

**WINDY CITY TIMES**

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

**VOL 33, NO. 22** FEB. 14, 2018

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Gaylon Alcaraz.  
Photo by Vern Hester

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Kevin B. Morrison.  
Photo by AJ Kane

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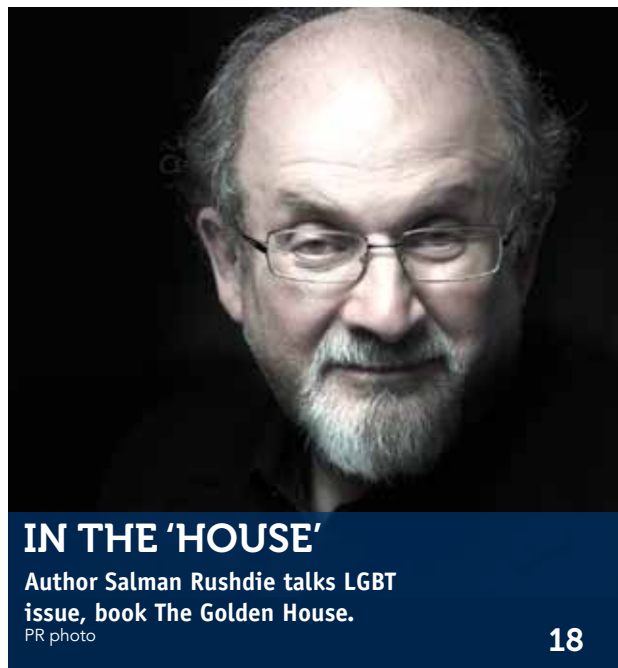
**SUE THE T-REX**

Field Museum dinosaur identifies as nonbinary.  
Photo by Theresa Volpe

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# COOK COUNTY DREAMING

**Alcaraz and Morrison seek county posts**



**IN THE 'HOUSE'**

Author Salman Rushdie talks LGBT issue, book The Golden House.  
PR photo

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**EYE OF THE STORM**

Production looks at life of civil-rights activist Bayard Rustin.  
Photo courtesy of Kemati J. Porter

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**PLAY BALL**

The play The Wolves looks at a high school girls' soccer team.  
Photo of Aurora Real de Asua by Cody Nieset

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# Tuesday, March 13, 2018

## The Clarence Darrow Commemorative Committee

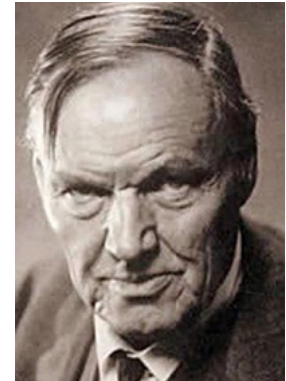
invites you to participate in its annual wreath-tossing & symposium commemorating Darrow on the 80th anniversary of his death

**10 am: Please join us just EAST of the Clarence Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park (the bridge is under construction) for the traditional tossing of flowers and brief speeches**  
**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER at the DARROW BRIDGE:** Marisa Novara, Metropolitan Planning Council.

**10:45 am: Symposium begins in the Museum of Science and Industry: Rosenwald Room**

*Featured Symposium Topics:*

## 80 Years Since Darrow's Death and Celebrating 50 Years of the Fair Housing Law



**Nabeela Rasheed** is a Pakistani, British, American, Muslim, Queer, Lawyer, Biochemist, activist. She moved to the U.S. and worked for a law degree. Dr. Rasheed retrained as a lawyer in Chicago. Recently, she left private practice to become Section Head of Intellectual Property at AbbVie Inc.

**Scott A. Schoettes** is Counsel and HIV Project Director at Lambda Legal, where he litigates impact cases involving HIV discrimination, HIV criminalization, and access to care. Schoettes has twice co-authored amicus briefs for the U.S. Supreme Court, assisted in dismantling the HIV travel and immigration ban, and works on legislative reform of laws criminalizing conduct based on HIV status.



**Catharine O'Daniel** is a criminal defense lawyer in Chicago and the owner of her own law firm. The focus of Catharine's practice is criminal defense and appellate work. She has tried numerous criminal cases to verdict in state and federal courts across the U.S. In 2015, Catharine was awarded the NAACP Thurgood Marshall award for her work in achieving an acquittal before a jury in the case of a man charged with first-degree murder who waited six years in the Cook County Jail for his day in court.

### *Part II: Celebrating 50 Years of the Fair Housing Law*



#### **FAIR HOUSING LAW COMMEMORATION**

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act), as amended, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18), and disability.

**Marisa Novara** joined Metropolitan Planning Council directs MPC's housing and community development work, and manages technical assistance and support to communities facing development challenges related to housing, transportation, transit-oriented development and economic development.

#### **READING FROM DARROW'S CLOSING IN SWEET TRIAL**

Ossian Sweet was a physician in Detroit noted for his armed self-defense of his newly purchased home in a white neighborhood in 1925 against a mob trying to force him out. One of the attacking mob was killed in the violence, and Sweet and his family and friends, who had helped him defend his home, were charged with murder. After an initial mistrial, Sweet and the other defendants were acquitted by an all-white jury in what came to be known as the Sweet Trials.

**Keith Butler** will read from the closing arguments: starred as Kevin in the made-for-TV movie, 3-part series Kevin's Room about a counselor putting together a support group for Black Gay Men. He has made appearances in other TV shows including How I Met Your Mother and movies including Dreamgirls.



The Darrow Bridge is behind the Museum of Science and Industry: Driving south on Lake Shore Drive, pass the light at 57th Drive and turn right at the next light [Science Drive]. You will come almost immediately to Columbia Drive. If you turn left and follow Columbia Drive there is parking near the bridge. **Symposium begins at 10:45 a.m. in the Museum of Science and Industry: The Rosenwald Room.** Beverages and rolls will be served. **NEW THIS YEAR: There is NO entrance to Museum from east side; we all must enter through MAIN ENTRANCE ENTRY HALL—guests will need to check in with the officer at the base of the escalators.** If you are not able to walk far, we suggest you just join us inside at the symposium. Free. Call 773-387-2394.

For more on our speakers, see <https://www.facebook.com/DarrowBridgeorg-207085072651434/> or [www.darrowbridge.org](http://www.darrowbridge.org)

## WINDY CITY TIMES

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Above: WCT reviews the Joffrey Ballet's Modern Masters.  
Photo by Cheryl Mann

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

**PEN AT WORK**

Revered journalists Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward aired their thoughts recently at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU).

Photo of Bernstein (left) courtesy of NEIU

**BORN AND BREAD**

Windy City Times reviews the latest version of *Cyrano*.

Photo of Alex Demetralis and Isabella Snow, by Laura Maloney

**KNICK AT NIGHT**

The latest staycation review involves an overnigher at the Millennium Knickerbocker in Streeterville.

**THAT'S SHOW BIZ**

Find out the latest about Andrew Garfield, Roxane Gay and the show *Black Lightning*.

plus  
**DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

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**Ebonie Davis.**  
Photo from Davis

## ELECTIONS 2018

# No longer on ballot, Ebonie Davis moves forward

BY LIZ BAUDLER

In a crowded race to succeed Leader Barbara Flynn Currie as the 25th District's state representative, Ebonie Davis was the only LGBT-identified candidate. But that is the case no longer: Davis was successfully challenged off the ballot Jan. 30. The Hyde Park Herald reported that of 1,118 signatures Davis collected, the Board of Elections considered 670 invalid.

Candidates required 500 signatures to be placed on a ballot, and the Herald reported that after investigation, Davis missed that number by 52 signatures. According to Davis, after collecting affidavits pertaining to the disputed signatures, perhaps as few as 20 signatures made the difference. First aware of the challenge sometime in December, Davis called the process of verifying signatures "exhausting."

"I've done work with Access Living and members of the disabled community and I had some individuals who signed my petition, but because their handwriting didn't reflect what they may have signed on their voter registration card, it was invalid," Davis said. "What broke my heart was that I had people who were in the hospital, maybe had just gotten out of the hospital, and I had to call them, and ask, and people were, like,

"You can come over now, yes, if it's like 9 o'clock at night, 10 o'clock at night, you can come to my house, I'll sign this affidavit.' They had to print their name, sign it, have their address, line number of the petition, print it again and then re-sign it. And then it all had to be notarized."

Perhaps because of the high number of candidates, Davis said her district had "probably the longest ballot challenge period" of any race. Davis said she had been challenged twice before, by the campaigns of opponents Angelique Collins and Will Calloway, but the successful challenge came from fellow South Shore native Adrienne Irmer's campaign. While Davis' collected affidavits had dispelled previous challenges, Irmer's had been different.

"They did what you call 'dual objections,'" Davis explained. "They not only challenged the person's signature, but they also said the person wasn't registered. Even if the handwriting expert from the board of elections said the signature was valid, and even if we got an affidavit saying the signature was valid, if they weren't registered at that address, then it just didn't go."

Because she was still employed full time by the Illinois Department of Human Rights while running for office, Davis felt she was at a disadvantage when it came to signature collection.

"I think I did exceptionally well considering I entered into this race very late. In less than a month, we were able to get those 1,100 signatures. We were out there hustling really hard," Davis said. "A big difficulty that I had in this race was that I did all of the sexual harassment training for the general assembly. And so a lot my circulating had to be done in the evening time, but keep in mind, in November I was in Springfield for the entire month. Even though I had, what, 1,118 signatures, me having the time to go and check signatures, make sure that they're good. ... It was just very difficult. My opponents, a lot of them were not working at that time—they may not have been working or they're entrepreneurs, they work for themselves. Whereas me, I have the twins who I'm a legal guardian for who are three years old, I've got trainings for my job. I didn't have the luxury to just take off work at that time."

Nevertheless, Davis is looking towards the future, making an effort to rebrand herself and hosting an appreciation party called "Together We With Ebonie" on Feb. 18 at the Quarry Event Center in South Shore.

"I need people to not give up hope," Davis said. "Unfortunately, there are a lot of people in South Shore who are very upset. I've received

calls, people are concerned. I feel like a lot of people feel a sense of hopelessness, and they thought I had it in the bag, but that's the game of politics that people play."

Davis expressed gratitude for all the support she'd gotten throughout her run and wanted to continue to work for her community's needs.

"I want the community to define what they want to do with me: 'together we build,' 'together we learn,' 'together we collaborate,' 'together we educate,' 'together we create safe environments.'.. whatever the community is looking to do that I can assist with, I want to do it collectively and holistically," Davis said. "I'm not too upset about the race. I'm out, but the work is still there. I just need to continue the work that I had already started last year."

On Feb. 11, Davis announced her endorsement of elder-care lawyer and community activist Anne Marie Miles. "I am supporting someone who like myself, has skin in the game," Davis emailed. "A person with a proven track record of selflessly working for the people. I am supporting Anne Marie Miles because her grassroots work within the South Shore Community and the 25th District aligns with my connection to the heart of the people."



**AIDS Foundation of Chicago President/CEO John Peller.**

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

## AFC: State withholds HIV spending

BY MATT SIMONETTE

AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) announced on Feb. 9 that state officials have withheld about \$10 million in spending that had already been approved by the General Assembly for HIV treatment and prevention.

There was no official disclosure or explanation for the withholding, according to AFC officials, who filed a Freedom of Information Act request in order to get an accounting of the spending that has taken place.

"Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has confirmed that as a result of Gov. Rauner's orders, the department is only spending 55 per-

cent of the approved \$25 million of funds for HIV treatment and prevention approved by the state legislature," said a statement from the organization. "The extreme lack of transparency in this executive decision is also of grave concern considering that Illinois has been making great strides in preventing new HIV cases, which have dropped 28 percent from 2006-2015 statewide."

AFC President and CEO John Peller told Windy City Times, "With the next budget address coming up, we're asking how the department has spent the money it received during the current year. ... There was significant underspending of the largest HIV funding line, which we call the 'lump sum.'"

Peller called the underspending "extremely unprecedented—in the 13 or 14 years I've been at the AIDS Foundation, even with all the state budget and funding issues, we have never seen [IDPH] withhold such a large amount of money from HIV spending. ... What we don't know here is, what other funding lines were impacted? Was it just HIV that saw \$10 million withheld, or was this part of a larger pattern?"

He added that the only HIV funding tied to a specific revenue stream is the Quality of Life lottery ticket fund, which was accounted for, and that the \$10 million at issue comes from the state's General Fund.

IDPH officials maintain, however, that the money in question is only a fraction of the total amount the department spends annually on HIV prevention and treatment, and that it is standard procedure to maintain a reserve.

"HIV related activities make up the largest single funded IDPH program," said IDPH spokesperson Melaney Arnold in an email to Windy City Times. "While IDPH commends the work of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, with whom it works closely, it is singling out only

one of the funding sources for the IDPH HIV program.

"Approximately \$91 million in total was appropriated for the HIV program this current fiscal year. IDPH anticipates spending approximately \$80 million before the end of the fiscal year and is in the process of issuing grants from the Quality of Life fund and the African-American HIV/AIDS Response Act fund. Having a reserve in the budget is common and is not something that began with the Rauner administration," she added.

Peller countered, however, that the majority of IDPH's spending has been tied to federal funds marked for specific purposes in fighting HIV. The state funds AFC is asking about, he maintained, allow the state and service providers more latitude in determining how the money is best used.

"For the department to hold back \$10 million is excessive, and nothing that we have seen before," he added. "What's unique about these state dollars is that they're flexible and can be used to fill gaps. ... The department can use those funds creatively and flexibly to provide services that federal funds cannot provide."

## El Rescate event on Valentine's Day

El Rescate—the first permanent housing shelter for homeless LGBTQ youth in the Midwest—will mark its sixth anniversary on Valentine's Day (Feb. 14) with a cocktail fundraiser entitled "With Love, El Rescate," 6-10 p.m., at 2628 W. Division St.

Tickets are \$40 each, and they cover beverages, hors d'oeuvres and live entertainment. All proceeds will be donated to El Rescate.

Visit [ElRescate.eventbrite.com](http://ElRescate.eventbrite.com).

## PASSAGES

**Dr. Kathryn Farrow**

Dr. Kathryn Noel Farrow—physician, scientist, wife, mother and mentor—died peacefully on Feb. 7 following a three-year battle with cancer. She was 46.

After growing up in North Carolina, Kathy studied chemistry at The Colorado College. She received her MD and PhD degrees at the University of Colorado-Denver, during which time she met Rachel Hegarty, her future wife. This was followed by pediatric training at SUNY Stony Brook in New York. Dr. Farrow finished a fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine at The Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and joined the faculty of Northwestern University in 2005, rising rapidly through the academic ranks to Professor of Pediatrics in 2017. Dr. Farrow knew all life was precious and worth fighting for, and her life was anchored on her love of family and work.

Her medical practice at Lurie Children's Hospital and Prentice Women's Hospital focused on intensive care for premature babies, the tiniest and most vulnerable of people. She treated every baby, no matter how small, as a special individual, and she spent just as much time supporting and teaching their parents. With that same dedication, Dr. Farrow cherished every moment of her role as wife and mother to three beautiful young children. One of her proudest days was seeing her twins Maggie and Liam begin school in 2016 alongside their older brother, Daniel. Dr. Farrow reached for every moment possible to advance the field of newborn medicine, teach the next generation of physicians, and spend time with her wife and children.

She was an exacting scientist who challenged the status quo and devoted her career to solving the lung diseases that affect premature infants. Dr. Farrow's work, funded by the National Institutes of Health for more than 10 years, included a



**Dr. Kathy Farrow (left, holding child) and Rachel Hegarty with family.**

rethinking of how oxygen is used to support neonatal respiratory failure. Her advances were recognized through many awards, including a Young Investigator Award from the American Heart Association, the Richard D. Rowe Young Investigator Award from the Society for Pediatric Research, and election to the American Pediatric Society, the highest honor society for pediatricians. Dr. Farrow's own scientific contributions were greatly amplified by her passionate mentorship. One of her greatest legacies is her numerous trainees and young physicians who have launched their successful medical and scientific careers.

Kathy is survived by her wife, Rachel Hegarty; children Daniel, Maggie and Liam; her mother, Joyce; and her brother Andrew. She was preceded in death by her father, Stephen, and son Stephen James.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Feb. 17, 11am, at St. James Cathedral, 65 E. Huron St. Reception to follow. No flowers are wanted; Kathy's strong preference would be a donation

to the Jackson Chance Fund (<http://www.jacksonchance.org/kathrynfarrow/>), which supports families while their baby is in neonatal intensive care.

Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or [Cremation-society.com](http://Cremation-society.com).

## ACLU files appeal in transgender locker-room case

BY MATT SIMONETTE

ACLU of Illinois has appealed a Jan. 25 decision by a Cook County judge refusing an injunction that would have allowed a transgender girl to use the girls locker room at her Palatine high school. The appeal was filed Feb. 7.

Nova Maday filed her lawsuit in Nov. 2017, maintaining that she has been unlawfully denied access to public accommodations. Maday has been required to change separately from other students before and after her gym class, usually in either the school nurse's office or in another isolated changing facility. This has resulted in her frequently being tardy for class, and she now would like access to the girls locker room.

"We decided after speaking with our client to file our appeal of this decision yesterday," said lead counsel John Knight in a Feb. 8 statement. "The Court's ruling allows District 211 officials to treat Nova and other students who are transgender differently from their fellow students, simply because they are transgender. Moreover, the Court's ruling hurts many other students who, under the current ruling, could face discrimination in their schools across this State because of who they are—because of their religion, race, sex, or because they have a disability. Students with disabilities could, for example, be segregated in a

part of the cafeteria where other students could avoid associating with or seeing them. Our civil rights laws must not be weakened and undermined in this way."

Maday is a student in Township High School District 211 which, in 2015, made national headlines when it contended with a similar lawsuit from another transgender girl seeking public accommodations access. The federal government intervened in that case, which was ultimately settled in the student's favor. A lawsuit against the school district and other government officials was subsequently filed by other families and is still being litigated. Maday and her attorneys say that school officials merely settled the details of the first student's case and did not subsequently craft any school-wide policies protecting trans students.

## WORLD NEWS

### Bermuda revokes same-sex marriage

Less than a year after Bermuda legally approved same-sex marriages, the governor of the British island territory signed a bill into law on Feb. 7 that replaced it with domestic partnerships.

Gov. John Rankin said the new law gives gay and lesbian couples the same rights as heterosexual couples. However, the Bermuda government will continue to recognize same-sex couples who wed before legal reversal as married couples.

Chris Bryant, an openly gay member of Parliament, tweeted that Bermuda's decision to ban same-sex marriages "totally undermines the [United Kingdom's] effort to advance LGBT rights," according to The Huffington Post.

The Huffington Post item is at [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/bermuda-reverses-same-sex-marriage-law\\_us\\_5a7b19e4b0c6726e0f3154](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/bermuda-reverses-same-sex-marriage-law_us_5a7b19e4b0c6726e0f3154).



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This project was supported by Grant #2016-UW-AX-0019 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women.

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**ELECTIONS 2018:**  
**COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER (4TH DISTRICT)**

# LGBTQ activist Gaylon Alcaraz talks issues, ideas for county race

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

LGBTQ activist Gaylon Alcaraz (D) is running in the primary against incumbent Stanley Moore and challengers Marcel Bright and Maria M. Barlow. Alcaraz was one of the founding board members of Affinity Community Services and is currently in a Ph.D. program for community psychology. There is no Republican candidate for this office.

**Windy City Times: Why did you decide to run?**

Gaylon Alcaraz: As an activist who has been on the ground working for 25 years, this seemed like the natural next step—but I did not think about it that way. The sugar tax was a catalyst in my thinking, but it is really the absence of leadership in this district. This area does not have the resources we deserve and I want to change that.

**WCT: What do you see are the most important issues facing the county, and how would you address them if you are elected?**

GA: The population drop is a very serious issue. It started with people driving over the border into Indiana or the collar counties to buy gas and pop and then they would shop for other things due to the lower sales tax. This takes revenue out of the county. People also decided to move away from the county and as a result Cook County has had the largest population drop across the country in the last two years. They are tired of being overtaxed and under resourced.

I have been talking to small business owners in the district to get a snapshot of some of the issues they are facing. The common thing I hear from them is the taxes they have to pay and how little resources they receive in return. Some of these business are going to have to close because they will not make it.

Food insecurity in food deserts is another issue. One way to deal with this is community farming and this would provide jobs and internships. This would also provide people with the fresh fruit and vegetables that are absent from the stores in their neighborhoods.

Young people have no resources in certain areas including this district. School closings and the lack of jobs that young people used to do like being a cashier or fast food worker because adults have those jobs to provide for their families. A whole generation of people have been demoralized because of this.

There is also the issue of people's mental health not being addressed across the county and especially the southeast side of Chicago.

**WCT: What additional measures would you advocate for to provide more transparency in how the county government is run?**

GA: When I was out collecting my petitions this was one of the top issues among voters. I developed my platform by talking to the people I met. Many of them did not even know who their county commissioner was and had never heard the name Stanley Moore. I plan on having an open and accessible office where I can engage with my constituents. I will bring them in to talk about budgeting and have multiple public meetings around the district every single month so they can get their questions answered. Bringing issues to the community first is important. This might have stopped the backlash that happened around the sugar tax where no discussions happened between commissioners and their constituents prior to the vote. To many things are done in the dark.

**WCT: Tell me about this public bank system you are advocating for.**

GA: In the book "Chicago is not broke" the authors talk about creative, progressive and visionary ideas that I really like. The public bank idea is where municipal bodies deposit their money into this bank and divest from Wall Street. The interest and dividends that come from that money will generate significant revenue. We could do that here. For example, the county's budget is \$5 billion so just imagine what that kind of additional money that could be generated due to interest and dividends that could go back into the coffers.

**WCT: You say the way campaigns are run are outdated. Tell me more about this.**

GA: Engaging with the community is more than yard signs. You need to have your boots on the ground to get your message out.

**WCT: You indicated that you would be a full-time commissioner with no other job outside of finishing your Ph.D. Why is that important to you?**

GA: It is important to be out there in the community otherwise you will not know what is going on and the only way to do that is to be a full time commissioner who is engaged with their constituents. There are two types of people who run for political office, someone who wants to be somebody or someone who wants to do something. I want to do things for my district.

**WCT: How will your LGBTQ activism, as well as other previous work and advocacy initiatives that you have been a part of, inform how you do your job as commissioner?**

GA: You have to embrace everyone, and di-



**Gaylon Alcaraz.**

Photo by Vern Hester

versity is key. This is a very diverse district in terms of race and income status. My LGBTQ activism was all about being inclusive. The biggest thing is I have been an on the ground activist entrenched in the community, not sitting on a perch directing everyone else. This is what sets me apart from every other candidate in this race. Community activism is about people power and that is what my entire campaign is about. I will bring that to my role as commissioner and this includes working with the other commissioners and government officials that I might not agree with to help my district.

**WCT: What do you see are the most important issues or obstacles facing the LGBTQ community and how would you address them?**

GA: Jeanne Ives—who is running for the GOP nomination against Gov. Rauner—released a political ad that had derogatory images attacking the LGBTQ community. People still have this negative view of other human beings and that ad is the perfect example of people not respecting who other people are and how they identify themselves. Spreading falsehoods about the LGBTQ community, which that ad did, is also an issue. If people think it is okay to make derogatory comments or ads about the LGBTQ community then they will think it is OK to do the same thing toward people of color for example. We have to demand that our leadership respects the diverse community that is in their district and beyond.

**WCT: Are there any changes you would make in how the county jail and health and hospital systems are run? If so, what are they?**

GA: I like several of the initiatives that have

already been done around criminal justice reform. One is bail bond reduction and now we are seeing justice for poor people of color who would otherwise be locked up pending trial. This has reduced the jail population, thus reducing the budget line for Cook County Jail and that is what we should be doing. This has a positive impact on the county's budget.

I am a strong proponent of restorative-justice principles like ban the box, where employers cannot ask someone if they have been convicted of a crime. It allows people to come back to their communities and have a fair shot going forward.

We have to provide healthcare for the most marginalized among us as well as those who come to the county hospital because they have inadequate healthcare coverage. When I was looking at a county budget meeting one of the hospital administrators was attempting to explain to Commissioner Sims about why they do not bill people who could afford to pay. The administrator said it takes too many resources and is time consuming which made no sense to me because other hospitals do this all the time.

The Chicago Women's Health Center uses a very successful 35-year old sliding scale model of patient billing. They negotiate with patients to see what they can pay for the services they receive. This model can easily be replicated at the County Hospital so new revenue can be generated.

**WCT: Now that is has been repealed, how do you feel about the soda tax? Would you have voted for it?**

GA: I would not have ever voted for it. It was a regressive tax and I am against them. It should never have been put on the table.

**WCT: What do you see are the best ways to raise revenue so the budget is balanced that don't involve regressive taxation on everyone in the county?**

GA: Why are we taxing people more and not giving them resources in return? My daughter lives in Brooklyn and they have high taxes there but she gets so many more resources including free entertainment of all kinds, park district events and afterschool programs.

Enhancing small businesses by providing grants or micro-loans so they can start or expand their business which would assist in community hiring. Then people will spend money in their own neighborhood.

We need to utilize our natural resources such as our forest preserve. One way is to have 5K family walk/runs at the preserve. This would raise revenue and combat health issues that are facing many county residents.

**WCT: Research is very important to you. Tell me how that translates to how voters look at candidates.**

GA: Doing research on candidates is very important. You find out what their values are including where they have worked, organizations they are involved with and their circle of friends.

**For more information, visit <http://www.gaylon2018.com/>.**

## Correction

In the Jan. 31 issue, Boy director Damon Kiely's name was misspelled.

Windy City Times sincerely regrets the error.



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# Holocaust museum official on making a difference

BY MATT SIMONETTE

For Matthew Sackel, who manages the education team at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie, the most important aspect of his job is that young visitors come away with the message that one person can make a difference in the world.

"I think a lot of people might have the idea that the Holocaust Museum might be sad and somber, but it's actually a very uplifting experience to come here and realize that so many people fight for change, and you can be a part of that too," he said.

Sackel, who is gay, has worked for the museum since 2008, when it was a storefront operation in downtown Skokie. He came on board as librarian to prepare nearly 10,000 volumes of material for moving into the museum's current 65,000-square-foot facility. In his current position, he facilitates and schedules over 100 school field trips to the museum each month.

"Our student groups come in from all over the Midwest, but right now we have groups coming in from Florida and Louisiana," he explained. Sackel works with students ranging from third grade up through college undergraduates, coordinating with docents to make sure "that they have the best experience that they can."

Tours are tailored for specific age ranges. Elementary school tours, for example, usually focus on "social and emotional learning, being a part of their community and an 'upstander,' a person who makes change for positive reasons," Sackel explained. "Little kids wonder, 'What can I possibly do?' Everything from recycling, being in an after-school club, picking up an elderly neighbor's mail—those are all changes little kids can make."

Sackel also assists groups who come in for professional development trainings. "I coordinate trainings with Chicago Police Department, Cook County Department of Corrections and the Cook County Sheriff's Office," he said. "They come in and do all-day trainings, learning about communities and interacting with those communities. We talk about the history of policing, and have some great instructors, some of them retired CPD officers."

Several trainings for school teachers are also offered throughout the year, focusing on how classrooms can address difficult subjects, such as human rights crises or contemporary politics. "They're not something teachers normally have a skill-set to talk about, so we're happy to provide [guidance] for them," Sackel said.

The Museum recently opened the Take a Stand Center, a multi-gallery exhibit focusing on social-justice issues. Sackel called it a blend of "storytelling and technology so visitors can expose historical and contemporary upstanders."



**Matthew Sackel.**  
Photo courtesy of Sackel

One of those 'up standers' is lesbian activist Edie Windsor, he noted.

"She passed away while we were setting up the exhibit," he recalled. "We had spoken to her several times from our offices. After she passed away, we had to change the lettering on the signage to reflect the fact that she is now a 'historical person,' not a 'contemporary figure' any more."

The exhibit features seven holographic representations of Holocaust survivors giving testimonials about their experiences.

"What we're basically telling teachers is that this is how the Holocaust curriculum is going to have to be taught moving into the future," Sackel said. "Now we're able to have Holocaust survivors come in and speak, for most of the field trips, in a 40-minute Q-and-A session at the end. Moving forward, probably in the next eight-to-ten years, that population is not going to be here."

Sackel said that the museum attempts to tackle social justice and contemporary political issues by applying lessons learned from the Holocaust.

"It's about trying to reduce the number of 'by-standers' and having more people make a difference," he explained. "It's important to let people know that [the Holocaust] was not a standalone incident. That was not our intent. Our intent is to draw focus to inhumanities and how society has grown from them ... by reminding people that we have a lot of things to deal with, but now we have a lot of tools to deal with them."

## Lambda Legal appeals senior housing bias case

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Attorneys from Lambda Legal have appealed a ruling against a client who says she was discriminated against at her Niles retirement community because she is a lesbian.

Lambda attorneys argued the case Feb. 6 in the Seventh Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals on behalf of Marsha Wetzel, who alleges that she was discriminated against by fellow residents, actions that the facility's staff ignored and subsequently retaliated against Wetzel for complaining about.

A federal court found that the facility could not be held liable for the actions of its residents, a finding that Wetzel and her attorneys are now disputing.

Lambda Legal Senior Attorney Karen Loewy, who argued the case, said that the case in large part revolves around the issue of a landlord's liability when a resident in their properties harassed.

"The district court dismissed the case because they said that we hadn't alleged that the facility itself had a particular anti-gay or sexist, discriminatory animus," she added. "The argument that we've made to the appeals court is that that's actually irrelevant. When a landlord is made aware—in this case, repeatedly aware, over the course of months and months—that discriminatory harassment is happening in their facility, it's their obligation to put an end to it. The only discriminatory intent that we needed to allege is on the part of the harassers. There was no shortage of allegations about that."

Should the appeals court accept that premise, Wetzel's claim would be reinstated and there would be a trial. Loewy said that members of the judicial panel took issue with the opposing counsel's condescending attitudes toward seniors at various points in the Feb. 6 hearing.

Wetzel was "glad to have her day in court," Loewy said. "In particular, she was glad to hear that the court seemed to understand what was at stake."

## Trans women sue Illinois Department of Corrections

Six transgender women have sued the Illinois Department of Corrections over what they say are the gross inadequacies in the medical treatment provided to prisoners with gender dysphoria, according to a press release from the ACLU of Illinois.

The lawsuit says that the plaintiffs suffer extreme harms due to the outright denial of care related to gender dysphoria, long delays in the administration of care (if it is provided at all) and systemic failure to follow prevailing medi-

cal standards for the treatment of this medical condition.

The plaintiffs do not seek damages, but want declaratory and injunctive relief. For instance, the suit wants the "Defendants and their agents, employees, officials, and all persons acting in concert with them under color of state law, to develop and implement, as soon as practical, a plan to eliminate the substantial risk of serious harm that Plaintiffs and members of the Plaintiff Class suffer due to Defendants' inadequate evaluation and treatment of gender dysphoria."

John Knight and Ghirlandi Guidetti of the ACLU of Illinois (along with Catherine L. Fitzpatrick, Jordan M. Heinz, Erica B. Zolner, Megan M. New and Scott Lerner of the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP) are representing the plaintiffs.

The suit—*Janiah Monroe, Marilyn Melendez, Ebony Stamps, Lydia Helena Vision, Sora Kykendall, and Sasha Reed v. Bruce Rauner, John Baldwin, Steve Meeks, and Melvin Hinton*—is at [https://www.aclu-il.org/sites/default/files/field\\_documents/complaint\\_1.31.18.pdf](https://www.aclu-il.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/complaint_1.31.18.pdf).

## Lambda files suit in union case

Lambda Legal—joined by the Human Rights Campaign, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National LGBTQ Task Force and PFLAG—filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)*.

The case challenges unions' ability to collect "fair share" fees from workers who, while not themselves part of the union, still benefit from union representation.

Janus, an Illinois case, was argued March 1, 2017, and decided March 21 as an appellate case in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. The appellate court affirmed the lower court's decision against the plaintiffs-appellants, Mark Janus and Brian Trygg.

Oral argument in *Janus v. AFSCME* is scheduled for Feb. 26. Read Lambda Legal's amicus brief at [https://www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/legal-docs/us\\_janus\\_20180119\\_amicus-brief](https://www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/legal-docs/us_janus_20180119_amicus-brief).

## HIV-criminalization panel Feb. 15

Legal Health Council for Justice and TPAN will co-host "HIV Criminalization: Beyond Shame and Stigma" on Thursday, Feb. 15, at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The event will include panelist Dr. Trevor Hoppe of State University of New York (SUNY)-Albany, whose recently published book, *Punishing Disease*, addresses this topic. Other panelists will include Sex Workers Outreach Project's Caitlin Barlow; and Maurice Chapman, formerly of South Suburban HIV/AIDS Regional Clinics.

Visit "HIV Criminalization: Beyond Shame & Stigma" on Eventbrite.com.

**ELECTIONS 2018:**  
**COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER (15TH DISTRICT)**

# Kevin B. Morrison: Openly gay candidate on county, LGBT issues

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Openly gay community organizer and campaign staffer Kevin B. Morrison (D) is running in the primary against Ravi Raji. The incumbent is Republican Timothy Owen Schneider, who is currently serving his third term in office and is chair of Illinois' Republican Party.

**Windy City Times: Why did you decide to run?**

Kevin B. Morrison: I was not planning on running in this election cycle but two things changed that caused me to run for office.

I had just returned from working on the presidential election in Ohio and started working for my Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi as a special projects coordinator. In that job I had to build relationships with the people of the 8th District. It was partially all these incredible Democratic voices finally standing up and taking on incumbent Republicans in DuPage County. That was a huge inspiration to me.

Also, at the same time I was hearing about the frustrations people were having with the direction the county government was headed. When I found out that nobody had stepped up to take on our commissioner Tim Schneider, who is a proud Trump supporter/big backer of Gov. Rauner and was the one who excitedly gave the GOP delegates to Trump at the Republican convention, I felt that was unacceptable. Then I found out a Republican [Ravi Raju] had been petitioning as a Democrat and will be my primary challenger on March 20, I decided I had to put my name on the ballot to make sure there was a strong Democratic voice to represent the people of the 15th District.

**WCT: How would you approach the job differently than what the incumbent has done in the past?**

KBM: I would actually do my job. I am running to be a voice for the entire 15th District and put our county on a better path moving forward. Our current commissioner has lots of other responsibilities that pull him in other directions, including his own business. He did not knock on a single door to get his petitions signed so he could get on the ballot and is not someone who goes out and is active in the community at all.

I will continue to hear from my constituents by knocking on doors and holding town halls when it is not election season. Also, my office will be easily accessible so everyone can come and tell me the issues they are facing. I think being accessible to district residents is incredibly important. I also plan on attending every commissioner meeting, unlike the current commissioner who has missed 15 percent of those meetings.

**WCT: You are one of the younger candidates [28] running for office. How will that affect the way you do your job?**

KBM: I recognize that being elected to this office would mean I would become one of the youngest commissioners ever elected. I think it is time that we start a new page in Cook County government, and for once begin to elect representation that reflects the residents being served. I may become one of the youngest members of the Cook County Board, but that would not change the service I would seek to provide for all Cook County residents.

I believe this is an opportunity to elect a candidate who has the energy and stamina to deal with the demands of this office—someone who would bring new innovative ideas to the table, and continuously push for policies that would protect the livelihoods of working- and middle-class families. It has often been the case that elected officials pass policies of which negative impacts they would not live to see, so the work and policies I would propose would have the best interests of the county at heart now and into the future.

**WCT: You indicated that you would be a full-time commissioner with no other job. Why is that important to you?**

KBM: Cook County government represents a population of over 5 million individuals. Seeing that the board oversees the second largest county budget in the nation, our residents deserve commissioners who devote their time to the office they were elected to represent. I want to be a full-time commissioner because I recognize how important and complex the job is. I would be elected to be there representative, not part of the



**Kevin B. Morrison.**

Photo by AJ Kane Photography

time, but all of the time. I would not part ways with my title throughout my term, and so the top priority of any commissioner should be to serving the needs of Cook County residents.

**WCT: What do you see are the most important issues facing the county and how would you address those issues if elected?**

KBM: We have a commissioner who is only representing the multimillionaires and is fighting for policies that will crush and eliminate the middle class. I am sick and tired of the burden falling on the backs of working and middle class families. There needs to be a fairer tax system. All these new taxes are harming anyone who is not rich and that needs to change. We need to get rid of those loopholes that give corporations tax breaks.

There needs to be a new push to break down the barriers that are stopping small business creation here in the county. I want to see individuals who might be looking to locate their business outside the county get a tax exemption which

will allow individuals to invest in their business operations and get it on firm ground. Then after a two year period, the business would have to start paying property taxes. This will help with the deficit in the long run.

Our county is currently \$139 billion in debt. That worries me and I do not want to see our county fiscally collapse because of it. We need to find ways to chip away at that debt so we can safeguard our county moving forward. I do not want us to be another Detroit because that would hurt every Cook County resident.

**WCT: What additional measures would you advocate for to provide more transparency in how the county government is run?**

KBM: Right now you can see what areas are receiving our taxpayer dollars but we are not able to see how each dollar is spent. If we were more transparent there, we would be able to have a larger voice in ensuring that every single taxpayer dollar is being used to the fullest. I want to make sure there is no waste and we are getting the best deals when we spend money. We need to have this available on the county website and there should be someone at every commission office that knows this information when a constituent calls us.

**WCT: As a member of the LGBTQ community, what will you bring to the commission?**

KBM: When I decided to run for this office, I was unaware that the Cook County Board had yet to elect a member that was openly LGBTQ. I believe it is incredibly important that all elected bodies represent the diversity of the communities that they serve. Cook County has a large LGBTQ population. Though my voice would only represent a small segment of our vast LGBTQ umbrella, I would make it my duty to bring a voice to the board that represents the needs and issues facing our entire community. My lived experience and advocacy would allow me to include issues facing Cook County's LGBTQ residents in all policy issues that come up for discussion. I believe it is incredibly important that all vital services that the county provides meet the needs of whomever they are dealing with at the time. No member of our community should feel uncomfortable or discriminated against by any service provided by the county, and I pledge to be a voice that will push for better trainings and more diligent overview of our staff in order to ensure that all Cook

## ELECTIONS 2018 Steinem attends Marie Newman benefit

Marie Newman's campaign to unseat 3rd District U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski received a boost from long-time feminist activist Gloria Steinem Feb. 4.

Steinem came to town to campaign for Newman, including appearing at a benefit for the campaign hosted in Beverly by Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer, Jessica Scheller, Gerry Gainer and Maureen Gainer Reilly.

Photo of Marie Newman (left, speaking) and Gloria Steinem by Barb Kay (Bkay-opa.gallery)





County residents receive fair and equal treatment through county services.

**WCT: What kinds of LGBTQ related things have you done in the past?**

KBM: I was a member of my high school's GSA [gay-straight alliance]; in college, I was a member of the Spectrum Organization on campus. I have always volunteered and worked for candidates who are pro-LGBTQ, including pushing for those policies. When the Trump administration first started eliminating protections for transgender students, I organized a rally for transgender people to be able to speak out about their issues on North Halsted Street. Within two days there were 2,500 people interested in attending and it attracted all local media within Chicago. I also volunteered in District 211—where I went to high school, at Conant—with a number of pro-transgender school-board candidates and all of them got elected to the school board. District 211 has been in the national spotlight because of its pro-transgender policies. I also volunteer for various LGBTQ groups.

**WCT: What do you see are the most important issues or obstacles facing the LGBTQ community and how would you address them?**

KBM: I want to see sensitivity training for every county employee; especially those at the county hospitals, law enforcement and the courts. I want to make sure that every LGBTQ person who needs the vital services of the county gets the best treatment possible. That means they are comfortable having any kind of conversation with those people. More specifically, transgender people and people of color across all sexual orientation and gender identities who experience the most negative interactions with county officials.

As a commissioner, I would be able to talk with state legislators to push for greater protections for LGBTQ people. One of the things I would talk to them about is making a law that requires an LGBTQ inclusive history curriculum and sex education across the state.

**WCT: Are there any changes you would make in how the county jail and health and hospital**

## ELECTIONS 2018

### LGBTQ political activists attend Quinn AG event

On Feb. 8, Rocco Claps, former director of the Illinois Department of Human Rights; Rick Garcia, founder of Equality Illinois; state Rep. Sam Yingling (D-Round Lake); his husband Lowell Jaffe; and civil-rights attorney Jacob Meister attended an event supporting former Gov. Pat Quinn's campaign for attorney general.

"Pat Quinn not only signed the equal marriage bill he aggressively worked the House and Senate to get the votes necessary for passage," said Garcia. "We owe him our vote and our support."

**From left: Rocco Claps, Rick Garcia, former Gov. Pat Quinn, state Rep. Sam Yingling, Lowell Jaffe and Jacob Meister.**

Photo courtesy of Garcia



**systems are run? If so, what are they?**

KBM: We should have LGBTQ counselors present in our jail systems to make it easier for LGBTQ people in jail to report any misgivings they may have while they are incarcerated. I would also like to see people accused of violent and non-violent offenses separated. Also, have counselors who specifically help LGBTQ people get reintroduced into their communities after being locked up. We need to find ways to rehabilitate these individuals so they do not return to jail.

In terms of our hospital system, any LGBTQ person should be comfortable speaking to all the healthcare professionals and staff they interact with while receiving care.

**WCT: Would you have voted to repeal the soda tax?**

KBM: I would never have voted for it in the first place because it was a bit too extreme. This tax

had huge negative impact across the county. My family owns a restaurant in the county and they buy soda bags that hook up to the soda fountain in the restaurant. The media never told the public that it was not how many ounces in the soda syrup bag that would be charged the tax, it was the ounces of syrup and carbonated water that created the soda. This caused many customers to stop purchasing soda at restaurants, like my family's, which resulted in decreased revenue for their small business.

**WCT: What do you see are the best ways to raise revenue so the budget is balanced that do not involve regressive taxation on everyone in the county?**

KBM: I am very much against regressive taxes. We have fallen into the habit of putting revenue generation on the backs of working and middle class families.

Big corporations in the county are able to forgo their property taxes by leasing properties. There is so much revenue that is lost because of that.

**WCT: If elected, how will your previous work and volunteer backgrounds inform how you do your job?**

KBM: I have been incredibly involved in political and issues-based campaigns. In college, I interned for a couple of local aldermen. I worked on the Clinton campaign starting as an organizer and became a regional organizing director for northeast Ohio in charge of four counties. I am someone who's major focus has always been, what is the way that I can give back and help promote better policies that will drive us forward. I see this commissioner seat as a way to give back to my community and help make it better.

**For more information, visit <http://www.kevinbarron.com/>.**

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## viewpoints



**Glenn  
MAGPANTAY**

## Amid all the noise in D.C., dreamers' fate hangs in the balance

*Forget about Trump's tweets and demand that Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell pass a clean Dream Act.*

In September, Donald Trump said he would cancel the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program unless Congress passes the Dream Act. President Obama created DACA, which has helped thousands of LGBTQ undocumented young people to work, study, and improve their lives in this country without the fear of deportation. Many of them come from Asian countries.

The Dream Act will preserve DACA and will provide LGBTQ undocumented young people with employment opportunities, educational opportunities, and even a path to citizenship. Asian-Americans, South Asians, Southeast Asians, and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing racial group in the United States today and the largest segment of new immigrants.

Over 169,000 APIs are eligible for DACA; 267,000

undocumented immigrants are LGBT, of which a disproportionate share is API. According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, over 16,000 people from South Korea, the Philippines, India, Pakistan and China have benefited from DACA.

Trump's cancellation of DACA will subject 800,000 potential beneficiaries to again live in fear of deportation. For LGBTQ people, the stakes are even higher unless Congress passes the Dream Act. Thousands of LGBTQ young people could be deported. Many of them to countries where they cannot live their full and authentic LGBTQ lives.

Many counties in Asia and the Pacific prohibit same-sex relations, such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. In Indonesia, police shaved the heads of trans women and publicly caned a gay couple for having consensual sex. In most Asian and Oceania countries, transgender people cannot legally change their gender markers on their IDs, and LGBTQ people are not protected by anti-discrimination laws.

Tony Choi is a 24-year-old gay South Korean DACA beneficiary from New Jersey. In 2010, his options were to live a closeted life taking care of his mother with cancer in the U.S. or return to Korea where his LGBTQ identity would subject him to harsh hazing for two years in the mandatory military service. Korean military penal law also criminalizes homosexuality. Because of DACA he is serving the community right here in New York.

Bupendra Ram is a South Asian Dreamer from Fiji who came to the United State when he was only two years old. He is the first person in his family to attain a college degree.

A broad coalition of civil-rights groups, businesses, educational institutions and religious communities support the Dream Act. The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance has been pushing for a clean Dream Act with no enforcement provisions, mobilizing 10,000 postcards, phone calls, and emails to senators and representatives.

Congress needs to hear from people now more than ever. Send an email to Congress to support a clean Dream Act. Call House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader McConnell at (202) 225-3121 and demand that they support LGBT undocumented youth by passing a clean Dream Act.

**Glenn D. Magpantay is executive director of the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), a nationwide federation of LGBTQ Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander (API) organizations. The organizations seeks to build the organizational capacity of local LGBT API groups, develop leadership, and expand collaborations to better challenge LGBT-bias and racism.**

The original article appeared at <https://www.advocate.com/commentary/2018/2/06/amid-all-noise-dc-dreamers-fate-hangs-balance>.

Run with permission from NQAPIA

## Letters to the editor:

*The letter below is being run with permission from Phill Wilson:*

*Phill Wilson steps down*

This year's National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day commemoration is bittersweet for me. I have been involved in efforts to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic for more than 35 years. Today, I am announcing that I will soon be stepping down as the Black AIDS Institute's president and CEO, where I have had the privilege of serving for the last 19 years.

In 1983, when I started doing this work, none of us could have imagined this mysterious new disease, first identified at UCLA Medical Center, would become the defining health issue of our generation. For 19 years I have been saying "AIDS in America is a Black disease." No matter how you look at it—through the lens of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, level of education, or region of the country where you live—Black

people bear the brunt of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in this country, and the world for that matter. No path, no strategy, no tactic will end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in America without ending the epidemic in Black America. We have made tremendous progress over the last two decades toward bringing about the end of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Today, we have the tools to end the AIDS epidemic in the United States. The question is whether we have the political and moral will to use those tools effectively, humanely, and in an inclusive manner. We are at yet another turning point in the trajectory of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Efforts to end the epidemic, provide treatment for those already infected, or prevent new infections are under attack. Are we are going to build on the remarkable advances we have made over the last two decades or are we going to go back to the dark days of despair and death?

The Black AIDS Institute is committed to doing everything in its power to end this epidemic. Going back or simply resisting the current attacks is unacceptable. Moving forward is the only option. A commitment to new executive leadership is a part of a larger effort on the part of the Institute to pre-

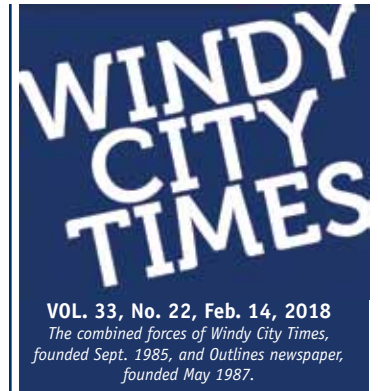
pare for the next generation of HIV/AIDS response in Black communities. This commitment is more important now than ever before. I am very proud of the work we have done over the last 19 years and humbled to have had the privilege of working with so many amazing organizations and remarkable individuals.

The time is right for this change. The Institute has never been stronger. With a strong board of directors; and smart, capable and committed staff; a reinvigorated body of ambassadors, spokespeople, and supporters; the Black AIDS Institute has the infrastructure and capacity to carry out this change and deliver on a bold new vision of advocacy, mobilization, capacity building and delivery of direct service.

But, as always, they cannot do it alone. They will need your help. We are all in this together. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny."

*Yours in the struggle,  
Phill Wilson*

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Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.**



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## Come to the 'Cabaret'

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Windy City Times analyzes Paramount Theatre's Cabaret.

Photo of Kelly Felthous (center) and cast, by Liz Lauren

### THEATER

# New musical spotlights civil-rights activist Bayard Rustin

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Look at Bayard Rustin's career as a civil-rights leader and one question becomes glaringly apparent: Why isn't he a household name alongside Rosa Parks and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King? His accomplishments paved the way for both lions of the civil-rights movement:

—In 1942, Rustin refused to move to the back of a Louisville bus bound for Nashville. More than a decade before Parks became the face of the seminal 1955 bus boycott, Rustin was arrested, beaten bloody and eventually sent to work on a chain gang for his refusal to give up his seat.

—In 1947, Rustin organized a Freedom Ride, journeying with 16 men through North Carolina to challenge state segregation laws. It wasn't until 14 years later that James Farmer organized what became widely recognized as first official Freedom Ride.

—In 1963, Rustin was the chief organizer for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, working hand-in-glove with leaders including King and Stokely Carmichael.

—Rustin also helped create the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, advised King on non-violent tactics and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013.

In all, it's a track record that leaves you wondering why Rustin has faded from history compared to his better known peers.

The answer, according to playwright and histo-

rian McKinley Johnson, is clear. Rustin was gay. His arrests for "perversion"—along with his refusal to apologize for loving men—made many Civil Rights leaders view him as a liability. While King and others became the public icons of the movement, Rustin was moved to the back, his influential essays published under a pseudonym, his involvement downplayed and sometimes outright denied by those with him in the forefront.

With his new musical *Eye of the Storm*, Johnson puts a spotlight on Rustin.

"People used the fact that he was gay against him," said Johnson. "The musical is about how and why he was pushed aside."

Running through March 11 at the eta Creative Arts Foundation in the Grand Crossing neighborhood, *Eye of the Storm* has been in development there for more than two years, said eta Producing Artistic Director Kemati J. Porter. "One of the things I've keep thinking about with this piece is who decides who gets to be a hero, and how we define a hero. Our audiences expect stories that dig into these kinds of questions, especially as they pertain to African-Americans," Porter said.

In *Eye of the Storm*, Johnson envisions a 1960 meeting during which movement leaders try to force Rustin to step away from a planned march on Washington. Johnson's dialogue is pure fiction, but it is inspired by real events.

In 1963, the FBI—spurred on by then-Senator Strom Thurmond—got its hands on a photo of Dr. Martin Luther King bathing. In the photo, Rustin



Jacob McCoy (Walter Naegle) and Donald Fitzdarryl (Bayard Rustin) in *Eye of the Storm*. Photo by Kemati J. Porter

stands nearby, and King is talking to him. The FBI threatened to release the photo and "out" King and Rustin as romantic partners. In light of the FBI threat, NAACP President Roy Wilkins reportedly demanded that Rustin be removed from any position of visible leadership within the organization. Rustin's arrest for "perversion" in 1953 (he was caught in a car with two other men) exacerbated the situation.

It wasn't just Rustin's sexuality that bothered people. "He was really radical for his time," said Johnson. "Early on, he believed in sit-ins. He believed in protesting. That kind of confrontational, in-your-face action wasn't something people were used to. It was dangerous."

Rustin's religion also contributed toward rendering him comparatively unseen amid his peers. "He was a Quaker," said Johnson, "As a Quaker, he didn't believe in having a spotlight on what he did. For Rustin, it was about what God was doing through him, rather than what he was doing himself."

Johnson was drawn to Rustin's story in part by the activist's religious beliefs and how they fueled his actions.

"Much of my work has dealt with faith—with people battling to accomplish what they believe

God has placed in their hearts. Rustin had a deep mission. It didn't matter what circumstances were placed against him—he believed that God had given him a path and he was going to follow it."

With co-composer Marshall Titus, Johnson is theatricalizing that path with a score influenced by soul, R&B, jazz, gospel and Stephen Sondheim. And while *Eye of the Storm* is set over half a century ago, it resonates today, Johnson said.

"The relevance comes out in the protests," Johnson said. "You look at these men planning protests so long ago, and you realize that protest is what moves things forward, as much now as back then."

"Activists can be flawed, obviously," he added. "But in this piece, they were trying to do the right thing. And they eventually came together and helped make something big happen."

**Eye of the Storm: The Rustin Bayard Story runs through March 11 at eta Creative Arts Foundation, 7558 S. South Shore Ave. There will be a panel discussion of race, civil rights and gay rights prior to the Feb. 10 performance. For more information, go to [Etacreativearts.org](http://Etacreativearts.org) or call 773-752-3955.**

## THEATER REVIEW

# You Got Older

Playwright: Clare Barron  
At: Steppenwolf Downstairs Theater,  
1650 N. Halsted St.  
Tickets: 312-335-1650,  
Steppenwolf.org; \$20-\$89  
Runs through: March 11

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

In the second half of Clare Barron's *You Got Older*, there's a sex scene that's at once tender, awkward, funny, sad and slightly cruel. Recently fired attorney Mae (Caroline Neff), is holed up in her sister's childhood bedroom. Her dad (Francis Guinan) is in the bedroom next door, dying of tracheal cancer. Mae hasn't been touched romantically in months, but she's having a hard time getting in the mood. Her explanation of why is candid:

"I feel," she tells Glenn (Mac Davis), "like every blowjob I give is a blowjob closer to death."

The line is a collision at the intersection of sex and mortality. It's also a line that speaks to the



Caroline Neff and Gabriel Ruiz in *You Got Older*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

troubling issues rolling insistently through *You Got Older*. Moving back home care for her father after losing her job, Mae's life is in a mire. She's buffeted by problems that require grown-up coping mechanisms; financial insecurity, heartbreak, a dying parent and her own health issues are among them.

Not only is Mae ill-equipped to deal, she doesn't even have the words to articulate what

she's going through. So it goes when you veer out of your 20s and into your 30s and—to put it crudely—shit invariably starts getting real. Mae's go-to means of coping involves a fantasy Cowboy (Gabriel Ruiz) who she conjures in vivid, livid sex dreams. He's rough with her, but he's also taking care of her.

Directed with an astute, thoughtful, understated hand by Jonathan Berry, *You Got Older* has an

often gentle feel, even when it's addressing the harshest of life's issues. Mae and siblings Jenny (Emjoy Gavino), Hannah (Audrey Francis) and Matthew (David Lind) all love their father dearly. There are no August: Osage County meltdowns or *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* eviscerations. Still, the more you think on *You Got Older*, its insistent reminder of what waits for us all becomes ever more intrusive.

Like Mae, you can put off the milestones of adulthood: Buying a house, having children, taking vows, getting on the partner track at work. But faced with a parent's imminent death, there's no escape from the relentless passage of time and the fact that childlike though we might feel, childhood—with all its infinite hopes and dreams—is dead. For Mae's family, that's a bitter pill to swallow. Nobody can quite face what lies ahead for their father—or themselves.

Barron's perceptive, candid exploration of Mae's sexuality amid these fears balanced on a knife edge between hilarity and sorrow. The mutual seduction between Mae and Glenn is messy, clumsy, gross and beautiful. Her fantasy interludes with *The Cowboy* is a duet of tenderness with a side of domination.

## THEATER REVIEW

# Jeeves in Bloom

Playwright: Margaret Raether  
(from P. G. Wodehouse)  
At: ShawChicago (sic),  
Ruth Page Theater, 1016 N. Dearborn St.  
Tickets: 312-587-7390; ShawChicago.org; \$35  
Runs through: Feb. 26

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

It's difficult to express in words the profound understanding of existential angst apparent in *Jeeves in Bloom* ... which is a very fortunate thing because there isn't any.

Indeed, I can't imagine a philosophical interpretation of the brilliantly inane and vastly

amusing stories of unflappable British manservant Reginald Jeeves and his upper-class twit of an employer, Bertie Wooster. These justly famous and enduring literary creations of P.G. Wodehouse now are over 100 years old and have lost none of their appeal or luster. There have been countless stage adaptations of the *Jeeves* short stories and novels, and *Jeeves in Bloom* is as good as any of them, created by Margaret Raether from several of the originals rather than adapted from a single source.

The plot particulars aren't important. All the stories find Bertie in a mess, usually of his own creation, and *Jeeves* coolly extricating him with Bertie's dignity (such as it is) and bachelorhood intact. In *Jeeves in Bloom*, Bertie (Christian Gray) spends a country weekend with his favorite aunt, Dahlia Travers (standby Barbara Zahora), her husband Tom (Jack Hickey) and Tom's niece Madeline

(Allison Selby Cook). Bertie suspects Dahlia and Tom want to match him up with Madeline so he brings along his new-loving, nerdy friend and foil Gussie Fink-Nottle (Gary Alexander) for cover ... and *Jeeves*, of course. Aunt Dahlia's brilliant French chef, Anatole (Matt Penn), also adds to the plot, as does a suspected jewelry heist.

Typical of ShawChicago, this is a semi-staged concert reading of the play rather than a fully-designed production. Don't let the physical simplicity deter you; you're in for a very good time in the sure hands of veteran director Robert Scoggins and his seasoned comedy players. Most of them have done Bertie and *Jeeves* at ShawChicago before, so they know how to handle material such as this. It can be ruined by overplaying on one side and a lack of commitment to the characters on the other side, joined in the middle by actors who telegraph that they are being funny. Absolutely

no such problems here.

You do need to know that *Jeeves in Bloom* requires active listening. It's told mostly through words alone, with a good deal of humor and wit, requiring an engaged audience. Of course, it's also situation comedy (which is why the stories have been successful on stage and in a BBC television series in the 1990s). This concert staging suggests the physical action just enough to follow the story, but you still need to pay attention ... and use your imagination!

Note: ShawChicago has an atypical off-Loop performance schedule: noon Saturdays, 1 p.m. Sundays and 7 p.m. Mondays.

## THEATER REVIEW

# Skeleton Crew

Playwright: Dominique Morisseau  
At: Northlight Theatre at the North Shore  
Center for the Performing Arts,  
9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie  
Tickets: \$30-\$81  
Runs through: March 3

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

This grubby industrial break room, with its cold fluorescent-tubing lights and peeling walls, is beginning to look disturbingly familiar to Chicago playgoers, given the recent proliferation of plays depicting gritty low-level working conditions. If this is unsettling, maybe it's because, as union steward Faye reminds us, "Any moment, any one of us can become The Other"—transformed from the person handing panhandlers spare change out the car window on the

exit ramp to the one holding the sign.

The third in her "Detroit Trilogy," Dominique Morisseau's microcosmic portrait of the Michigan city's decline introduces us to four employees at one of the small manufacturing plants providing support for the automotive "big three" upon which the region's economy rests. Faced with the facility's imminent closure, Faye hopes to remain on the payroll long enough to receive her 30-year retirement package, Dez contemplates looting the factory's inventory for the tools to start his own business, pregnant Shanita ponders an alternative job offer, and foreman Reggie chafes under the inhumane demands of management higher-ups.

This crisis is only part of the story, however. Faye, we learn, shared a lesbian relationship with Reggie's late mother, making for a filial dynamic that cannot help but intrude on company protocol. (By contrast, Faye's own son is forbidden by his church from allowing her to visit her grandchild.) Shanita proudly imagines the

vehicles she helps create enabling strangers to enjoy a better life, while Dez recalls how a car's quality assembly once saved his life in a traffic smashup. Reggie finally snaps—almost—during a conference with his bosses. Oh, and who keeps stealing supplies right under the eyes of the security cams, and is a squatter living in the break room?

If this was old-school agitdrama, peopled with archetypes proclaiming us-against-them polemics, we wouldn't care—after all, these aren't our problems (yet)—but Morisseau endows her characters with backstories immediately analogous to experiences crossing racial and class boundaries. Ron OJ Parson's direction of an all-star ensemble ensures our unwavering attention and empathy, while Scott Davis bridges scene shifts with kinetic murals conveying the mighty grandeur of machinery on the brink of being abandoned to rust.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Yank!**, Pride Films & Plays, through March 18. A fine cast and excellent musical direction spark this musical WWII gay love story, partly like an LGBT South Pacific. JA

**Flamingo and Decatur**, Block St Theatre Company at Theater Wit through Feb. 17. A playwright and company from Arkansas are in town to give us the lowdown on survival tactics in the Las Vegas outback during times of economic drought. MSB

**The Good Fight**, Babes With Blades Theatre Company at Edgewater Presbyterian Church, through Feb. 17. When Congress won't let you vote and police won't stop harassing your leaders, women have no choice but to take up martial arts and fight back. MSB

**Rose**, Greenhouse Theater Center, through March 11. Linda Reiter channels Rose Kennedy, matriarch of the famed family of Washington power players. With Steve Scott directing Laurence Leamer's fascinating one-woman show, Reiter delivers an unforgettable and intricately etched portrait of both the tragedy and the triumph that defined Rose's life. CES

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan



The cast of Cabaret.  
Photo by Liz Lauren

## THEATER REVIEW

### Cabaret

Music by: John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb  
and book by Joe Masteroff

At: Paramount Theatre, Aurora  
23 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora

Tickets: \$36-64

Runs through: March 18

BY KAREN TOPHAM

Cabaret is always a difficult show both to produce and to watch. The 1966 musical features several wonderfully comic numbers, but ultimately its message is one of foreboding: a difficult balancing act to handle well. The new production at Aurora's Paramount Theatre, however, is able to hold onto the delicate tension between comedy and pathos brilliantly.

Set in 1931 Berlin, Cabaret takes place mostly in two locations: a run-down boarding house owned by Fraulein Schneider (Hollis Resnik) and the Kit Cat Club, where the MC (Joseph Anthony Byrd) entices patrons with decadent performances and scantily dressed girls (and boys). The club's headliner, Sally Bowles (Kelly Felthouse), is all excitement and enthusiasm for the party atmosphere of both the club and Berlin but possesses no real-world awareness.

Enter a young American would-be novelist, Clifford Bradshaw (Garrett Lutz). Clifford's own naïvete is challenged by the debauchery of Ger-

many at this time, and its rising fascism. Herr Schultz (Ron E. Rains), a Jewish beau of Fraulein Schneider, becomes a victim of the Nazi prejudice against his religion. Though he doesn't believe it will last, we know that his guilelessness will be his doom, and the swastika looms large everywhere. When Clifford begins to understand all of this, its effect on the club and his blooming relationship with Sally dominates play's second act.

Director Sam Mendes does a marvelous job of juggling all of the disparate pieces along with choreographer and co-director Rob Marshall. The bawdy dance numbers in the Kit Cat Club are sensual, funny and alive with the wanton spirit of an era when nothing was out of bounds. The sweet, tender moments ("Pineapple," a love song between Schultz and Schneider, for example, or "Maybe This Time," Sally's plaintive hope that she may somehow have lucked onto the right guy) are handled with sensitivity. (Yael Lubetzky's lighting on the latter is one of the finest moments of the night.) Scott Davis's set is perfect from the worn curtain at the start to the interior degeneracy of the club itself to the simple bed-and-doors sets for the boarding house. Adam Rosenthal's sound work is outstanding, and the costumes by Mieka van der Ploeg are spot-on.

Cabaret is a long show—nearly three hours, including its intermission—but this production is not one to be missed. It's a timely reminder of how easily everything can fall apart, and a sensational version of a complicated musical.

## SPOTLIGHT

So you could spend a ziggityzillion dollars for decent seats to Cosi Fan Tutti. Or you could head over to Grindr the Opera and pay \$20 to see an opera about gay men's adventures with the titular app. Erik Ransom's Grindr is part of Underscore Theatre's 4th Annual Chicago Musical Theatre Festival, which includes six new musicals and two workshops. The material is eclectic, covering everything from Civil War-era feminists (Iron Irene) to escape from the Khmer Rouge (The Butcher's Son). If you like new tuners, this fest's for you. Through Feb.



25 at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln. Tickets are \$15-\$20; visit CMTF.org.

Caption: Caitlin Dobbins and Luke Halpern in Liberators: An American Musical. Photo by Evan Hanover

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The Joffrey Ballet. Photo by Cheryl Mann.

## THEATER

# Soccer is in play as Goodman kicks off 'The Wolves'

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

For the women of *The Wolves*, sport and show biz are inextricably linked. In playwright Sarah DeLappe's hyper-kinetic, 90-minute Pulitzer Prize finalist, the sweat is real. As DeLappe spins the story of a high school women's soccer team, the cast is called on to execute intricate, multi-play maneuvers on a stage not even half the size of a soccer field.

Making *The Wolves* physically authentic has been paramount for director Vanessa Stalling, who brought in Loyola soccer coach Katie Berkopec, 25 to ensure there's no sham soccer. "Technically it's extremely challenging since you're just using your feet," said Berkopec. "It's very much a contact sport, but you have to be strong mentally as well as physically."

Wrapping your head around soccer often means going against a lifetime of social cues, Stalling said.

"Young women are socialized not to take up space. Not to be aggressive. Not to fully raise their voices. Soccer demands that they do something 180 degrees different," Stalling said. "I super-geek out the physical challenges of staging this play. It's intricate, it's dynamic and most of the dialogue happens while everyone is in motion. And we do have to make sure we don't bonk anybody in the audience."

Berkopec's resume seems tailored to meet the show's demands. Now an assistant soccer coach at Loyola, the Rogers Park resident played soccer for 16 years. She played goalie from middle school through her undergrad years, where she finished her senior year at University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, with season that included seven shut-outs. She earned a master's in Education Leadership from Minnesota's Winona State University and arrived at Loyola after stints coaching at Ripon, Winona State and University of Wisconsin.

The benefits of soccer reach far beyond honing your athleticism, Berkopec said: "Soccer has given me relationships that will last a lifetime. It has taught me how to face failure, and how to face victory. And it's given me a competitive drive that I take into every aspect of my life."

Through the women of *The Wolves*, playwright DeLappe shows how the sport engenders fierce camaraderie and mental toughness as well as teaching the players how to deal with life on and off the field. Before the scene is over, ugly instances of racism and classism have cropped up on the practice field. With rapid-fire, overlapping dialogue as quick and intricate as perfect one-touch/two-touch drill, DeLappe's characters display bullying, micro-aggressions and ignorance as well as loyalty, compassion and a ferocious competitive drive.

DeLappe's stage directions call for "military



Aurora Real de Asua in rehearsal for *The Wolves*.

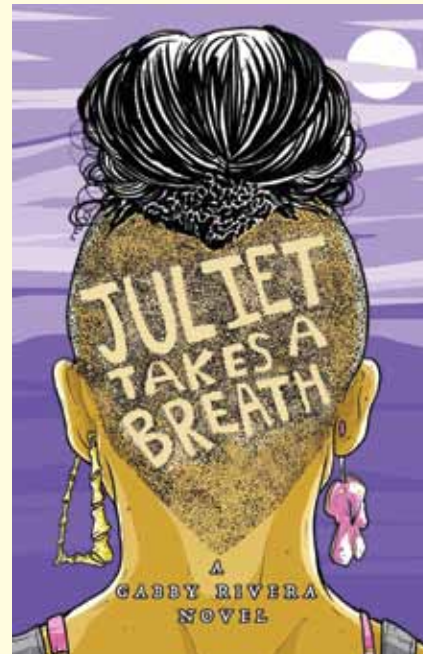
Photo by Cody Nieset

precision" in the on-stage athleticism: When Berkopec runs rehearsals, they essentially turn into physical education classes, from warm-ups to laps to skill building.

"In movies and pop culture, there's tons of imagery of men gearing up for battle," said Stalling, "It's like 'here they are getting ready to fight on the beach, here they are in the trenches, here they are on planes.' With *'Wolves'*, we see that type of trope in a female world."

"There's so much real life that happens on the soccer field," added Berkopec, "there's a common purpose, but it helps define who you are individually. When I have those days where I don't want to vacuum the apartment or whatever? There's a side of me that says, 'get off the coach and just go do it.' Whether it's vacuuming or going for a job, soccer can help you push through. That's not just sports. That's life."

**The Wolves runs through March 11 at the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St. Tickets are \$10-\$47; visit [Goodmantheatre.org](http://Goodmantheatre.org) or call 312-443-3800.**



## BOOK REVIEW

### Juliet Takes a Breath

By Gabby Rivera; \$19.99  
Riverdale Avenue Books;  
266 pages

REVIEW BY LIZ BAUDLER

*Juliet Takes a Breath* is amazing on so many levels, but most remarkably because it's author Gabby Rivera's first book. Sure, Rivera's been writing for years, lately for *Autostraddle*, but the voice of Juliet Milagros Palante incredibly strong and vibrant and will hopefully help generations of queer youth (of color or otherwise) find themselves and get radical all at once.

Juliet's finishing her first year of college. She's Puerto Rican, and from the Bronx. She's done two audacious things: fall in love with a girl, Lainie, and write to the author of her favorite feminist text: the improbably named Harlowe Brisbane, scribe behind *Raging Flower: Empowering Your Pussy By Empowering Your Mind*. OK, the satire is strong with this book: Harlowe and her Portland compatriots talk like a social justice smorgasbord, but it's clearly on purpose and not at all bad writing. Portland, interning with Harlowe for the summer, is where Juliet ends up, but not before a hit-and-run coming out to her traditional Bronx family during her going-away dinner.

Predictably, once in Portland, Lainie breaks up with her and, less predictably, Juliet confronts the reality of being one of only a few people of color in hipster city. Education comes fast and hard for our heroine—preferred pronouns, poly relationships, banana republics?—and betrayal is a constant. In the course of her research projects, Juliet stumbles across a biker dyke librarian, Kira, and Puerto Rican activist Lolita Lebron. Both are inspiring in very different ways. Eventually, sudden

and inevitable betrayal takes Juliet on an impromptu trip to Miami for a rendezvous with her woke activist cousin Ava, who fills in the gaps in her queer knowledge bank and provides her that all-important first queer haircut. Thus equipped, Juliet returns to Portland and finally becomes who she's meant to be all along: a less-doubtful dyke who loves herself.

This book will possibly be the first time a young queer kid is introduced to intersectionality, polyamory and privilege in the same fictional storyline. Juliet is a kick-ass, hilarious role model of a fiercely intelligent young person wading through morasses of feminist and queer theory. Is the storyline a little impractical? Yes, but that's YA, which deserves more fantasies of queer purple-haired motorcycling librarians. And Rivera clearly waded through these same morasses, which is why she can skewer them so well.

Pick up *Juliet Takes a Breath* to be amused, validated and enlightened, no matter how old you are; however, young dykes of color might particularly appreciate this book.

## Actor John Mahoney dies at 77

Actor John Mahoney—a longtime Steppenwolf Theatre ensemble member and someone known to millions for playing the title character's father on the NBC television sitcom *Frasier*—died Feb. 4 of cancer at age 77, multiple outlets have reported.

Mahoney, who long lived in Oak Park, was born to British parents and grew up in England. He first visited Illinois in the 1950s, eventually settling in the state about a decade later, *The Chicago Tribune* noted. When Mahoney was in his 40s, John Malkovich and Gary Sinise invited him to join Steppenwolf.

According to the Steppenwolf website, Mahoney's theater appearances included *The Herd*, *The Seafarer*, *The Rembrandt* and *I Never Sang for My Father* (Steppenwolf); *The Outgoing Tide*, *A Life* (Northlight Theatre); *Prelude to a Kiss* (Broadway) and *Romance* (Almeida Theatre), among others. He appeared in more than 30 Steppenwolf Theatre Company productions. In addition, he received a Tony Award for his performance in *The House of Blue Leaves*.

Film credits included *Moonstruck*, *Tin Men*, *Say Anything*, *Primal Fear*, *Barton Fink* and *Flipped*.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said in a statement, "John Mahoney was a fixture on the Chicago stage for over 30 years through countless award-winning performances. Even as his fame grew through his fantastic work in movies and television, John stayed connected to his artistic home here in Chicago in theaters and as a member of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company. Though he will be missed, his work and impact will endure for generations to come."

The *Tribune* article is at <http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/theater/news/ct-ent-john-mahoney-dead-steppenwolf-frasier-20180205-story.html>.

—Andrew Davis

## LuPone at Steppenwolf March 5

Steppenwolf's LookOut Series and Mark Cortale will present Patti LuPone, with Seth Rudetsky as pianist and host, on Monday, March 5, with performances at 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St.

This unscripted evening will be a mix of intimate, behind-the-scenes stories of LuPone's career through questions from Rudetsky.

LuPone last appeared in Chicago in the world-premiere production of the musical *War Paint*, which she went on to star in on Broadway earning Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations for her performance as cosmetics pioneer Helena Rubinstein. Overall, LuPone has earned seven Tony nods, winning two awards. She has also been in TV and film projects such as *Penny Dreadful*, *Glee* and *Union Square*.

Tickets (\$79-\$150 each) are on sale through Audience Services (1650 N. Halsted St.), 312-335-1650 and [Steppenwolf.org](http://Steppenwolf.org).

## 'Between States' exhibit thru March 1

Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) has launched a major exhibition, "Between States: 50 Designers Transform Chicago's Neighborhoods," that will run through March 1 in CAF's Atrium Gallery, 224 S. Michigan Ave.

"Between States" is a showcase of 50 community-based design solutions to transform underappreciated and underperforming spaces in Chicago into rejuvenated spaces.

This exhibition is the latest in CAF's multi-year 50 Designers/50 Wards investigation, which explores how designers and residents might equally participate in identifying growth opportunities within all of Chicago's neighborhoods.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. The museum's daily hours are 9 a.m.-9 p.m. See [Architecture.org](http://Architecture.org).

## 'Hollywood on State' Oscar party March 4

On March 4, the Gene Siskel Film Center (GSFC) of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), 164 N. State St., will host Chicago's longest-running awards show viewing party, "Hollywood on State: Where You're the Star."

Guests are invited to celebrate the 90th Academy Awards as they dress in their finest Oscar fashions, and enjoy food and festive drinks—all while watching the star-studded event on the Film Center's big screens.

In addition, the GSFC will honor Chicago filmmakers for outstanding contributions in film. This year's honorees will include Nicole Bernardi-Reis, Kelly Richmond Pope, Dinesh Sabu and Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for VIP tickets (\$200 each) and 6 p.m. for general admission (\$100). The Oscars HD Telecast will start at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [SiskelFilmCenter.org/hollywoodonstate2018](http://SiskelFilmCenter.org/hollywoodonstate2018) or 312-846-2600.

## Film 'Guys Reading Poems' out Feb. 20

Gravitas Ventures will release the award-winning, neo-noir feature film *Guys Reading Poems* on Tuesday, Feb. 20, across digital platforms.

The film features out actress Patricia Velasquez, who plays an avant-garde painter

whose sanity dissipates when she's abandoned by her lothario husband (Alexander Dreyfuss) for his mistress (Lydia Hearst). The film, shot in black and white, uses 32 poems as a framing device for the story about an artistic but damaged family.

Gay director Hunter Lee Hughes helmed the movie.

Visit [GuysReadingPoems.com](http://GuysReadingPoems.com) and <http://youtube.com/fatelinkproductions>. Also, the film available for pre-order on iTunes at: <https://apple.co/2DGE2dZ>.

## August Wilson contest finals Feb. 26

Nine hundred high school students are expected to participate in the 2018 August Wilson Monologue Competition in Chicago, which includes in-school workshops and two rounds of competition (preliminaries and semi-finals), culminating locally in the Chicago finals at the Broadway Playhouse, 175 E. Chestnut St., on Monday, Feb. 26.

The top two winners of the Chicago finals will compete in the national finals at the August Wilson Theatre on Broadway on May 7.

The League of Chicago Theatres, Goodman Theatre and Broadway in Chicago are sponsoring the Chicago competition, with Derrick Sanders as organizer.

The Chicago finals are free and open to the public; call 312-554-9800 for ticket information. Also, visit <http://chicagoplays.com/august-wilson-monologue-competition.html>.

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# Sue the T. rex goes nonbinary

BY THERESA VOLPE

The Field Museum announced its iconic *Tyrannosaurus rex*, Sue, will use preferred gender pronouns they/them/their in an effort to honor Sue's identity and remain true to the lack of scientific data about the sex of the largest, most complete *T. rex* specimen ever discovered.

When asked what's motivating this announcement, museum spokesperson Kate Golembiewski said, "It's a simple scientific fact. We do not know the sex of Sue."

According to Bill Simpson, head of Geological Collections and collections manager of Fossil Vertebrates for the Field Museum, most dinosaur skeletons do not have enough data to determine gender. Sue falls into this category.

Scientific discoveries have closely linked *T. rex* to birds. To identify Sue's sex, according to Simpson, a bone specifically needed for female birds to lay eggs would need to be found.

"If we were to find that bone deposit, we could then argue she [Sue] is a female," said Simpson, mistakenly calling Sue she out of habit. He quickly corrected his language, saying, "I'm still getting used to referring to Sue as they/them. The

museum has been calling Sue by female pronouns for 18 years." Sue was named after Sue Hendrickson, the female paleontologist who discovered the *T. rex* in 1990.

If the sex of most dinosaurs are undetermined, then why give Sue gender-preferred pronouns? "Sue is special and has a personality," said Golembiewski. "It wouldn't be fair to refer to Sue as an it either. Referencing Sue with they/them pronouns is the best way to convey what is going on scientifically with Sue."

The change is scientifically motivated, but the Field Museum understands the weight the statement holds. "I think it's important to give dignity to all segments of our population including people who do not identify with one gender or another. This is an easy way to do that by using Sue [as an example]," said Simpson.

Golembiewski added, "If this little representation of Sue using nonbinary terms makes a nonbinary person's life easier, or it gets people more accustomed to using singular they/them pronouns, then that's great."

Sue is undergoing other changes these days, too. The Field Museum staff is carefully disassembling the *T. rex* throughout the month of February



Sue the T. rex. Photo by Theresa Volpe

and moving them from Stanley Field Hall to a private suite in "Evolving Planet." In Sue's place will be a cast of the world's largest dinosaur, titanosaur, a 122-foot-long Patagotitan mayorum from Argentina to arrive by June. Sue will reappear in the new accommodations with some dramatic sci-

entific updates, such as the addition of the rarely preserved gastralia—a set of bones that look like an extra set of ribs.

The museum will also be updating pre-existing exhibit labels, graphics and videos to reflect

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Keith Haring during the painting of the mural in 1989.

Photo courtesy of Irving Zucker

## Haring mural exhibit in Loop starting March 3

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) will present "Keith Haring: The Chicago Mural" March 3-Sept. 23 at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St.

The exhibition will be in the Sidney R. Yates Gallery, 4th Floor North, as part of the City of Chicago's Year of Creative Youth.

There will be 36 original panels of the monumental mural created in 1989 by Keith Haring, with the assistance of 500 Chicago Public School students in Chicago's Grant Park. Presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events in partnership with the Chicago Public Schools, the exhibition will also feature a collection of photographs, correspondence, designs, plans, T-shirt drawings and more.

Haring was diagnosed with AIDS in 1988. In 1989, he established the Keith Haring Foundation to provide funding and imagery to AIDS organizations and children's programs and to expand the audience for Haring's work through exhibitions, publications and the licensing of his images. Nine months after completing the mural in Chicago, Haring died of AIDS-related complications at age 31, on Feb. 16, 1990.

Visit [ChicagoCulturalCenter.org](http://ChicagoCulturalCenter.org).



Chicago Sky players and owners with UChicago and MPEA reps, Ald. Pat Dowell and Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Photo by Hal Baim

## Chicago Sky hosts kickoff at new arena

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel joined the WNBA's Chicago Sky Feb. 2 to formally announce the team is moving to Wintrust Arena in Chicago's South Loop for the 2018 season. In addition, the University of Chicago Medicine has been named the official medical provider and sponsor of the Chicago Sky through a multiyear partnership.

Sky coach Amber Stocks and player Stefanie Dolson joined the press conference, which also featured representative of UChicago, Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, Ald. Dowell and owners of the team.

Under the partnership, UChicago Medicine will provide preseason cardiac screenings as well as comprehensive player- and patient-cen-

tered services in orthopedics and sports medicine, women's health and primary care.

In addition, the partnership will allow both organizations to work together to scale and track their impact across the city of Chicago, targeting key health issues such as childhood asthma, obesity and women's health.

UChicago Medicine and the Chicago Sky will join forces April 22 to host a health and wellness fair at Wintrust Arena, along with a basketball clinic that aims to break the world record for the largest basketball clinic ever held.

The Chicago Sky kicks off its season in May. During the 2018 season, the Chicago Sky will play all 17 home games at Wintrust Arena as well as promotional events. The move by the Sky adds to the growing portfolio of events at the new, 10,387-seat Wintrust Arena.

See [ChicagoSky.net](http://ChicagoSky.net).



## DANCE REVIEW

## Modern Masters

Choreography by: Jerome Robbins, George Balanchine, Nicolas Blanc and Myles Thatcher

At: Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy.

Tickets: [joffrey.org](http://joffrey.org) or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com); \$34-159

Runs through: Feb. 18

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

Ballet is much more than *The Nutcracker*. As Joffrey's *Modern Masters* program shows, ballet can inspire, frustrate and ultimately revive. It's also the most ephemeral of art forms: dancers give endless time, money and energy to frustratingly short careers, risking injury for performances that can't be preserved. Showcasing the work of four very different and influential choreographers, *Modern Masters* answers the question, "is ballet worth it, for dancers and audiences?" with a resounding "yes."

The evening opens with George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*. "Mr. B," as dancers called him, revolutionized ballet in the United States, choreographing in a unique way that—even de-



Greig Matthews in Joffrey's "The Four Temperaments," from *Modern Masters*. Photo by Cheryl Mann

## Illinois Sportswriter of the Year is openly gay man

BY ROSS FORMAN

Chris Hine had stopped to visit a friend and was just about to get back on the highway, driving from Chicago to Minneapolis. His phone rang that January day and it was National Sports Media Association.

Hine was told that he had been named the NSMA's Illinois Sportswriter of the Year.

"It was very surreal," said Hine, who spent eight years writing for the *Chicago Tribune*, mostly as the *Chicago Blackhawks* beat writer.

"I definitely was filled with a lot of emotions on the drive. Eight years at the *Chicago Tribune*, working hard to establish yourself, carve out a name for yourself. Just to be nominated was great, let alone win the award."

The first call Hine made was to his parents. "They have supported me every step along the way," he said.

"I was very honored to be voted [the winner], even being considered," said Hine, who is openly gay.

The 59th NSMA Awards Weekend is June 23-25, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Mark Giangreco (WLS-TV) and Pat Hughes (*Chicago Cubs Radio Network/670 The Score*) were named the co-Illinois Sportscasters of the Year by NSMA.

Seattle Times reporter Stefanie Loh, who is a lesbian, received the NSMA's Washington Sportswriter of the Year.

"I just tried to do as good of a job on the *Blackhawks* beat as I could," Hine said. "I also wrote a couple of gay issue [stories] in sports, [such as] Ryan Getzlaf's anti-gay slur in the



Chris Hine.

Photo courtesy of Hine

(NHL) playoff.

"Nothing really stood out, I just tried to have the best year I could ... I guess people took notice.

"Winning the award was a great honor, a great cap to my eight-year career at the *Tribune* that I really enjoyed and loved."

Hine is now the new sports analytics writer for the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*.

"I'm going to miss Chicago a lot; I loved working at the *Chicago Tribune*; I loved the people I worked with; I loved covering the *Chicago Blackhawks*," he said. "I'll miss a lot of people in Chicago.

"I hope to still spend a lot of time in Chicago, when I can."

grades later—is both gorgeous and distinctly odd. *The Four Temperaments* is classic Mr. B: very basic costuming, deceptively simple movements with drama in every flexed foot and raised arm, and an emphasis on story if not plot. Soloist Greig Matthews shines in the third variation, his expressive articulation carrying to the very back row of the Auditorium Theatre.

Myles Thatcher's *Body of Your Dreams* is the evening's shortest and most powerful ballet. It's everything *The Four Temperaments* is not: fast-paced, frenetic and decidedly un-classical. Jacob ter Veldhuis' dynamic score mixes piano with snippets from infomercials, promising the ideal physical form in a way that is "so easy." Men dance with men and women dance with women as they appropriate physical fitness in tight, bright spandex in front of a mirrored set. Anyone who thinks ballet is dated must see *Body of Your Dreams*: in a brief snippet of time, Thatcher effectively sums up humanity's collective narcissism and desire for perfection.

Beyond the Shore is a world premiere from choreographer Nicolas Blanc, a celebration of

exploring everywhere from the netherworld to the moon. While the ensemble movements burst with energy, the piece's two pas de deux are its most memorable. Set in Hawaii, "Aerosol Melody (Hanalei)" brings to mind colorful flowers, and is beautifully executed by Christine Rocas and Rory Hohenstein. Immediately following, "Gemini in the Solar Wind" reimagines the first walk in space, using sound clips courtesy of NASA. Dancers Victoria Jaiani and Fabrice Calmels illustrated both weightlessness and deep uncertainty.

Finally, *Glass Pieces* by Jerome Robbins mixes postmodern movement with 1980s urban sensibility. Though it's a large ensemble piece, with several solos and duets, *Glass Pieces* accurately conveys the isolation of city living. You're never fully alone, yet you're constantly reaching inside yourself for comfort. *Glass Pieces* feels like a true collaboration between Robbins and composer Philip Glass. Both choreography and music are bare-bones, and it's there the emotions shine through. On the whole, *Modern Masters* is a triumph for the Joffrey, a love letter to the constant innovation and utter timelessness of ballet.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES Critics' Pick

Salman Rushdie.  
PR photo

BOOKS

# Salman Rushdie on 'The Golden House,' LGBT subplot, global issues

BY FRANK PIZZOLI

Sir Salman Rushdie's twelfth novel is *The Golden House*. Set in New York City, the story opens on the day of Barack Obama's inauguration, when the enigmatic, foreign billionaire Nero Golden takes up residence in The Gardens, a storied gated community in Greenwich Village. With his three sons, Golden ceremoniously arrives to re-establish himself in the United States.

Significantly for Windy City Times readers, one of Golden's sons struggles with his gender identity and wrestles with the existential choices this implies. The 400-page book, which has been described as part *The Great Gatsby* and part *Bonfire of the Vanities*, tells the story of the American zeitgeist over the past decade: the birther movement, the Tea Party, the superhero movie, and the insurgence of ruthlessly ambitious, media-savvy villains who wear makeup and have colored hair.

Born in India in 1947, Rushdie was educated at Cambridge University and came of age in England—indeed he is a knight of the realm—but has lived in New York City for much of his adult life. It was Rushdie's fourth novel, *The Satanic Verses* (1988), that provoked a fatwa on his life, issued by Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989. The pronouncement placed Rushdie in mortal danger for the next decade, and the book's publication was met with demonstrations and even violence around the world. However, Rushdie survived; the book went on to become an international best-seller; and many more books would follow.

Even before *Satanic Verses*, Rushdie had won the Booker Prize, in 1981, for *Midnight's Children*. Subsequent books have included novels such as *The Ground Beneath Her Feet* (1999) and *The Enchantress of Florence* (2008) and several nonfiction works and collections of essays.

**Windy City Times: What did you hope to achieve with *The Golden House*?**

Salman Rushdie: I wanted to tell a good story that people would enjoy reading. My previous novel was kind of a fairy-tale deal, and I thought I would try to write an opposite novel with a large, panoramic view—a social-realist novel. That was my starting point.

**WCT: So that was your use of realism with references to film, the arts and literature?**

SR: Yes, I was trying to make a portrait of a particular moment in American life—the last eight years or so. Particularly New York City, just trying to smell what's in the air and respond to it. That was one part. The other part is a story about this crazy family which I've probably had in my head for a while before they'd come to New York. I just brought the two together.

**WCT: Is *Nero Golden* a composite?**

SR: He comes from the particular background of the Indian super-rich. I know some of those people. Nero is not based on anybody in particular, but he is also not a composite. I don't think it would be right to say he is a composite. He's pretty much himself.

**WCT: All great cultures have their mad men—Rome, Germany [and] now the U.S. Is this our post-Cold War dark age?**

SR: It has certainly darkened very fast in the last six months or so. I'd actually thought the previous eight years, a lot of them, were a time of considerable optimism. And the changing of that optimism of 2008 to its antithesis in the present is what I was trying to capture [in *The Golden House*].

**WCT: Your storytelling sense of humor comes through in *The Golden House* and has made me laugh out loud.**

SR: I'm glad to hear it. I've been trying to per-

suade people that this novel—my novels—are funny. People have somehow forgotten there is a comic dimension to my writing.

**WCT: Are you expecting blowback on this book? Did you intend to make the point that the U.S. and our enemies are equally absurd?**

SR: I don't know about blowback, though I've had blowback in my time. I don't frankly give much thought to it. I just try to do the thing I have in front of me and hope that people respond to it in the right way.

**WCT: Does your sense of humor help you survive?**

SR: No question. A sense of the absurd and the ridiculous is a great asset in dark times. That certainly been true in my own dark times. On a daily basis, I'm grateful for the comedians who respond to the situation in the U.S. If it weren't for Stephen Colbert, John Oliver and Samantha Bee, our days would be a lot bleaker.

**WCT: A quote about Nero Golden: "This was a powerful man; no, more than that—a man really in love with the idea of himself as powerful." Trump?**

SR: I wasn't only thinking of Trump. That's a statement that could be made about many people who are corrupted by power. As the old saying goes: Absolute power corrupts absolutely.

**WCT: The same can be said of anyone puffed up about himself?**

SR: Over the years I've met quite a few extremely powerful people, and the love of power is something I always found extremely unattractive. The most impressive powerful people I've met genuinely see themselves as public servants. They're not obsessed with the idea of themselves as powerful. So, I think there's both kinds of people. Some people respond in a very ethical way to having power. They don't see it as a tool or as an

indication of their own glory.

One of the key elements of *Golden* is for me asking if it's possible for a man to be simultaneously evil and good. That was the kind of character I was trying to build and explore—somebody who was, in one part of his being, guilty of much that is reprehensible or even criminal. And in another part of his being capable of love and caring, even virtue. But I wanted to see how those qualities co-exist, play out at the same time.

**WCT: Good men do evil. Evil men do good.**

SR: For sure. There's a very funny novella, *The Cloven Viscount*, by Italo Calvino, in which the prodigal character is dissected by a sword on the battlefield. The two halves get sown up individually and survive. One half ends up being incredibly evil and one half ends up being incredibly saintly. And they both do equal amounts of damage. Two halves of the same man. All the virtue ends up in one half and all the bad ends up in the other half, and both are catastrophic.

**WCT: Regarding the LGBT community in majority-Muslim countries, do gay people represent the "decadent West," so they are to be thrown from buildings, stoned or "honor-killed" by family?**

SR: There is quite a substantial gay population in the Islamic world. I think there's a lot of prejudice. People in the gay community, and certainly in the transgender community, face real obstacles. Not only in Islamic countries but even here.

I grew up in Bombay, where there has always been quite a substantial transgender community, the Hijira. I've spent time in that community listening to their stories and hearing the convictions of their lives. That was for me one of the starting points in writing about an increasingly central subject of gender identity these days. Here in New York, I've had a couple of friends who have transitioned. One in each direction, male to female and female to male. Yes, these are people I care about who've gone through this process. That's been another starting point for me.

Taking those personal elements, I tried to learn as much as I could, to explore as thoroughly as I could. When writing a contemporary novel which tries to take on the present moment, you really have to respond to the stuff that's in the air. LGBT rights are very much in the air. I wanted to respond to that.

In India, this terrible thing happened. Under a previous government [in 2009], homosexuality was legalized, decriminalized. Many gay people came out and they lived normal lives at last. And now this new government came in, and the Indian high court has effectively recriminalized homosexuality [by not recognizing the 2009 decriminalization decision]. So that now homosexuality is, once again, illegal in India. Now all those people who came out are, in theory, at risk. That's a very bad situation. Writers have had conversations about and have written about their own sexual orientation. Now they are now asking, "Can I expect a knock on the door because I am openly gay?" I think it's pretty difficult.

**WCT: Sarah Schulman has made popular the work of Jasbir K. Puar, namely her ideas about homonationalism and "pinkwashing."**

SR: Yes, I know who Sarah Schulman is. I tried to pick up all the plot dimensions I could. What

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# Chicago Auto Show runs through Feb. 19

This year marks the 110th edition of the Chicago Auto Show (#ChiAutoShow), which runs through Feb. 19 at McCormick Place. First staged in 1901, the Chicago Auto Show is the largest auto show in North America and has been held more times than any other auto exposition on the continent.

In all, nearly 1,000 different vehicles (covering more than 1 million square feet) will be on display during this year's event. The Chicago Auto Show features hundreds of interactive booths, accessories and auto-related exhibits, competition vehicles, three driving/riding tracks, and antique and collector cars.

The annual First Look for Charity took place Feb. 9. It was expected to raise more than \$2.5 million annually to benefit 18 local charities. Attendees had a chance to win a 2018 Ford Mustang or Expedition.

Admission is \$13 for adults, \$7 for seniors age 62 and older as well as children ages 7-12, and free for children age up to 6.

For more information about the Chicago Auto Show, visit [ChicagoAutoShow.com](http://ChicagoAutoShow.com).

Photos and text by Tracy Baim and Andrew Davis; text by Davis



Mini Cooper.

Photo by Tracy Baim



Top: Subaru Crosstrek. Bottom: 911 GT 2 RS (left) and Polaris Slingshot.  
Subaru photo by Tracy Baim; 911 GT 2 RS photo by Andrew Davis



## CONNEXIONS

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# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Bar Cargo; Andersonville Restaurant Week

BY ANDREW DAVIS

**Bar Cargo** (605 N. Wells St.; BarCargo.com) is a pizzeria bar that's the newest offering from the Stefani Restaurant Group, which is behind from the Broken English spots to MAD Social to The Flamingo Rum Club (next door to Bar Cargo).

The spot, my friend and I were told, is known



Crab and avocado Benedict at Bar Cargo.

Photo by Andrew Davis

for its authentic Italian fare (complete with consulting chef Massimo "Max" Moresi).

This made what happened at the brunch we went to all the more baffling—as it was the non-Italian dishes that shone. (By the way, the brunch menu is available on weekends as well as the regular menu, making for an incredible number of choices.)

The best items we tried were very different. The crab-and-avocado Benedict is a feast in itself—lots of avocado and flaky, delicious crab served on charred ciabatta, topped with a generous (but not too generous) helping of hollandaise. On the other end was a Nutella-stuffed French toast with berry compote that sounded like it'd be too sweet, but actually wasn't.

Also excelling were tenderloin sliders accompanied by arugula, gorgonzola and red-wine shallot confit.

However, as previously indicated, the traditionally Italian dishes puzzlingly came up short. A dish called Giovanni Rana's ravioli (with butternut squash, brown butter, sage and hazelnut) sounded delicious, but the pasta was a bit overlooked. And the carbonara pizza (a white pie with pancetta, pecorino cheese and egg yolk) was something my friend described to the server as "flavorful," but which we both agreed had so much salt that it overwhelmed the nuances of everything else on the pizza—particularly surprising for a Stefani spot. (But the drinks were great, particularly the beermosa.)

Fortunately for Bar Cargo, it's a relatively new spot (having opened last November), so maybe this young dog can learn some new tricks regarding its more traditional fare.

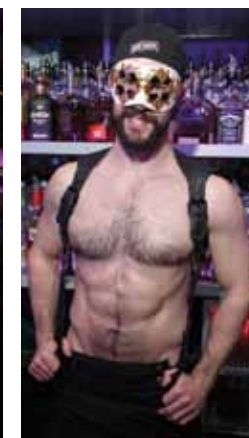
### Andersonville Restaurant Week

The Andersonville Chamber of Commerce is hosting this winter's Andersonville Restaurant Week on Feb. 23-March 4, highlighting some two dozen Andersonville eateries.

Each of the participating restaurants will offer at least one menu option priced at either \$10, \$20 or \$30 per person; however, many are expanding their focus this year to also include breakfast, brunch, drinks and lunch as well as dinner options. A few of the participating spots will include Appellation, Bar Roma, Big Jones, First Slice Pie Cafe, Hamburger Mary's, Hutch American Kitchen + Bar, Reza's and Vincent.

Visit [Andersonville.org/events-2/andersonville-restaurant-week/](http://Andersonville.org/events-2/andersonville-restaurant-week/).

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



### CELL BLOCK

Pals and confidantes at Golden Girls trivia with Swish Embassy.

Photos by Kirk Williamson



### SIDETRACK

Fat Friday/Saturday parties.

Photos by Jed Dulanias



## BILLY Masters

"Unless it's changed overnight, the motto of the Olympics, since 1894, has been 'Faster, Higher, Stronger.' It appears the US Olympic Committee would like to change that to 'Darker, Gay, Different.' If your goal is to win medals, that won't work."—Fox News Vice President John Moody criticizes the diversity of the US Olympic Team. In case anyone is keeping track, there are 243 athletes on the US Olympic Team. Two of them are (openly) gay. That's not even one in 10!

So, who's watching the Olympics? Eh, I know you were watching. You at least watched the Opening Ceremonies, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Far be it from me to turn my back on a hot shirtless man—although, you know, occasionally these things do happen. Anyway, I did find the presence of the now-requisite shirtless flag bearer from Tonga somewhat odd for a Winter Olympics—although it did remind me that I need to get an oil change! Turns out, **Pita Taufatofua**, who was a taekwondo competitor in the Rio Olympics, is suddenly a cross-country skier. He picked up the sport two years ago—when he first saw snow! Well, how many skiers do they have in Tonga?

Although **Mike Pence** allegedly got a selfie with Pita (but it does look like it could be a fake), he hasn't yet gotten one with **Adam Rippon**. You'll recall that Adam previously said that he wasn't a fan of the VP due to his association with gay conversion therapy. Shockingly enough, Pence addressed the situation in a Tweet. "@Adaripp I want you to know we are FOR YOU. Don't let fake news distract you. I am proud of you and ALL OF OUR GREAT athletes and my only hope for you and all of #TeamUSA is to bring home the gold. Go get 'em!"

Of course, Korea isn't the only place where there's a competition. We've got one going on right here in the ole US of A—Celebrity Big Brother. As much as people claim to hate her, everyone I know tuned in the first night to see **Omarosa**. And she didn't disappoint. All everyone was talking about was her entrance in a ball gown and her attempt to walk down a non-existent runway. It was just a little piece of heaven. Then there was the whispering with **Ross Mathews**. Shhhh—we don't want anyone to hear ... even though we're wearing microphones! It's pointless to say much more since everything on that show could change by the time you read this column.

Then there's the continuing battle between **Sarah Jessica Parker** and **Kim Cattrall**. I refuse to regurgitate the story of why there will be no Samantha in Sex and the City 3—although one fan suggested perhaps the next film could open with the three girls at Samantha's funeral! Maybe they could get that "Mannequin" out of storage to lie in the casket. Last we heard, Cattrall told **Piers Morgan** that Parker could have been nicer and that they were never friends. Parker then told **Andy Cohen** that Cattrall's comment left her "heartbroken." Last week, Cattrall Tweeted



**Shirtless Tongan Pita Taufatofua is back—at the Winter Olympics.**

Photo from Taufatofua's Instagram account

that her family was trying to locate her brother Christopher, who was missing. A few days later, it was revealed that he had died. Upon hearing the news, SJP posted this on Instagram: "Dearest Kim, my love and condolences to you and yours and Godspeed to your beloved brother. Xx."

At first, Cattrall tweeted, "I don't need your love or support at this tragic time @sarahjessicaparker." In case that didn't drive the point home, Kim had a follow-up: "My mom asked me today 'When will that @sarahjessicaparker, that hypocrite, leave you alone?' Your continuous reaching out is a painful reminder of how cruel you really were then and now. Let me make this VERY clear. (If I haven't already) You are not my family. You are not my friend. So I'm writing to tell you one last time to stop exploiting our tragedy in order to restore your 'nice girl' persona." OUCH!

I knew it was a matter of time before someone asked this "Ask Billy" question. Steve in Miami says, "We miss you in Hot Spots' But since I still read you online, I've been wondering when you would address the sexual-assault charges against **Topher DiMaggio**. Are they true? I mean, he's totally hot—who's saying no to him?"

First, I miss my SoFla fans and hope to be back in print with you again very soon. But, I will be back in town for the Winter Party. Many gay men find it hard to imagine anyone not wanting to have sex with Topher DiMaggio. But, regardless of how hot someone is, no means no. According to reports, the underwear model (and occasional gay-porn star) has been accused of verbal harassment, sexual assault and even rape. His fellow gay porn star, **Tegan Zayne**, claims that the night before they were going to shoot a scene, Topher pressured him into having sex. DiMaggio responded, saying, "These horrific accusations have shocked me to my core. All of my relations with this person have been consensual and willing." I wonder how many people helped him string those words together.

Shortly after Zayne went public, two other men accused Topher of rape. Then two more accused him of sexual assault. One of those attacks allegedly took place at an event in Seattle that **Andrew Christian** was hosting! None of this is

**LOVE 'SYNCH IT!' SIDE TRACK**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

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good news for the underwear giant—especially since DiMaggio (a name I doubt appears on any official paperwork) is the face, er, body of the brand. Christian said Topher is on "indefinite suspension while we look into the matter." I doubt he's suffering, financially—that's what I hear from several people who claim to have paid for his services. In case you're interested in seeing what they get for their money, check out BillyMasters.com.

When politicians are tweeting statements, it's time to end yet another column. Call me old-fashioned, but can you imagine a tweet from Henry Kissinger? Can you imagine Kissinger limiting a statement to 280 characters? You'll find a helluva lot more characters on BillyMasters.com—and most of them will be nude. It's a big week for me. On Feb. 13, I turned 49. I really should say 59. For 49, I look OK; for 59, I look AMAZING! However old I am, I'm inviting you to reach out and touch me in any way you feel comfortable at Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise not to sue! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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# WINDY CITY TIMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Wed., Feb. 14

**Chicago Auto Show** Largest auto show in North America. Through Feb. 19 10:00am - 10:00pm McCormick Place, Chicago Tickets: <https://tickets.drivechicago.com/>

**Gilda's Club open house** Includes Saturday Night Live: The Best of Gilda Radner (6:00 - 7:30 p.m.), an evening of all things Gilda packed with her best SNL skits. Light refreshments will be provided. For 20 years, GCC has been there to support anyone living with cancer. Other activities during the day 6:00pm - 7:30pm Gilda's Club Chicago Wells Street Clubhouse, 537 N.Wells St. <http://www.gildasclubchicago.org>

**Valentine's Day screening of My Dear Boy, Gay Love Letters** through the Centuries Selections from Rictor Norton's 1997 anthology, My Dear Boy, of love letters to men written by famous men. 7:30pm Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway, <http://pridefilmsandplays.com/>



## CRYSTAL CLEAR Friday, Feb. 16

In Michigan, former American Idol finalist Crystal Bowersox will perform.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

## Thursday, Feb. 15

**Current Issues In LGBTQ Health: How to Have History in an Epidemic** Dr. Jennifer Brier will present "How to Have His-

tory in an Epidemic: Can History Make You Healthy?" Lunch. RSVP 12:00pm - 1:30pm Kresge Hall 1-515, 1880 Campus Drive, Evanston [http://isgmh.northwestern.edu/calendar\\_event/brier/#.WniPbI7Vkv](http://isgmh.northwestern.edu/calendar_event/brier/#.WniPbI7Vkv)

**HIV Criminalization: Beyond Shame and Stigma panel** Legal Health Council for Justice and TPAN co-host with panelist Dr. Trevor Hoppe, whose recently published book, Punishing Disease, addresses this topic. Free. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/hiv-criminalization-beyond-shame-stigma-registration-41958588267?aff=es2>

**New Town Writers' workshop** Participants are asked to bring copies of their work so other writers and listeners may more easily follow the texts. Easily accessible by the Red Line (Thorndale stop) and #36, #147 and #151 bus lines. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Veranda Cafe, 1100 W. Thorn-dale <http://www.facebook.com/workshopandpublishing/>

## Friday, Feb. 16

**Yank! A WWII Love Story** Midwestern boy joins the Army during World War II, falls in love with another soldier and is introduced to the gay underground of the Armed Services through a journalist

for the Army magazine YANK. Through Feb. 18. \$40 reserved seats, \$30 general 7:30pm The Buena, Pride Arts Center 4147 N. Broadway, Chicago <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>

**Crystal Bowersox** Well known since ninth season of American Idol. Meet & Greet 7pm. \$50. General admission: 8pm tickets \$35 8:00pm The Acorn Theater 107 Generations Dr. Three Oaks, MI 49107 <http://www.acorntheater.com>

## Saturday, Feb. 17

**Frontrunners, Frontwalkers Chicago** Frontrunners, Frontwalkers Chicago Chicago's LGBT running and walking club. Meet at the totem pole 9:00am Addison and Lakeshore Dr. <http://www.frfwchicago.org>

**BREACH: a manifesto on race in America through the eyes of a black girl recovering from self-hate** In this "love letter to black women," Margaret uproots her life, including her dead-end job and fizzling relationship, after finding out that she is unexpectedly expecting. Through March 11. 7:30pm Victory Gardens Theater 2433 N Lincoln Ave Chicago <http://victorygardens.org/our-season/breach/>

**Queer Dance Party for #UptownTentCity** Dance and raise money for Uptown People's Law Center's work supporting

Uptown tent city. \$20 suggested at door includes a free raffle ticket. Sliding scale available. 21+ 8:00pm - 12:00am Underbar, 3243 N. Western Ave., Chicago <http://www.bit.ly/queerutc>

## Monday, Feb. 19

**LGBTQ Speaker Series, Fleshy Encounters: Black Feminisms and the Mutability of Gender** C. Riley Snorton, Associate Professor of Africana Studies at Cornell University, on how flesh figures in the question of how matter matters, juxtaposing writings on gynecology with cross-gender 19th-century slave narratives, Snorton frames how transness became conceivable. 4:30-6 pm Centers for Gender/Race Studies, Community Room 105, 5733 S. University Ave., <http://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu/>

## Tuesday, Feb. 20

**Title IX Town Hall** For high school students, teachers, principals, counselors, caretakers & all who care about the school success, youth rights. Learn how Title IX applies to high school students. Hosted by Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health and Rape Victim Advocates. 6:00pm - 8:00pm National Museum of Mexican Art 1852 W. 19th St. <http://icah.nationbuilder.com/town-hall>

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### RUSHDIE from page 18

I was trying to do is make a portrait of a character who had a strong sense that maybe his gender identity either needed re-assigning or had shifted, but who was agonized about it. I wanted somebody for whom it was really difficult to consider that he might need to change his identity.

Really, what I was trying to do is to get into that pain, to talk about the pain of people for whom there is no support, for whom there are very contradictory feelings and who are not clear about who they are. They feel there's something wrong with the way in which they present [themselves], but they actually are not clear about who they are and where they wish to go. It was that confusion I wanted to enter into.

**WCT: How do you think the LGBT community will fare under President Trump?**

### SUE from page 16

Sue's new pronouns.

The Field has received little pushback from the announcement. In fact, Sue's large fan base on Twitter (@SUEtheTrex) has been known to offer friendly reminders about Sue's preferred pronouns to followers who refer to Sue as she. "Fans are enthusiastic about the announcement," said Golem-biewski. "Some have written to say it means a lot to them that the museum is using preferred pronouns for Sue."

Still, museum staff will also be participating in a training session conducted by Katie Slivovsky,

SR: It's a very resilient community and it will fight back, but I think it is one of the many [minorities] that will have to fight under this administration. If indeed the administration lasts for four years, which I find difficult to believe—and then I wonder if that's wishful thinking. Like many people, I'm anxious to see what the investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller brings up. Also, the rate at which the administration is melting down. It's hard to believe this will go on for four years. Today on social media is a picture of people around President Trump. There's Pence, Priebus, Spicer, Flynn. All of them are gone in six months. The only senior member of his staff who is still in the picture is Pence. You begin to wonder if it's the President or Vice President who will go next.

**Read the entire interview with Salman Rushdie at [WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com).**

exhibits director for the Chicago Children's Museum and presenter of the workshop 10 Easy Ways to Be LGBTQ Friendly and Why It Matters.

"Katie's been doing incredible work in terms of including the LGBTQ community within the museum world, and making sure museums are welcoming places for all kinds of families, parents, and people. It's the Field Museum's goal as well."

Visitors are invited to get an up-close look at Sue being taken apart piece by piece. Admission to the Field Museum is free to Illinois residents during February.

**The Field Museum is at 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr.; visit [ThefieldMuseum.org](http://ThefieldMuseum.org).**

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