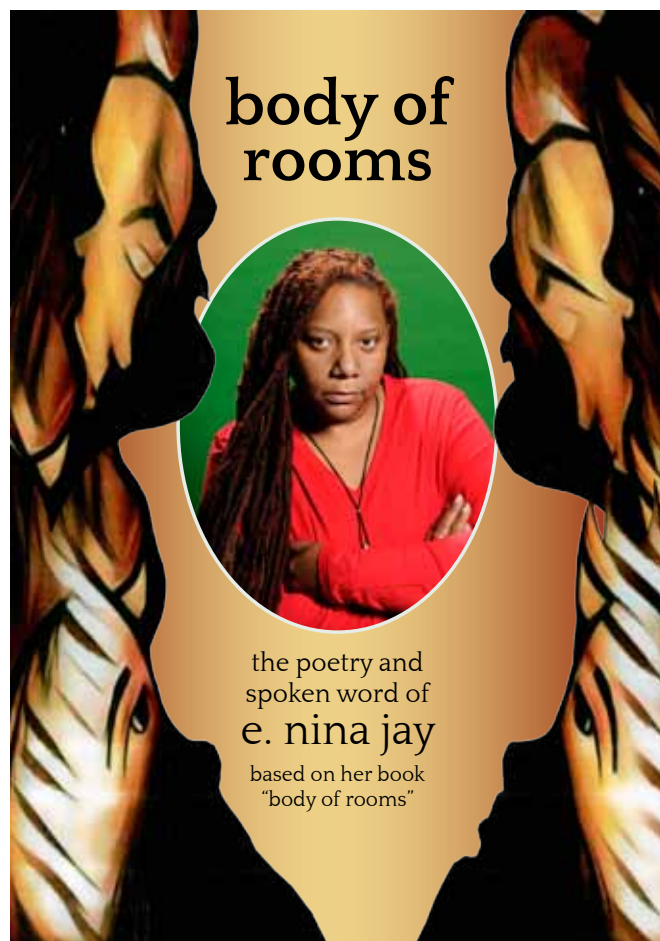
'Burning Bowl' Jan. 13 in Morgan Park

The Affinity Community Services annual event known as "Burning Bowl" will take place Saturday, Jan. 13, 1-4 p.m., at Morgan Park UMC, 11030 S. Longwood Dr.

The event will highlight a community "burn" as a symbolic way of leaving things that are no longer serving us so that we can move confidently into the future. This year, Affinity will celebrate the work completed in 2017, as well as set goals to build community and unity together.

This year, Charlene Carruthers, national director of Black Youth Project 100, will deliver the keynote address, while the Drum Divas will provide entertainment. In addition, Affinity will be honoring Phoenix Matthews with the Barbara "Robbie" Smith Award of Excellence.

Children are welcome, and childcare is provided at the free event. For more information, contact imani@affinity95.org or visit Affinity95.org.



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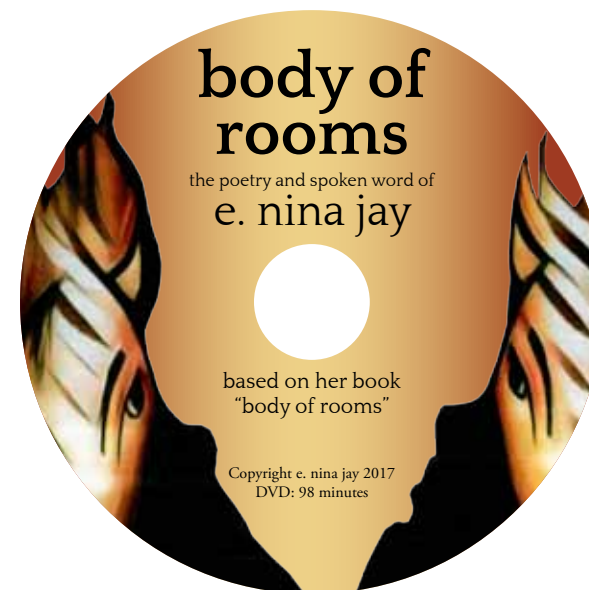
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e. nina jay is a Black, Lesbian, Woman Writer who uses poetry as a tool of survival & to break silences around all forms of violence against gurls & womyn, with particular focus on the intersections of race, sexuality & poverty. As a survivor of incest & rape, e nina jay believes womyn & gurls can create powerful community to fight against the violence and constant degradation that weaves itself into every facet of our lives, by breaking silences and unraveling shame.



viewpoints

Sarah
TOCE

Putting it to the test: 23andMe

More than 2 million people have taken part in genetic testing by 23andMe, a company founded in 2006 by CEO Anne Wojcicki. The company's impetus was to empower the consumer with information regarding their personal DNA and accelerate genetic research on a wide range of health conditions from Parkinson's disease to lupus and asthma. Customers are not obligated to take part in the research, but many opt-in at their own discretion in an effort to further genetic profiling.

By signing up for the Ancestry Service, 23andMe participants receive access to view a percentage breakdown of their ancestry by regions that include eastern Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Oceanian, and others. Results show when different ancestries were introduced into your specific DNA so that you can learn how many generations ago you had an ancestor that was descended from a single population or ethnicity.

Are you part Neanderthal? 23andMe can decipher how much of your DNA is derived from Neanderthals and how that compares to others. They can even point to specific Neanderthal DNA that is associated with traits you might have – like height and back hair.

In addition, 23andMe delivers an anonymous report so that you can see how many DNA Relatives you have around the world. There is an opt-in opportunity as well to connect with DNA Relatives via messaging through the interface. If you opt in to DNA Relatives, you will be able to send and receive invitations to connect with other customers who share DNA with you. You can choose whether to respond to these invitations or not, and your DNA relatives have the same choice.

The power of genetics

A study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released Aug. 30, 2017 found that sequencing all 24 human chromosomes uncovers rare disorders. Specifically, the study focused on extending noninvasive prenatal screening to all 24 human chromosomes so that medical providers could proactively detect genetic disorders that might explain miscarriage and

abnormalities during pregnancy.

Researchers analyzed DNA sequence data from nearly 90,000 samples of maternal plasma, the liquid portion of blood after all cells have been removed. Of these samples, 72,972 came from a U.S. cohort and 16,885 came from an Australian cohort. For each, researchers calculated a normalized chromosome denominator quality (NCDQ), which measures the likelihood that a sample has the standard two copies of each chromosome. Those with an NCDQ of 50 or below were flagged for further evaluation.

"We found that pregnancies at greatest risk of serious complications were those with very high levels of abnormal cells in the placenta," said Mark D. Pertile, Ph.D., co-first author of the study and head of the division of reproductive genetics at Victorian Clinical Genetics Services, part of Murdoch Childrens Research Institute in Melbourne, Australia. "Our results suggest that patients be given the option of receiving test results from all 24 chromosomes."

23andMe is not a substitution for medical care, but the scenario above does shine a light on the power of DNA research.

The combined kit

My wife and I ordered 23andMe's Health + Ancestry Service (retail \$199), but there is also an option minus the Health portion (retail \$99). I highly recommend the combined kit because if you're going to do this service, you might as well dive right in.

The Health + Ancestry Service kit includes reports on genetic health risks, ancestry reports, wellness reports, carrier status reports, and DNA trait reports. All genetic reports meet FDA requirements. Here's a sample report for your perusing pleasure: Late-onset Alzheimer's Disease. It should be noted that scientific evidence and testing parameters are carefully spelled out here.

In fact, speaking of parameters, 23andMe regularly updates their algorithm so that their data is as finely tuned as possible. The company relies on DNA data from their users in an effort to pinpoint accurate results with every upgrade. The latest algorithm update occurred on December 2, 2017.

Research participation is a big key in understanding these algorithm updates. Answering questions is voluntary, but enjoyable overall. For instance, questions may include ones like the following:

- How many biological children do you have?
- Do you own a dog?
- How often do you suffer from back pain?
- Have you had the flu in the last 18 months?

DNA Profile: Sarah

"Variant not detected" became my favorite phrase

when reviewing my results from 23andMe. I was a bit concerned about discovering I had genetic disposition to Alzheimer's or Parkinson's, but those fears were soon dispelled.

One of the wonderful traits of this service is having access to the "Carrier Status Reports." Here I learned that although I don't suffer from "Phenylketonuria and Related Disorders," I do have the potential to pass the gene to an offspring. There is a Carrier Status Tutorial that explains how it all works.

As for whether or not my family was accurate in describing our Italian culture, well, it's true: I'm 74.7 percent Italian. Overall, my makeup is 94.9 percent European. Middle Eastern and North African are 4.7 percent of my ancestry composition. I am also composed of less than 1 percent Native American.

DNA Profile: Steph

My wife did the same exact test at the same exact time and we received the results on the same day. However, our results were a little different when it came to ancestry composition.

Steph's results revealed that she is 100 percent European, composed of 48 percent French and German, which she was aware of. What she didn't know and has only since realized since 23andMe, is that she is also part British, Irish and Scandinavian. She has Eastern European and Southern European descent as well.

As for her genetic makeup and all of those "variant not detected" entries, she had quite a few as well.

Adjusting expectations

In full disclosure, the only real negative for the two of us was that the algorithm was updated after we originally received our results. I had just wrapped my head around being less than 1 percent Ashkenazi Jewish and Steph around being 1 percent Native American when we checked back and the results had completely wiped both out for us. That was the only real downside. I can say, however, that I relate to my results post-algorithm shift more than beforehand—and the health reports were definitely worth the time and effort.

Insider tip: When you purchase a kit for yourself and another for a friend or family member, you can share your results. There's a \$20 referral link to make this part even more enjoyable (https://refer.23andme.com/organic?extole_token=48SMG6F5IJKGOI7D7LG55QJ1P5).

Global influencer Sarah Toce is a publisher, journalist and community builder who was recently dubbed as one of the Top Women in Media by Curve Magazine.



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WCT talks with trans Hawaiian singer Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole.

Publicity photo

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Telling gay WWII history

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Yank! A World War II Love Story is a 2010 off-Broadway musical focusing on gay, lesbian and heterosexual U.S. service members of more than 70 ago. The critically acclaimed musical penned by brothers David and Joseph Zellnik has its belated Chicago premiere this month courtesy of Pride Films and Plays at the Pride Arts Center.

Music director Robert Ollis saw the York Theatre Company's staging of Yank! eight years ago and wanted to work on it immediately.

"Of course was drawn to the music," said Ollis, highlighting the traditional Broadway sound of the Zellnik score. "But also the story itself is powerful and that's the reason why I love it the best."

"My father was in World War II as an 18-year-old when he started serving, and that's one thing you see with this is how amazing these young guys were thrown into these battles at such an early age," Ollis said. "You get a sense of the diversity and the different experiences the men faced by being in a squad like this."

Although the characters in Yank! are fictional, the musical drew its inspiration from real-life veteran accounts in the late Allan Berubé's 1990 book *Coming Out Under Fire*, which in turn inspired a film documentary of the same name in 1994. Yank! also takes its title from a weekly service members' magazine of the 1940s.

Yank! focuses on the budding romance between new recruits Stu (Matthew Huston) and Mitch (William Dwyer). Both are initially uncertain about their sexuality as they go through basic training, but a strong connection develops be-

fore they are shipped out to battle in the South Pacific.

Yank! also has a few story detours. One involves a worldly Yank! magazine photographer named Artie (John Marshall Jr.) who schools Stu on big-city gay subculture. There's also an interview with a lesbian military secretary named Louise. It's one of many female roles ranging from longing girlfriends back home to sultry torch-song singers that are all played the cast's sole woman, Molly LeCaptain.

Back in 2010, Yank! was positioned for a Broadway transfer with former Chicago-based director David Cromer at the helm. Yet some of the musical's political urgency fell by the wayside once the Obama administration repealed the U.S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of barring LGBTQ soldiers from openly serving that same year.

The uncertainty around the unfulfilled Broadway transfer of Yank! meant that the regional rights to the show were tied up for some time. (The show's cast album wasn't released until 2014.) In the meantime, Pride Films and Plays staged the acclaimed world-premiere musical *Under a Rainbow Flag* in 2013, which similarly dealt with gay soldiers during WWII.

Pride Films and Plays executive director David Zak admits that the company held off on pursuing Yank! since it covered some of the same territory of *Under a Rainbow Flag*. But now with the current presidential administration's attacks on trans soldiers and the LGBTQ community in general, Zak said the time is right to stage Yank!

"It's weird because we didn't think we'd be doing a piece about war," Zak said. "But you



William Dwyer and Matthew Huston in Yank! A World War II Love Story.
Photo by Paul Goyette

can't help but think about it when Donald Trump tweets every morning."

Zak said there is also a lot of renewed interest in Yank! since the show had its successful British premiere last year in Manchester and London.

Both Zak and Ollis have enjoyed the rehearsal process with the young company of Yank! Zak has particularly appreciated one cast member who has been free with sharing his own experiences of being openly gay and serving in the military.

Zak and Ollis also admire Yank! For its ability to open a window to a chapter of LGBTQ history that is often neglected in schools.

"While most of the story is about the romance and about the interactions of the squad, there is one part where one of the soldiers is arrested for same-sex activities and encounters intense questioning and harassment and imprisonment,"

Ollis said. "It brings up some of the more serious consequences that happened to some of the soldiers."

"World War II really changed the landscape," Ollis said. "A lot of people who were growing up in small towns came together and went to big cities and met other people from different parts of the world that they never would have met. It furthered the realization that there was a gay community out there."

Pride Films and Plays' Chicago premiere of Yank! A WWII Love Story runs from Thursday, Jan. 11, through Sunday, Feb. 18, in The Broadway space of the Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway. Previews run through Sunday, Jan. 14, and are \$25. Tickets for the regular run are \$30-\$40 with discounts available for seniors and students. For more information, visit PrideFilmsAndPlays.com.

THEATER REVIEW

It's My Penis (and I'll Cry If I Want To)

Playwright: Jamie Black

At: Pride Films and Plays at Pride

Arts Buena, 4147 N. Broadway

Tickets: \$25

Runs through: Feb. 11

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Don't be misled by the P-word. Even if our hero makes his entrance garbed only in his underwear (plain white cotton jockeys, for those who care about such details) to inform us that he used to be a woman, he has not come to talk about hormones or implants or rejecting one gender stereotype in order to embrace another. Instead, his goal is to question—having, he reminds us, viewed the arguments from both sides—why our culture makes it so difficult for men *and* women to be who they really are.



To establish a baseline, he first assumes the persona of a gravel-voiced drill-sergeant instructing young males in recall of athletic stats, the necessity for automotive expertise and “parking your tear ducts at the door.” In contrast to this testosterone caricature, Jamie Black next portrays a mid-20th-century housewife, serenely seques-

tered within marital/consumer/domestic spheres and armored in apron, ignorance and enigmatic smile.

The persistence of these restrictive roles is then illustrated in three scenarios, each recounted,

Rashoman-style, from the divergent vantages of the participants, beginning with a shy fraternity pledge who frets over the trauma he may have inflicted upon the tomboyish “fat girl” (“Not Biggest Loser fat, but more like Jenny Craig fat”) assisting in his sexual initiation, little realizing

that his poker-playing paramour compensates for her feminine shortcomings by means of the same seductive subterfuges employed by callous males.

More destructive consequences beset marriage partners concealing dissimilar expectations regarding emotional expression and privileged candor—a husband who “snaps” after years of verbal abuse is not afforded the same sympathy extended to a wife spurred to violence. An elderly couple forging an egalitarian relationship, however, find themselves at the end of long and happy lives secure in the satisfying knowledge that there wasn't any “unfinished business” between them.

Black appears determined to leave nothing unfinished or unsaid, either, punctuating his character portraits with homilies pointing us the way—“Be vulnerable!” “Be brave!” “Be *you!*” Stoic playgoers may be skeptical of attributing panaceaic properties to a remedy as simple as a good cry or heart-to-heart, but there can be no denying our narrator's benevolent intent in promoting more fluid boundaries to individual gender identities.

THEATER REVIEW

Blue Over You

Playwright: Daniel Noonan

At: Spot On Company at Northminster

Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central

Park Ave., Evanston

Tickets: BlueOverYou.com; \$20-\$25

Runs through: Jan. 28

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

You probably know of musical-theater fanatics who can break out into song at the drop of hat. So be aware that this is the kind of guy you'll be spending 90 minutes with in Daniel Noonan's world-premiere solo show *Blue Over You* for the new Spot On Company.

Noonan centers *Blue Over You* around Francis

O'Brien (Michael Joseph Mitchell). He's an Evanston-based high school drama teacher, which explains why he is so well-versed in slinging out showtune lyrics.

But the songs that Francis sings aren't entirely happy, since he is reeling from the sudden and strange disappearance of his wife, Mitzi. Suffering from a bout of insomnia and worry, Francis confides to his guardian angels (the audience) about the reasons why Mitzi would have up and left him.

It's possible that Mitzi has run off with Joey, the hunky janitor at the elementary school where she teaches. Or maybe it's all part of an elaborate government scheme to protect Mitzi following a harrowing street crime that she narrowly escaped from.

As Francis posits and ponders, Noonan paints a picture of an unconventional marriage. Francis

freely admits to sexual experiences with men before he tied the knot, plus he questions whether Mitzi was entirely happy with his push not to raise a family of their own.

There's also something not quite right about the way that Francis keeps on referring to himself in the third person. This of course is a foreshadowing to the rather unhappy conclusion that Noonan reveals to show why Mitzi is missing.

While *Blue Over You* arguably could do with a bit of trimming here and there, Noonan does do a good dramatic job of keeping audiences chuckling and guessing through the show. It's also a tremendous help that Mitchell is so very engaging as Francis, finding subtle line deliveries and reactions to spur laughs all along the way before things turn uncomfortably dark.

Director Sarah Whitney is great at setting the right tone between Francis' happier reminiscenc-

es versus high-tension moments. And production designer Dave Ferguson (sets and lights) also helps enormously in Northminster Presbyterian Church's intimate basement space with clever transitions to delineate the locales that Francis finds himself in while solving his very personal mystery.

So though some will find Francis' showtune quoting habit to be annoying, it does help the character stir himself out of his unhappy bewilderment. And when Noonan reveals what happened to Mitzi and Francis, you can't begrudge him finding whatever way he needs to find forms of happiness that he desperately needs.

CRITICS' PICKS

BLKS, Steppenwolf Theatre, through Jan. 28. Life is never easy for young, bright, urban hipsters confronting their future in all its high-velocity kaleidoscopic contradictions, but queer playwright Aziza Barnes shows us the exhilaration in the angst. MSB

Bye, Bye, Liver, Byron Hatfield Productions at The Public House Theater, open run. Even after more than a decade, the show that invented comedy/drinking games revues—now featuring new material like “Drunken Karaoke”—is still the smartest entry in the group-party revel genre. MSB

Sammy: A Tribute to Sammy Davis, Jr., Black Ensemble Theater, through Jan. 21. The demographic diversity of the audiences at Black Ensemble attest to the universal appeal of the entertainer whose career spanned three generations and virtually every branch of show business. MSB

Turandot, Lyric Opera of Chicago, through Jan. 27. The story may be muddled and culturally appropriated, but who cares when you have such glorious Puccini music deployed by such big and expert forces? This new-to-Chicago production also serves an appropriate amount of fantasy-Chinese spectacle, too. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

The Magic Parlour

Playwright: Written and performed

by Dennis Watkins

At: House Theatre of Chicago at the

Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe St.

Tickets: \$79 (admission

includes refreshments)

Runs through: Open run

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

When we speak of “fooling” people, the term is usually associated with manipulation in service of personal gain at the expense of innocents. (“Fool me once, shame on you” runs the adage.) The concept of deception as amusement has waned as our universe grows ever more complex and untrustworthy, reducing the spiritual security necessary to comfortably confront un-

explainable events.

What distinguishes the foolery practiced by stage magician Dennis Watkins is his willingness to provide his audiences that security, proclaiming, “The point is not to fool [your audience], though fool them you must, but to awaken in them a sense of wonder.” This ethical creed—handed down from his father and grandfather, both themselves magicians—was evidenced in Watkins' award-winning portrayal of the legendary Harry Houdini at House Theatre of Chicago, and for the last eight years, in his solo show at the sumptuous Palmer House Hilton, performed in a pristine upstairs room under the eyes of a close circle of perhaps 50 spectators.

Within this intimate arena, the slight-of-hand artist explains how his humble beginnings led him to pursue, not elaborate Vegas-styled feats of illusion, but legerdemain utilizing equipment no more esoteric than a deck of playing cards dispatched on stealthy errands, or perhaps a mall-rack paperback novel exhibiting uncanny

narrative compliance. A few locked containers may make an appearance, but wayward objects are mostly sequestered in pockets, whether ours or his. Only one stunt employs large-scale tools—specifically, a gravity knife (kept safely distant from nervous bystanders) and a leaf blower used to inflate a body-sized balloon.

“If 500 people see you put a body in a box and saw it in half with a sword,” Watkins' mentors cautioned him, “they assume that—well, it's a special kind of *box*.” Heeding their advice, Watkins is more inclined to focus his attention on, say, asking playgoers to write their names on a scrap of paper, which he then shreds and makes whole again in full view of the authors. This minimalist approach is what continues to draw overflow crowds of downtown guests and staycationers alike, all eager for an opportunity to share in 90 minutes of dazzling risk-free sorcery with their host's assurance that the key to the miracles occurring barely arms' length away lies solely in their own imaginations.



Mary Zentmyer in
Late Nite Catechism.
Photo by
Stoneham Theatre

THEATER REVIEW

Late Nite Catechism

Authors: Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan
At: Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted St.
Tickets: 312-988-9000 or
Ticketmaster.com; \$30
Runs through: Ongoing through 2018

BY SEAN MARGARET WAGNER

"When you wear this outfit," says the imposing nun, staring us all down from the blackboard, "you get respect."

And it's true, at Royal George Theatre's Late Nite Catechism. With all the commands the sister issues, it's a wonder she's got time to teach this adult remedial Catechism class. Spit out your gum, speak in full sentences, don't be late (unless you'd like to be out a dollar), no interrupting the sister while she's speaking and, for the love of all that is holy, no texting in class. The sister—a tiny, ferocious force of nature played by Mary Zentmyer—may not rap you on the knuckle with a ruler, but she's got a collection of broken rulers she's crafted into fine furniture, so don't test her patience.

In this perennial Chicago staple, patrons are treated to the briefest overview of Catholicism wrapped in a habit of woolen baby-boomer nostalgia, as well as a heaping dose of firm but gentle chastising. The sister purports to have eyes in the back of her head as she steps to the

blackboard to prepare her lessons, and it's true. As she instructs her class on venial and mortal sins, afterlife stages such as limbo and purgatory, or the virtues of undervalued saints, she's on the lookout for misbehavior. With each punishment she doles out, the sister harkens back to the Catholic Church of the '60s, when parishes were huge, skirts were longer, and every spare cent went to the pagan baby fund canister.

Zentmyer rules over her pupils with an iron fist, and nothing gets past her scrutinous standards. If she has to hold up the whole class to correct grammar or have pupils take off their hats, she will. She is fantastically charming and enjoys every minute of holding her audience in rapt attention.

This Catechism has less to do with the lord than her own heyday in the '60s. For the lapsed and aging believers, Zentmyer as well as authors Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan invest considerable effort in evoking memories of parishes, orders of nuns, proper mass attendance and that all-important first time getting a strike on your permanent record. The remaining audience (protestants and uninitiated young people) must catch up in a hurry if we want a chance at the sister's table full of trinkets and treasures.

Directors Marc Silva and Vince Cracht have built a lived-in Sunday-school classroom world, virtually unchanged since this production premiered in 1993. Why toy with what works for countless droves of good Catholics, their great-aunties and in-laws? Late Nite Catechism is a nice, harmless night out—and it benefits real retired nuns, to boot.

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By Aziza Barnes

Directed by Nataki Garrett

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SPOTLIGHT

Artemis Singers, Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus since 1980, presents a concert of protest songs with Rise Up! The performance features guest artist **Melanie DeMore**, who will also lead a vocal workshop earlier in the day. Artemis Singers' Rise Up! is at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston. Concert-only tickets are \$20 and \$15 for seniors, students and kids ages 12 and under. The workshop is 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (advance registration required). Combined workshop and concert tickets are



\$30-\$40.; visit ArtemisSingers.org or MelanieDeMore.com.

Caption: Melanie DeMore is the guest artist for Artemis Singers' workshop and concert Rise Up! Photo by Vaschelle André

MUSIC

In tune with Marsha Malamet: From Peter Allen to Streisand & son

BY TODD SUSSMAN

She has written for some of the best musicians and singers of the past 30 years. From the pride parades to the top of the charts, this songwriter is hitting all the right notes.

Windy City Times spoke with Marsha Malamet about her new work.

Windy City Times: Your composition, "Love Don't Need a Reason," became an iconic anthem in the fight against AIDS. It was played at many marches and parades for this cause and continues to be played today. You wrote it with Peter Allen and Michael Callen in 1985. Why do you think this song resonated?

Marsha Malamet: Because it wasn't preachy or political. It was an expression of love, devotion and passion. It was about personal feelings. The context surrounding the song was the epidemic, the scourge. People instantly identified with a song that spoke the emotional truth of friends and lovers that were sick and dying.

WCT: When you three were composing this, did Peter and Michael—who both eventually succumbed to the disease—discuss their own health and how it changed their lives?

MM: The song is more about the emotional state and reaction rather than somebody's diagnosis. While we were writing the song in Peter's Manhattan penthouse, Peter and Michael never spoke about their personal situation. Being close with Michael, I was privy to his journey. Peter and I had a professional relationship. We focused solely on the songwriting.

WCT: Many artists and choruses have performed "Love Don't Need a Reason" over the years, but fans may not realize that you, Peter and Michael composed this song as a potential theme for the planned movie version of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart*, when Barbra Streisand first expressed interest in turning the play into a film. The proof is in the first line: "If your heart always did, what a normal heart

should do" Was there any wish discussed back then that Barbra would lend her voice to the song?

MM: Our goal was to write a great song to express what was unexpressed at that time. Of course, Michael was a huge Barbra fan. We know he was excited about the potential for Barbra to sing this. Any songwriter would be over the moon to have the great Babs record one of their songs, but that took a back seat to the writing process.

WCT: Barbra did end up recording a song you wrote a decade later, "Lessons to Be Learned" from her *Higher Ground* CD, which entered *Billboard* at No. 1 (1997). Tell me about that experience.

MM: This recording meant a great deal to me and my co-writers, Allan Rich and Dorothy Gazeley. I am a spiritual person, and her singing a song on an album addressing faith brought it to a new level. I hoped—but I also believed—Barbra would one day record a song I wrote, so when she did, one of my first thoughts was a sense of completion. To top it off, she nailed it. Of course she did!

WCT: Speaking of Barbra, you contributed four original songs to the new CD, *Dangerous Man*, by her son, Jason Gould (produced by the legendary Quincy Jones, Stephan Oberhoff and Jason). Four songs ... written with and for Jason. It sounds like you clicked as collaborators.

MM: Jason and I clicked because our musical sensibility is pretty much the same. Then again, there's chance. A chance meeting put it all into motion. Now remember, I brought in two of my collaborators, Liz Vidal and Alan Roy Scott. It was written in the stars. The end result is on this record.

WCT: Both you and Jason are out artists. Do you think that also enhanced your collaboration?

MM: I believe so. There's an unspoken and subtle familiarity when people share a common truth.

WCT: There are not too many male vocalists, even today, expressing their feelings via song to another man, as Jason does on the title track, "Dangerous Man." When you were working with him on this, did he share his thoughts on the lyrics?

MM: What he wrote is his sharing. He wanted to express this specific relationship. The song is very direct. If anything, Jason is self-reflective and self-aware. He strives to be honest within himself. So why not sing something that is authentic to him, and I respect that.

WCT: Jason's album was No. 1 on the Amazon Pop Vocal digital chart. Do you see mainstream music as being more accepting and more embracing of same-sex themes?



Marsha Malamet.
Publicity photo

MM: Yes. It's been a long time coming and it's here. The climate is such that there is still homophobia and bigotry all over. However, television and movies have more gay characters than ever before. Social media has changed the landscape, too, giving more artists the chance to express themselves without having to go through the filter of executives. The music world is finally catching up. Now artists that would not normally break into the mainstream have an open door to create honest material and reach the masses. It's an exciting time.

WCT: One of the cuts on the album, "Morning Prayer," originally appeared as a ballad on Jason's self-titled EP, released in 2012. But now it has been re-imagined in full rhythm and called, "Morning Prayer (Tribal Version)." Tell me about this change.

MM: With the ballad, there is a sense of yearning and melancholy. The new tribal version is altogether different ... more rhythmic. This change basically turned the song into something much more immediate and powerful. The added drumbeats and tribal vocals create an uplifting musical environment. Although the lyrics may be the same, the contrasting arrangements give listeners two totally different experiences.

WCT: This is a very prolific time for you. In addition to the new Jason Gould album, you are releasing a retrospective where you are both the singer and the songwriter. What can your fans expect with this release?

MM: They can expect three records, two of which are available now. The third will be out in the latter part of 2018. The first release, a 5-song

EP called *The Natural Thing to Do*, includes material from the late '90s and early '00s. It's basically some of my strongest gay-themed work. The second album, *Vintage*, contains demos I sang that have an intimate, cabaret-like flavor. Fans can hear my version of "Love Don't Need a Reason" on this. The third release, titled *Stay True*, will contain some new material, including a very personal song about my mother. I wrote it during a rough patch. It was so cathartic. The process of writing it was like condensing five years of therapy into a four-minute song.

WCT: Your EP, *The Natural Thing to Do*, features a beautiful song called "Too Much Time Between Us." I noticed you are singing directly to a woman.

MM: A dear friend and collaborator, Lindy Robbins, wrote this with me. I started talking about this May-December relationship that had just ended, and Lindy's brilliant lyric captured what I was feeling. Because this song was my story, I had to sing the pronoun "she" or else I would have felt like a fraud. I know gay singers out there who still sing "he" even though they mean "she." I do not judge them at all. However, for me, I am at the point where I am comfortable enough in my skin to sing about my heart's desires.

Dangerous Man CD is available on Amazon.com at https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07895QTBF/ref=cm_sw_r_em_api_c_WsTqAb7R9PN40.

For more information on Marsha and to purchase her recordings, visit www.marshamalamet.com.



Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole.
PR photo

NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole: Trans Hawaiian singer on home state, final CD

BY JERRY NUNN

Transgender Hawaiian performer Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole is making a rare appearance in Chicago at the Old Town School of Folk Music. The show will combine ancestral chants, singing, and hula practice.

Having been on stage since she could walk has

now earned her five Hawaiian Grammy Awards and also awarded the 2015 Native Hawaiian Artist Fellowship by the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation.

Kanaka'ole appeared in a film about chanting called Power of the Voice was the first Hawaiian performer invited to appear at New York's global-FEST 2011.

Windy City Times: Where in the world are you calling from?

Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole: I am in Oahu, Hawaii. I live here where I was born and raised.

WCT: Did you grow up around volcanos?

KK: I did. I live on an island with 13 different climates. It was a powerful upbringing. It certainly has resonated with adolescence and my adult life.

WCT: How do you hold on to a Hawaiian heritage in a modern world?

KK: I'm not sure what holding on means. It is a lifestyle. If you talking about indigenous being able to continue to practice their culture in the 21st century there are different discussions.

I do this to honor my ancestors and for the sake of the well being of the land and the environment.

WCT: How would you describe the trans community in Hawaii?

KK: The trans community has always been there. The third gender is not an uncommon theme in most indigenous and aboriginal cultures. Polynesia is no exception, particularly in Hawaii. Ancient indigenous people embrace all facets and mediums of gender while still trying to balance the juxtaposition of colonialism or Western religious oppression.

When you are raised in 21st-century Hawaii with conflicting philosophies toward gender you have exactly that—you have a good portion of the population that embrace all genders and you have those that adhere to the Western religious doctrines that shun it.

I lucked out. I was born into the family that was rooted, grounded and educated. It gave me an in and allowed my native Hawaiian community to appreciate my contributions to the culture instead of judging me for what I am. My upbringing has been a saving grace, on that end.

WCT: Did you sing from a young age?

KK: No; I was raised doing hula and chant.

WCT: When did you start performing music?

KK: I didn't start performing live until my early 20s.

WCT: Where are you touring this time?

KK: We have four stops: Chicago, North Dakota, San Francisco and New York.

WCT: Describe a live show of yours.

KK: I tell stories. We are using hula and my native language as a medium in a way to convey our message.

WCT: What are you working on after the tour?

KK: I will be working on my final studio music album. It will be about me. It is finally my fourth album and a decade in the industry. It is me embracing my trans identity publicly in the middle of that. It is [about] coming to terms, looking in the mirror and being able to love what I see.

WCT: Why is it your final album?

KK: It is the last music album because I am done. I think commercial and capitalist institutions that surround the industry here, especially in music and art, is all bullshit. On social media when we think we are at our most authentic it is all just putting on mini performances just to get that shot. We capture a moment on social media to share with the audience. There is already an audience in mind that makes it a performance, and not an authentic moment.

It is in the spirit of that and the way that the 21st century changes the dynamic of human communication and interaction. We are allowing it to change us.

I think there are more valuable things in life than the next single or album. Who cares?

WCT: What will you do instead of music?

KK: I am going to focus my recording career into my passion, which is chanting. This will be ritual or primal Hawaiian chanting techniques to compositions over the millennia. It is more meaningful to me. I was raised in that environment so it is natural that I focus my career on it.

Kanaka'ole will perform with guitarist Shawn Pimental at the Myron R. Szold Music & Dance Hall, 4545 N. Lincoln Ave., on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. Visit OldTownSchool.org/concerts for tickets and information.

Chicago Museum Week

The city will mark Chicago Museum Week on Jan. 18-26.

Guests are invited to take advantage of discounted admissions, special exhibits, giveaways and more at each of the participating museums. Illinois residents will receive up to 25-percent off admissions at all museums.

At least a dozen venues are taking part, including Adler Planetarium, Lincoln Park Zoo, and The DuSable Museum of African American History, among others.

See ChicagoMuseumWeek.com.

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PODCASTS

'Mattachine' podcast creator brings the past back to life

BY OWEN KEEHNEN

Columbia College writing and production graduate Devlyn Camp is producing and hosting a 10-episode, serialized podcast, called *Mattachine*, that is currently available free on iTunes.

The series illustrates the importance of LGBT history by spotlighting a crucial point in the modern gay-rights movement, the formation of the *Mattachine Society* in 1950 by Harry Hay.

Using voice actors as well as actual taped interviews, *Mattachine* brings the LGBT community's social and political pasts to life. The subject matter couldn't be more timely. The series emphasizes the importance of knowing LGBT people's roots and history at a time when, once again, their rights and existence are being threatened.

Windy City Times: Hi, Devlyn. How did the *Mattachine* project come about?

Devlyn Camp: I first learned about the original secret society from a book recommended to me by my mentor, Albert Williams. He's constantly sharing our history with my generation. That book—*Behind the Mask of the Mattachine*, by James Sears—led me to another book and another book and then audio files and archives, and so on. I hope I've pieced it all together well enough that listeners enjoy the story and share our history the way Albert did with me.

WCT: For folks who aren't familiar, tell me a bit about the *Mattachine Society*.

DC: *Mattachine* began in 1950 with five men, some of them former communists. Many gay people back then thought they were the only one, then suddenly these anonymous men were gathering other gay people for discreet discussion groups in their living rooms. The groups filled up and multiplied until the founders of the *Mattachine* had to let the reigns go, and conservative gay people took over the whole organization. That's when we begin to see the American gay community splinter: Do we come out of the closet embracing a separate queer culture with our own perspective on sexuality and gender, or are we ex-



Devlyn Camp.
Photo courtesy of Camp

actly like the cisgender heterosexual community aside from who we take to bed? That's what the early *Mattachine* explored.

WCT: Why did you decide on the podcast format?

DC: I studied television writing and production at Columbia College Chicago. I have a huge passion for serialized storytelling on TV. When I was studying the *Mattachine* I kept imagining how it would play out in a miniseries, but I'm not high enough on the Hollywood ladder to write and produce my own TV show, and I couldn't be patient to tell this story. As I wrote and produced it into a podcast format I was thrilled that people were responsive to it.

WCT: What can listeners expect from the series?

DC: Listeners can expect a complex story, not just the landmarks of our history. The series follows communists and FBI agents, secret publications and anonymous letters. There's a lot of heartbreak, in-fighting, and some exciting triumphs. Many queer people were a part of this organization, and they're all complicated characters with unique motivations.

WCT: Do you have a favorite episode or two from the serialized podcast?

DC: Episode two features audio of the *Mattachine* founder Harry Hay telling his story. I'm thrilled to bring his real voice to the story and allow the listeners to hear it from Harry himself.

Our fourth episode, "The Lavender Scare," stands alone outside of the serial story and shows how our government discovered homophobia and weaponized it against us for the past century.

I think the audience will be surprised how often history repeats itself. I'm also very excited about an episode centered around a lot of witty drama at a banquet—just when you thought the show couldn't get any gayer!

WCT: What lessons can be learned from this series that are applicable today?

DC: Our public schools don't teach us any of our history, so many queer people today don't even know the broad strokes of the movement. Gay or straight (or anywhere on the Kinsey scale), I hope listeners will find that queer history is much more nuanced than the benchmark events some of us

are familiar with. Our history is vast but often overlooked, which only continues to hurt us. The divisiveness within the community's history is still relevant to our divisiveness today. We're still fighting about blatant internalized homophobia and misogyny with statements like "masc4masc." We fight about assimilating to mainstream marriage, gender and drag. On top of it all, outside our queer spaces we still have political pressure on us, especially with Trump in office. None of this is new, and this serialized podcast hopes to uncover some of the first evidence of it all in American culture.

Follow *Mattachine* on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @mattachinefiles, and explore resources and other details at MattachinePod.com.

Winter Olympics have first openly gay U.S. athlete

Figure skater Adam Rippon, 28, has become the first openly gay U.S. athlete to qualify for the Winter Olympics—but it didn't happen without some controversy.

Rippon was officially named to the U.S. Winter Olympics figure skating team despite finishing fourth at the U.S. national championships in San Jose, California, on Jan. 6. (The U.S. Winter Olympic team can only have three representatives in PyeongChang, South Korea, in February. Ross Miner, who finished second Jan. 6, got bumped because Rippon was judged to have better international results.)

Rippon will join national champion Nathan Chen, 18, and third-place skater Vincent Zhou, 17, in South Korea.

Freestyle skier Gus Kenworthy—who came out in 2015—is expected to join Rippon when the freestyle skiing team is announced Jan. 22, *ThinkProgress.org* noted. A third openly gay athlete, luger John Fennell, had his hopes dashed when his sled crashed in his final qualifying run last month.

MSI's Black Creativity events Jan. 15-Feb. 21

The 2018 Black Creativity program, an annual tradition at the Museum of Science + Industry (MSI), kicks off Monday, Jan. 15, and runs through Wed., Feb. 21.

According to a press release, "This month-long celebration honors the rich contributions and achievements made by African Americans while working to inspire children to develop their creativity in science, technology, engineering and math to become the innovators of tomorrow."

Among the highlights is the "Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition," which runs the entire month; it features more than 100 works from African-American artists across the country. Others include the Innovation Studio, Career Showcase, Jr. Science Cafes and the Black Creativity Gala.

See MSIChicago.org/blackcreativity.

Lesbian comedian at Zanies Jan. 20-22

Lesbian comedian Emma Willmann will perform stand-up at Zanies Comedy Night Club, 1548 N. Wells St., on Friday-Sunday, January 20-22.

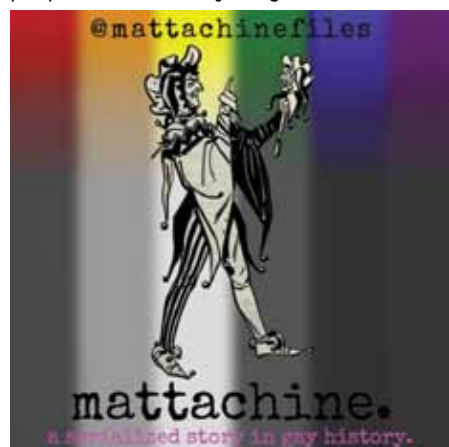
The event is an 21+ show.

Willmann has appeared on *The Late Show* with Steven Colbert and @midnight; and will appear on the upcoming seasons of HBO's *Crashing* and the CW's *Crazy Ex Girlfriend*. Also, she was featured in *Time Out New York* as one of the 10 funniest women in New York City.

Tickets are on sale now; visit Chicago.Zanies.com or EmmaComedy.com



Emma Willmann.
PR photo



@windycitytimes1



/windycitymediagroup



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www.windycitymediagroup.com

BOOK REVIEW

Tell: Love, Defiance, and the Military...

by Major Margaret Witt with Tim Connor, foreword by Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer
\$27.95; ForeEdge; 258 pages
 BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

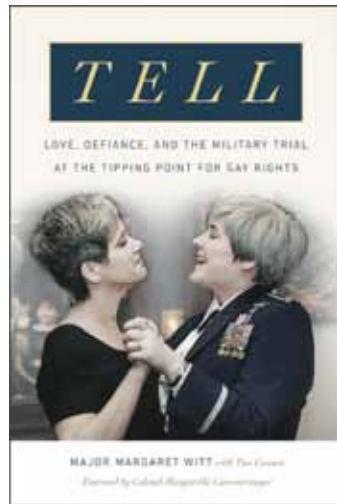
No doubt about it: You know the score.

You've known it since the beginning because you were told, clearly and unequivocally. There's no grey area, no questions to ask. You know what's up but, as in the new book *Tell*, by Major Margaret Witt (with Tim Connor), the outcome may be out of your hands anyhow.

For those who love her, Margie Witt has always been known as an active, take-charge, caring person. A tomboy growing up, she befriended the friendless, got along with everyone, and was a super-responsible leader. It was, therefore, a natural fit when, in 1987, Witt decided to join the Air Force, even though she was gay.

But, of course, nobody was supposed to know that. As an elite member of the military, Witt fully understood that just being gay meant a military discharge. By order, nobody could ask her about that, though; she, in turn, could not discuss her sexuality.

Still, because secrets are never totally secret, Witt was ever-cautious. Fearing rejection, she hadn't come out to her parents or her siblings yet; on the other hand, close pals knew that Witt



was a lesbian, as did a fellow reservist who'd defied DADT in order to put his suspicions to rest.

Even Witt's girlfriend was mum, but there was trouble on that front: Tiffany desperately wanted a baby and was pressing, but Witt was uninterested in parenthood.

With a pregnancy deadline-or-else looming, Witt took solace not only in her job as a pediatric physical therapist in Spokane, Washington, but also with her friends in the Air Force Reserve and her work as a flight nurse. She kept busy, was sent overseas to the Middle East, and received commendations for saving a life there. Her knowledge was admired and, as her relationship crumbled, her natural sense of humor helped her stay level but she needed a confidante. Witt turned

to a married-but-"struggling" female colleague who soon became more than just a friend with a sympathetic ear.

And in the ensuing "very, very ugly" divorce, in which a soon-to-be-ex-husband seized upon two women spending the night together, DADT was no longer possible...

That, of course, is not the end of what you'll learn inside *Tell*. There's much more to the story, sometimes too much.

In an oddly appealing third-person voice, authors Witt and Connor start this tale with a deployment and move quickly to a charmingly nostalgic biography that ultimately loses some of its

charm in an overload of details. There are a lot of peripheral people in this tale, the presence of which sometimes feels more shout-out and less necessity.

Stick around: the details have a shift of focus about mid-way here, once you get past the setup and into the books' *raison d'être*. Things move faster in the re-telling of the legal aftermath of Witt's exposure, the fight for gay rights in the military, and Witt's own (mostly) happily-ever-after. That's what makes this slice-of-life history tale one that's highly readable and deeply personal.

That's what makes *Tell* a score.

Sinfonetta's 30th-anniv. MLK shows Jan. 14-15

Chicago Sinfonietta will present the Chicago premiere of Emmy-winning composer Laura Karpman's three-time Grammy-nominated piece, "Ask Your Mama," for its 30th anniversary MLK Tribute concert.

The Sinfonietta, with conductor Mei-Ann Chen, will perform "Ask Your Mama" Sunday, Jan. 14, at 3 p.m. at Pfeiffer Concert Hall at North Central College, Naperville; and Monday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. in its downtown Chicago home venue of the Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave.

For tickets, call 312-284-1554 or visit ChicagoSinfonietta.org/mlk.

Lookingglass names new executive director

Lookingglass Theatre Company's board of directors announced the appointment of the theatre's new executive director, Rachel L. Fink.

Fink will begin her tenure at Lookingglass on Monday, Feb. 19. She succeeds Rachel Kraft, who stepped down as executive director after 12 years with the company.

Fink comes to Chicago from the San Francisco Bay area, where she was managing director of the nonprofit organization Theatre Bay Area; before that, she spent 16 years at Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

SHORE from page 7

women and minorities. And if we were to attract industry to use our treated water, they'd have to come to areas close to plants, which would provide jobs and grow that local economy.

WCT: What are you looking to get done in the next six years?

DS: I'm running together with two of my incumbent colleagues, Commissioner Kari Steele and Commissioner Martin Durkan. I certainly hope voters will consider supporting not only me, but my colleagues as well. There's also a vacancy created by the resignation of a colleague two years ago, and Kim DuBuclet is running for that slot. She would be a strong asset to this board.

One major effort is increasing our ability to handle heavier rainfall, which is an effect of climate change in our area. We need to be better able to process storm water so it doesn't overwhelm our sewers and cause flooding in people's homes.

I'm also helping establish an independent inspector general to keep us accountable. We have a billion-dollar budget, hundreds of millions in construction contracts every year. And we're an agency populated by human beings, so an inspector general would be an important measure of additional oversight. I was able to secure funding in next year's budget so that if it's the will of our board to establish an office, we will have the resources there to get going in 2018.

WCT: Was there a specific issue or incident

that led you to believe an inspector general would be necessary?

DS: I don't believe our agency is fraught; we're well run. But we're probably one of the only agencies with a budget of our size that doesn't have one. It's considered a good government practice. Inspectors general help save money because the see ways to be efficient, and we certainly can benefit from that.

WCT: You were the first openly gay person elected in Cook County who wasn't a judge, and you include that in your biography. Why is it important to have out LGBTQ people in public office?

DS: After I was elected but before I was sworn in, I met with the general superintendent of the Water Reclamation District at the time, and I said, "Do you think we could extend health benefits to domestic partners of district employees?" And he said yes. I said, "Well, wait until I get sworn in, because I want to vote for it." So after I was sworn in, our board voted unanimously to extend those benefits, not only to same-sex partners but also to opposite-sex domestic partners of district employees.

In the first sign-up period, three same-sex couples and seven opposite-sex couples signed up. I asked the general superintendent why hadn't they done this sooner. And he said, "Nobody asked."

My point is, when we are present, we ask. Recently, we introduced a measure before the Illinois General Assembly—and Gov. Rauner signed it into law—that allowed retirees to confer pension survivor benefits to long-standing partners

even if they weren't married. It may matter to only a handful of people, but it matters hugely to those it impacts.

WCT: What can be done to convince more LG-BTQ people to run for office?

DS: We have to ask them to run. We have to train them to run. And we have to support them when they run. We have to support them financially, open our networks and our contact lists.

When I was a candidate, I went through the candidate training program at the Gay and Lesbian Victory Institute, and then when on to serve on their board. I would encourage any LGBT person considering running for office to go through the program.

WCT: Who are you endorsing in the gover-

nor's race?

DS: I'm supporting Daniel Biss. He's my state senator; I've known him a long time. I think he's the most qualified, whip-smart and will help grow the party.

WCT: Will you run again in 2024 if you win this next election?

DS: This will be my last time running for this job. There are a few more things I want to get done, but it's important to make way for ducklings. I don't aspire to hold other elected office. There might be a couple of federal appointed positions I might be interested in, but I don't know if the opportunity will arise.

See <https://www.debrashore.org>.

"TERRIFIC! A FASCINATING AND FITTING TRIBUTE TO A TRUE SUBVERSIVE GAY HERO." —Dennis Dermody, PAPER MAGAZINE

TOM OF FINLAND
 A FILM BY DOME KARUKOSKI

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CANDIDATES from page 6



Raymond A. Lopez.
Official headshot



Mike McHale.
Photo courtesy of McHale

—**Mike McHale**
Race: Circuit Court of Cook County
The skinny: McHale, who handles cases in the Criminal Division, is running for retention this year. He was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (now the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame) in 2005.



Stephanie Miller.
Photo courtesy of Miller

—**Stephanie Miller**
Race: 6th Subcircuit, Cook County judge (Lopez Cepero Vacancy)
Website: ElectJudgeStephanieMiller.com
The skinny: Miller (a member of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association of Illinois) has almost two decades of experience handling both criminal and civil matters. Prior to her appointment, Miller was a prosecutor with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.



Jill Quinn.
Photo from campaign website

—**Jill Quinn**
Race: 10th Subcircuit, Cook County judge (Surrano Vacancy)
Website: VoteJillRoseQuinn.com
The skinny: Quinn's private practice experience includes working at general legal practices in Chicago, Bloomington, Lombard, Glen Ellyn and Franklin Park, where she handled a wide variety of case types. Throughout her career, she handled over 4,000 cases and performed appellate work. She is a member of the National LGBT Bar Association and Chicago LGBT Chamber of Commerce.



Mary Colleen Roberts.
Photo courtesy of Roberts

—**Mary Colleen Roberts**
Race: Circuit Court of Cook County
The skinny: Roberts is running for retention this year. She is a judge on the Cook County 11th Subcircuit in Illinois. She was elected in 2006 and was retained in 2012. Prior to the bench, Roberts was a hearing officer for the Cook County Circuit Court and assistant corporation counsel for the Chicago Law Department.

—**Lamont Robinson**
Race: Illinois state representative (5th District)

Website: www.votelamontrobinson.com
The skinny: Robinson—who runs two Chicago Allstate Insurance offices, in Bronzeville and Humboldt Park—is aiming 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. Interestingly, one of his primary opponents is Ken Dunkin—a neighbor of Robinson's who lost to Stratton in 2015.



Lamont Robinson.
Photo by Matt Simonette



Daniel Roldan-Johnson.
Photo from campaign team

—**Daniel Roldán-Johnson**
Race: U.S. Congress (14th District)
Website: VoteRoldan.com
The skinny: Should Roldán-Johnson win, he would be the first openly gay member of the U.S. Congress from Illinois. He attended Florida Atlantic University and DePaul University, where he met his husband, Christian. He's facing six opponents in the Democrat primary—and the winner gets Republican incumbent Randy Hultgren.



Debra Shore.
Photo courtesy of Shore

—**Debra Shore**
Race: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District commissioner
Website: <https://www.debrashore.org/>
The skinny: Shore has served on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District board since 2006. She is a member of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership and served on the board (and was past chair) of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. She is running for her third six-year term in the 2018 election.



Brad Trowbridge.
Photo by Erica Demarest

—**Brad Trowbridge**
Race: Cook Circuit judge (McGinnis Vacancy)
Website: <https://bradforjudge.com>
The skinny: As an attorney, Trowbridge has litigated cases in domestic relations, chancery, probate, and criminal divisions. Also, he currently is an adjunct faculty member at John Marshall Law School's Domestic Violence Clinic.



Ed Underhill.
Photo from campaign website

—**Ed Underhill**
Race: 6th Subcircuit, Cook County judge (Cooke Vacancy)
Website: <http://edunderhillforjudge.com/>
The skinny: Underhill is a trial attorney with more than 30 years of experience, and a Bucktown homeowner for the past 17 years. Underhill has been a member of the Chicago Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Committee and is a former president of the Northern Illinois University Alumni Council.



Sam Yingling.
Photo courtesy of Illinois House Democrats

—**Sam Yingling**
Race: Illinois state representative (62nd District)
Website: SamYingling.com
The skinny: Grayslake resident Yingling is running unopposed in the primary for his fourth term. He is the first openly gay House member from outside metropolitan Chicago. Yingling proposed to longtime partner Lowell Jaffe at the party former Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn threw to celebrate the passage of Illinois' marriage-equality bill in 2013. (They married in 2015.)

ANDERSON from page 4

philosophy. “I understood what racism was really about through reading Plato’s Republic, so I studied philosophy because it made things make sense. My relationship to philosophy is to some degree radical. I feel that philosophy is relevant, it’s useful as a way of doing analysis,” she said.

Anderson’s devotion to creative social empowerment has had a major impact on the Chicago lesbian community, and demonstrates how much one person can do to effect change. Her long list of volunteering in the gay and lesbian community includes playing pivotal roles in the founding of several important organizations.

In the 1980s, she founded Yahimba as a monthly newsletter, as a way of connecting people and events beyond the bar scene in Chicago, and her leadership of the Yahimba organization resulted in at least two citywide conferences specifically addressing needs of African American lesbians.



Stud 4 Life founder Wanda B (left) with Jackie Anderson.

Courtesy of Wanda B

Hundreds of friends shared their memories of Anderson on social media, and with Windy City Times.

Anne Leighton wrote this about Anderson: “When I think of Jackie I think of sharing. I think of her generosity of spirit that led her to participate in many meaningful ways in many community projects. She means so much to so many. Jac shared. Argument and love. I think of sitting under the stars in Michigan, solving the worlds problems. Of the depths of her despair when she believed we could not. She shared her silences, her listening, her voice. She took pleasure in positioning her coffee so that I had easy access to the few sips my stomach allowed. She took pleasure in standing outside at an academic conference passing a last in a pack cigarette back and forth, admiring the women. Jackie was not

an open book. She did not articulate her politics, thoughts, feelings to everyone—much less force them on anyone. Jac shared. She helped create spaces for so many, particularly lesbians and Women of Color. She paid attention to people and told them that she loved them. Her silences, her listening, her voice. She was rarely afraid to launch a project, and even more rarely afraid to let it go when she judged the time had come. Her death is a shock to us all. But actually it is not surprising.”

Andrea Densham said, “Jackie was a force of nature who worked by leaning forward with love in her heart and insisting on justice for all. A mentor and sage leader who worked harder than many with no need to for accolades or center stage. She taught many of us to work with passion, demanded justice and built a community of mutual support.”

“Jackie did much to allow and encourage our spirits to sing ... and we sing and we sing and we sing,” said Gladys Croom.

Kathy Munzer said, “Jackie’s my definition of a true-blue friend—loyal, kind, loving, always there to talk, listen, laugh, cry, share what matters most. She was an inspiration, a treasure, a lesbian champion and brilliant teacher, and no one will ever again make me laugh as hard as she did when we played cards.”

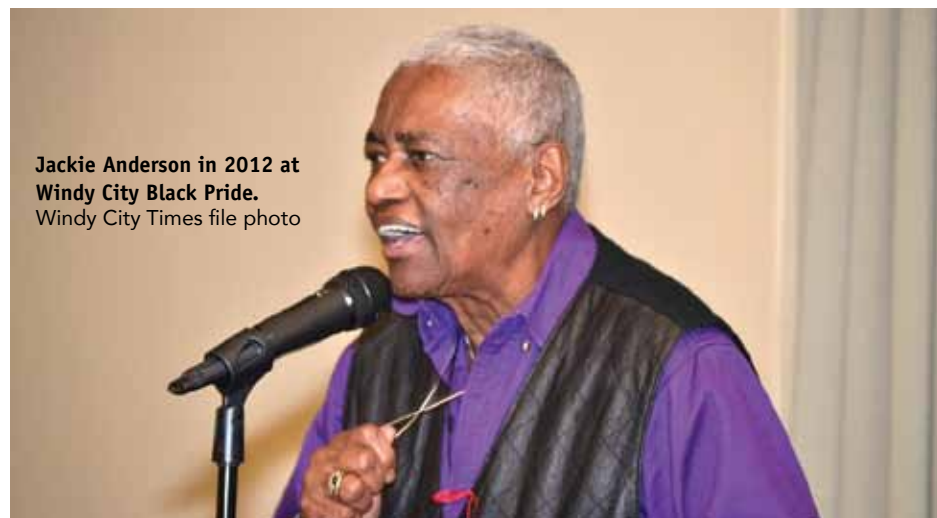
“There are parents and those who parent,” said CC Carter. “She was both with her daughter, Tracey and grandson Torrence. Her love for them was immeasurable. I am beyond forever blessed to have been shown a third of that love as well. The first time we met, she said, ‘Girl you are going to be something else.’ From that moment on she gave me no choice but to believe her and live up to her expectations. She saved me from being my worse self and lifted me up to a self I had no idea I could be. Because of her, I am ... #BecauseOfHerIam.”

Sarah Hoagland recalled a conversation with Anderson at an Institute of Lesbian Studies meeting, asking her: “What do you do when everyone around you thinks in terms of ideas you know to be bullshit. Or when you are feeling insane because everyone around you acts as if nothing wrong? How do you counter the foreclosure of meaning?”

Anderson responded: “These are not quite my questions. I don’t ever feel exactly that. I do feel there are things transparent to me that I don’t understand why they aren’t transparent to others. Not because I think I’m right, but because I can’t engage when they don’t get it.

“However, people I have serious discussions with, it’s them I rely on. So if I feel like I’m going off in a direction, I depend on those folks to say ‘No, Jackie.’ ... When Maria [Lugones] challenged my idea that we could move out of the concept of race, then I said, ‘I’m wrong.’ That doesn’t make me feel crazy, it makes me happy there are such people.

“I struggle more with anger and rage at not having my thoughts respected. I fall back on a couple of things: my mother, who lived in a strong universe of ethics, who didn’t trust white people, but believed everybody deserves respect. This is good to remember when I go off the deep end, when I’m really angry. It also helps cause I have relationships with people who are not



Jackie Anderson in 2012 at Windy City Black Pride.
Windy City Times file photo

people of color, who I loved. So it keeps me balanced. I don’t have to make this intelligible. And then I often get very frustrated about things that go on in my own community—there is no help coming. I feel helpless seeing all that. Times like that, what keeps me going day to day: I can think about the array of people in my life who I care about and who care about me. And I can feel good about the work that I do because it is respected in my own community. I did work on the North side, but to get resources to the south side. The fact that people in my own community feel I am someone they value, that has always fed me and kept me going. And the fact that I have been able to use what little privilege I have to help friends in ways that were respectful—e.g., offer-

ing keys to my house. So in my deeper, darkest moments, that’s what sustains me. And. I have to say, now that I’ve gotten older, I look at my daughter and grandson—I like the people they are. Makes me feel as if in some way the legacy of my family will continue. I feel, if I die, I’ll be ok. “My biggest struggle is not epistemological, it’s affective rather than cognitive.”

See a video interview with Anderson, from 2007, here: <http://chicagogayhistory.org/biography.html?id=716>.

More details, including a memorial, will be announced soon.

This obituary includes excerpts from an essay by Jorjet Harper in the book *Out & Proud in Chicago*.

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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Top spots of 2017

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In 2017, I had the opportunity to visit a lot of area restaurants, ranging from fast-food places to very upscale spots. Below are some of the ones that stood head and shoulders above the others (listed in no particular order).

—**The Barn** (Rear 1016 Church St.; TheBarnEvanston.com): This Evanston restaurant is called a “modern meaterie” for good reason, although there are options for vegetarians and vegans. Also, the decor is pretty cool; there’s a supper club/speakeasy vibe to the place.

—**Mr. Brown’s Lounge** (2301 W. Chicago Ave.; <https://www.mrbrownsloounge.com>): There is the spot in the Loop as well—but it takes a back seat to the big-brother West Town restaurant that’s been around for almost a decade. The Jamaican restaurant’s jerk chicken and rum-raisin ice cream (both made in house, of course) are fabulous—and weekends are full-on parties, complete with a dance floor.

—**Kal’ish Vegan** (1313 W. Wilson Ave.; KalishVegan.com): Being a hardcore carnivore, I had my suspicions about this place—but was more than satisfied when I left.

—**The Florentine** (151 W. Adams St.; TheFlorentine.net): I’ve been to this Italian restaurant (located inside the J.W. Marriott hotel) several times, and have always been impressed—even though Chef Zachary Walrath rarely brings back dishes once a new season’s in play.



Kal’ish Vegan’s avocado mash-up.
Photo by Bronson Pettitt

—**Maple & Ash** (8 W. Maple St.; MapleAndAsh.com): This Gold Coast spot probably had one of the most enjoyable brunches I had in 2017, thanks to top-notch food and a nonstop flow of ‘80s/‘90s dance music. (Yes, you read that correctly.)

—**Chromium** (2444 N. Elston Ave.; www.midtown.com/chicago): This restaurant is actually part of Midtown Athletic Club, and is only available to members. However, Executive

Chef Amanda Barnes is all about innovation and the use of every part of an animal—hence the addictive salmon-skin chicharrones and wagyu-and-beef heart meatballs.

—**Lawry’s the Prime Rib** (100 E. Ontario St.; LawrysOnline.com): Lawry’s is as old-school as it gets—and that’s a good thing. Prime rib with salad, mashed potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and whipped-cream horseradish? Yes, please.

—**Portsmith** (660 N. State St.; <https://www.portsmithchicago.com>): This River North restaurant—“named for the idea that seafood is common in most port towns and that a chef is a food ‘smith,’ or craftsman”—is delicious decadence as its best.



Portsmith’s fried oyster.
Photo by Andrew Davis



Heritage’s king crab with flying-fish roe.
Photo by Andrew Davis

—**Heritage Restaurant & Caviar Bar** (2700 W. Chicago Ave.; heritage-chicago.com): Those who may be intimidated by caviar shouldn’t be, thanks to the helpful staff and delicious offerings. (There’s even vegan caviar.) However, Heritage has much more than caviar, from baby-back ribs to baked Alaska.

—Runners-up: **Sable, Mesa Urbana, Italian Village Restaurants, Nick’s Pizza, Revival Social Club, State & Lake, Streeterville Social, Apogee.**

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



SIDETRACK

Happy New Year from Sidetrack!
Photos by Jed Dulanias





BILLY Masters

"Get ready for some pounding. Some of us could see 8 inches or more. That's too much—even for me."—Virginia Beach weatherman **Blaine Stewart** prepares residents for the blizzard with this Tweet. During a storm last year, he predicted that Virginia would get 10 inches—"and not Grindr inches." Might I suggest a liberal portion of lube?

I am by nature not a complainer—particularly when it comes to travel. I do so much of it, I've learned to just go with the flow. But last week, the flow was frozen and I was stuck in Boston during Grayson—which, alas, was the name of the blizzard and not some Brit I was bugging! Frankly, when I want a blizzard, I'll go to Dairy Queen. Normally, I would have taken the travel voucher AA was offering and flown back when the dust ... er, the snow settled. But, honey, I had to get to the Golden Globes. And not any Golden Globes—these were the 75th Golden Globes. It will also come as no surprise to you that I eschewed all this fake social activism and showed up in PLATINUM! Why? Obviously, because the 75th anniversary is the platinum one. And, far be it from me to cast aspersions (or, for that matter, dispersions) on the celebrities who claim to wear their hearts on their darkened sleeves, but since when is it unusual for people to wear black to an awards show? Solidarity, my ass!

By now you all know who won the awards. So I will move along to my random impressions. Maybe it's just me, but when the long tribute to **Kirk Douglas** started, I thought perhaps it was the "In Memoriam" segment. It turns out they brought the legendary actor onstage—with daughter-in-law **Catherine Zeta Douglas Spartacus Jones**. While I appreciate the sentiment, it was a spooky sight—and I'm talking about Catherine!

HBO's after party never disappoints. Premier party planner **Billy Butchkavitz** put on quite a sumptuous soirée. I walked in as **Kathy and Rick Hilton** were leaving. (**Paris** and fiancé **Chris Zylka** showed up shortly thereafter.) I was catching up with **Carmen Electra** while **Jack McBrayer**, who played **Kenneth** on *30 Rock*, was animatedly chatting with **Alexander Skarsgard**—at one point holding the *Big Little Lies* star's Golden Globe. The place was buzzing when **Ricky Martin** strolled in with his *American Crime Story* co-star **Edgar Ramirez**.

Across the room, **Nicole Kidman** appeared trapped in conversation with **Buzz Aldrin**. At a certain point, a desperate-looking Kidman dragged in hubby **Keith Urban**. The trio posed for some photos and then Nicole deftly disappeared, leaving Urban to chat with the famed astronaut and former *Dancing with the Stars* competitor. This brings up an unrelated point: Does Kidman even remember that she adopted two children with Tom Cruise? She's always thanking her girls with Urban and never even mentions Connor and Isabella. Just strange.

Then, the most bizarre thing happened. As I was about to leave the HBO party, in walked



Tom Daley has gotten even more exposure on the internet, **Billy** says.

Image from Daley's Instagram account

Mariah Carey. It took me a moment to realize it was her, as my companion kept saying, "Mimi. It's Mimi." I had no idea what he meant. Then he said, "Butterfly," and I knew. She had beau **Bryan Tanaka** in tow, along with a coterie of goons to keep the songstress away from the crowd—or so I thought. After a bit, she was posing with fans and holding court on the side of the dance floor. Her visit was short-lived. As she left, I managed to catch her attention and say I was about to bring her some hot tea, to which she said, "Darling, I could have used some hot tea!" Perhaps. But I think if Mimi took even a sip of water, that skin-tight dress may have burst and taken out everyone's eyes. All in all, it was a fun night.

Apparently, romance was in the air over the holidays. My dear pals writer/producer **Gary Janetti** and stylist **Brad Goreski** were married aboard the *Seabourn Sojourn* by the captain—how very *Love Boat* of them. And **Ellen Page** married **Emma Portner** after dating for only six months. How very ... eh, forget it.

And then there were the celebrities who rang in the New Year wearing precious little. **Ryan Philpette** tweeted a pic of himself in a snowstorm, wearing only a hat and shorts. Why? Who knows? Who cares—he looks great, as you'll see on our website. Hockey bad boy **Sean Avery** posted an Instagram shot with him naked (full backside) inside a tropical outdoor shower. His buddy **Andy Cohen** commented, "I'm on my way." **Gus Kenworthy** posted an outtake from his ESPN "Body Issue" pictorial, which was him trudging in the snow, naked, wearing only a pair of boots and carrying his skis and poles (the skiing poles, silly). You can see all on BillyMasters.com.

There are Olympians, and then there's **Tom Daley**. In the past, we've heard of nude photos and a video exchanged with various men during his "break" with **Dustin Lance Black**. There have been bits and pieces that have circulated, but now he's apparently in "anguish" over the lat-

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est leak. One unnamed friend (note to all of my friends—should you ever be quoted, you are allowed to be named) said, "These are SO old—from 2016!" 2016 is "SO old"? We're barely out of 2017! Perhaps more damning than the photos themselves are how he is posing. A British tabloid writes the following: "One of the pictures shows the 23-year-old Olympian diver naked with his bum sticking in the air suggestively." Oh, dear—he's assuming the "position!" Now, we all know DLB's sexual proclivities. With this new information, I can't help but wonder—do you think they simply order in?

When we're seeing Gus' pole and Tom's hole, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Oh, I know—so graphic. Why, you'd think I forced them to pose for these pics! But nobody will force you to check out each and every one of them on www.BillyMasters.com, the site where bottoms are tops! If you've got a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I thaw out! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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WINDY CITY TIMES

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Jan. 10

Golden Girls, the Lost Episodes, holiday edition Campy parody of one of TV's most beloved sitcoms with Dorothy, Rose, Blanche, Sophia will feature the best of the original run - plus a new holiday-themed episode. Will run in conjunction with the return of Red-Hosed Reindeer. \$25. or VIP \$35. 7:30pm Mary's Attic 5400 N Clark Chicago 800-838-3006 Tickets: <http://www.handbagproductions.org>

Chicago LGBT Aging Network Winter Social Celebrate the entrance of 2018 with the Chicago LGBT Aging Network over dinner and drinks. RSVP online by Jan. 6 and note if anyone has any food allergies or dietary restrictions. \$35 includes family style appetizers, choice of entree from a select list 6:30pm - 9:30pm, <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/chicago-lgbt-aging-network-winter-social-january-10th-630pm-registration-41390052762>

Author Reading: Ann M. Martin in conversation with WBEZ's Greta Johnsen For this free event, Johnsen will inter-



COREY DAYS
Jan. 12-14

Corey Smith (above) brings a queer, eclectic take on Frank Lloyd Wright in The New Prairie School.

Photo from Smith

view author Ann M. Martin about her young adult novel Rain Reign, new in paperback. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://tinyurl.com/ybburnv2>

Thursday, Jan. 11

Tom of Finland screening Through Jan. 18. 6:00pm Gene Siskel Film Center 164 N State Chicago <http://www.siskel-filmcenter.org>

Book Launch Party: The Hope Store by Dwight Okita Two Asian American friends, Luke and Kazu, discover a bold new procedure to import hope into the hopeless. They vow to open the world's first Hope Store. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://tinyurl.com/yd3yn9ou>

Friday, Jan. 12

Artists' Gallery Opening LGBTQ Artists Gallery Opening Exhibit. The opening night event is the official premiere of the work by artists Marcus Sisler and Patrick Lyne. Reception will include a cash bar. \$5 suggested donation. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=14639>

the kates Chicago comedian and kates cast member Amy Sumpter hosts the all female comedy showcase. Second Friday of every month. \$10. 7:00pm The Book Cellar, 4736-38 N Lincoln Ave., Chicago

The New Prairie School Through theater, dance, electroacoustic music, and poetry, performance artist and composer Corey Smith celebrates the 150th anni-

versary of Frank Lloyd Wright's birth and explodes Midwestern architecture into something queer, something progressive, ecstatic, and weird. Through Sunday, Jan. 14. \$10 (incomes under \$30k); \$15 (incomes \$30k-50k); \$25 (incomes above \$50k) 7:00pm Links Hall, 3111 N. Western Ave., Tickets: <http://Ticketfly.com>

Saturday, Jan. 13

Vocal music workshop, "Using Your Voice for Change" Guest artist Melanie DeMore-an Oakland, California, vocal activist and choral conductor-will also lead a vocal music workshop 10:00am - 3:00pm Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston Tickets: <http://www.riseup2018.brownpapertickets.com>

Burning Bowl 2018 A community "burns" so it can intentionally and confidently move into the future. Keynote speaker will be Charlene Carruthers, a Black, queer feminist community organizer, writer and founding national director of the Black Youth Project 100. Phoenix Matthews will be honored with the Robbie Smith award. Performance by Drum Divas. Free and open to all. 1:12pm - 4:12pm Morgan Park UMC at 11030 S. Longwood Dr., <http://www.affinity95.org>

Artemis Singers concert: Rise Up Local lesbian feminist chorus will present a call-to-action concert of progressive music with guest artist Melanie DeMore and students from Evanston Township High School. 7:00pm Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston. Tickets: <http://www.riseup2018.brownpapertickets.com>

Sunday, Jan. 14

Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole with Shawn Pimental Kaumakaiwa, along with guitarist Shawn Pimental, brings to the stage her Hawaiian culture and her place as a modern, transgender Hawaiian (mahu wahine) in this contemporary world. 7:00pm Old Town School of Folk Music 4544 N Lincoln Ave., 773-728-6000 <http://www.oldtownschool.org/concerts/2018/01-14-2018-kaumakaiwa-kanakaole-with-shawn-pimental/>

Wed., Jan. 17

From Resister to Change Agent: One Year After the Women's March Moderated by Audrey Barsella. Stay connected to Women & Children First's Facebook page for more announcements. 4:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St., <http://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=women%20%26%20children%20first%20bookstore>

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