

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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# ONE-FRAN SHOW

## Raconteuse Fran Lebowitz talks Trump, value of privacy

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Fran Lebowitz.  
Photo by Brigitte Lacombe



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Openly gay man aims for Cook County post.  
Photo by Robin Subar

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Photo courtesy of Roldan-Johnson

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



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### Mytesi (crofelemer):

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### IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

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

#### What Is Mytesi?

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

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

#### Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

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- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

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

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

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- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

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- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
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#### What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi

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##### What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

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



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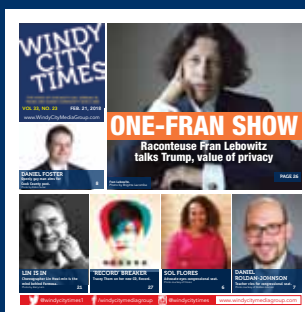
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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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Above: Lin Hwai-min has choreographed Formosa.  
Photo by Very Mainstream Studio

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## WORK OF ART

Lesbian artist Lea Selley (left) is the focus of the latest In the Life feature.

Photo courtesy of Selley

## BY GEORGE



Bent Nights evaluates shows by The Bribes as well as George Clinton (above) and Parliament/Funkadelic.  
Photo by Vern Hester

## QUEEN ANNE

Windy City Times chatted with out chef Anne Burrell during a recent outing.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Rupert Everett, Rosie O'Donnell and Don Lemon.

plus  
**DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

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# Community activist Elpidia Valles, mother of Center CEO, dies

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Elpidia Casillas Gomez Valles—mother of Center on Halsted CEO Modesto Tico Valle—died peacefully in her sleep on Jan. 16. She was 78.

A pillar in the community, Valles was a machine operator/punch press operator for many years but spent most of her free time feeding and clothing people experiencing homelessness in Old Town—many of whom were living under the North Avenue bridge—as well as helping her two sons take care of their friends and boyfriends during the AIDS epidemic, all without the ability to read or write. (She had a second-grade education.)

“She really stood for justice and equality for all people so it was fitting that her funeral was on the same day (Jan. 20) as the Women’s March on Chicago this year,” said Valle. “When I came out and then my younger brother Danny came out during the height of the AIDS epidemic it was not a struggle for her to accept us and she also gave me permission to be out and proud. Seeing the discrimination, hatred and ugliness during the AIDS epidemic really opened my mom’s eyes. When I took her to the first display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at Navy Pier it was so powerful for her. She never hid the fact that she had two

gay sons.

“My mom even came to the hospital to visit our friends and boyfriends who were dying of AIDS when we needed a break. She did not want them to die alone. She was always known for her food, and brought it to the hospital so we would eat nutritional meals. My mom inspired me, my siblings and everyone around her to do good and that is what we did.”

Valles was born Nov. 16, 1939 in San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico. When Valles was 15, she moved to the mainland in Ohio with her uncle to escape the cycle of poverty and oppression she faced as a young woman in Puerto Rico. At the time, girls on the island were maids, cooks and nannies and she wanted more for her life. She took care of her uncle’s kids and the household; however, he encouraged her to advance in life.

She married Juan Valle on April 27, 1957, at St. Rose de Lima Church in Youngstown, Ohio and they moved to Chicago’s Old Town neighborhood after a stint in Puerto Rico where Valle was born. Valles chose Old Town because 50 years ago, the area had the best schools and housing was affordable for low income families.

Following Valles’ death, her name was added to the memorial window on the third floor at the

Architect of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., Joseph worked at Brennan Beer Gorman Monk; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and the U.S. court system. He also redesigned the common areas of his condo buildings in Chicago.

He was the beloved partner of 23 years of Matthew Geiger McGarvey; dear brother-in-law of Maurie, and the late Molly and Michael McGarvey; son-in-law of the late Betty Berry McGarvey and Dr. Butler “Big Doc” Eugene McGarvey of Paducah, Kentucky; uncle of Christopher Lance (Suzann) McGarvey, Heather McGarvey and Mason Stewart; great-uncle of Elizabeth, Christopher Tate, and Corey McGarvey and Alex and Nolan Chancellor; and the adoring and faithful companion of Murphy II the Tibetan terrier and the late Murphy I the Jack Russell terrier.

Joseph was preceded in death by adoptive parents Joseph Stephen Stack and Marian Catherine Stack (nee Baloga), as well as brother Stephen Stack.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 21, at 10 a.m., at the Church of the Ascension (Episcopal), 1133 N. LaSalle St., with the interment following at Graceland cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Church of the Ascension.

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



**Elpidia Valles.**

Photo courtesy of Modesto Tico Valle

Center. The memorial window glass etchings look out onto the rooftop garden and honor deceased individuals who made a difference in the community. Their legacy is noted with the years of their life, as well as their printed name and personal signature.

“My staff told me they wanted to honor my mom because she was such an important part of our community. Over the years, the Center’s seniors, youth and staff always looked forward to her meals,” said Tico Valle. “They surprised me by having her signature stenciled on the glass. It was very moving when they revealed it to me. The photo of me and my siblings next to the etching was one of the ways we came together to honor our mom.”

In addition to Tico, Valles is survived by sons Juan and Danny, daughter Elpidia, brother Ignacio Casillas, sisters Ines and Ramona Torres, grandson Juan Jr., and great-grandchildren Carlos, Angel and Jaylynn. She was preceded in death by son Carlos, mother Celina Gomez, father Modesto Casillas, brothers Bartolo and Nimio and sister Lydia.

“My mom would always say, ‘Where there is food for one, there is food for all. From one plate we all eat,’ said Danny. “My mom was and always will be a believer.”

“My mom loved everyone,” said her daughter Elpi. “She would give the shirt off her back and the food off her plate to anyone. She also fought for the rights of people that were being treated inappropriately and would always remind us, ‘Nunca juzgues a nadie.’ (‘Never judge anyone.’)”

“When I had the enormous pleasure of meeting Mother Valle in 1988, at the now legendary and historic AIDS Memorial Quilt display at the old

Navy Pier, I knew this was a woman of valor,” said longtime community HIV/AIDS activist and Open Hand Chicago Founder (now a division of the Heartland Health Outreach) Lori Cannon. “She had such pride in Tico’s success within the LGBT and HIV/AIDS community and was a hands on gal when it came to volunteering, cooking for those who were alone and hungry and always that wonderful laugh and beaming smile. She was one in a million. Tico was fortunate to have learned from the best. We all were.”

After the funeral and burial, more than 200 family and friends gathered at Center on Halsted to celebrate her life.

## El, Safe Schools Alliance tout curriculum measure

Students in Illinois would learn about the significant historical events and contributions by LGBTQ people under the Inclusive Curriculum Bill introduced in the state Senate, according to Equality Illinois and the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance.

The Inclusive Curriculum Bill, SB 3249, was introduced Feb. 15; sponsors include state Sen. Heather Steans of Chicago and state Rep. Anna Moeller of Elgin. The bill is an initiative of Equality Illinois and the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance.

The Inclusive Curriculum Bill will be a key lobbying component of LGBTQ Advocacy Day on Wed., April 11, in the Illinois Capitol.



**Joseph Stack.**

## PASSAGES

### Joseph Stack

Joseph Thomas (“Joey”) Stack, “Joey”—a visual artist and award-winning architect who lived in Chicago’s Lake View neighborhood—passed away peacefully on Feb. 11. He was 54.

After attending Catholic University and intern-

# Aurora committee greenlights city's first Pride Parade

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Aurora's City Council Government Operations Committee approved, by a vote of two to zero, Indivisible Aurora's permit request to hold the city's first Pride Parade on June 17 at 1 p.m.

The vote took place Feb. 13 at Aurora City Hall amidst a packed house of more than 100 people—a majority of them LGBTQ supporters—after a three-month delay due to local religious leaders' concerns.



**Indivisible Aurora Executive Committee members Randy Fisher, Chuck Adams and Brian Beatty.**

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Ald. Rick Mervine and Judd Lofchie voted in favor of the measure while Committee Chair/Ald. Scheketa Hart-Burns did not vote or voice an abstention.

Newly elected African-American Mayor Richard Irvin urged the committee to approve the parade ahead of the vote.

Indivisible Aurora founder and Executive Director Chuck Adams, who also spoke during the meeting, spearheaded the idea of the parade.

Prior to the vote, Hart-Burns noted her objection to the date of the parade (Father's Day), what transpired in the intervening months between parade organizers and committee members, and religious leaders' request for an impact study to be done before the committee voted. During her remarks, Hart-Burns appeared to be hostile to having the parade and repeated that she still did not have the answers she needed on this issue.

Aurora Community Relations and Public Information Special Events Manager Gina Moga explained the approval process for new events. Moga noted June 17 was the only open Sunday on the city's event calendar during Pride month.

Both proponents and opponents of the parade made statements prior to the vote.

Adams (who also noted his preferred pronouns) noted the suicide statistics among LGBTQ youth and said the parade has the potential to save lives.

"It is about ensuring that every member of the LGBTQ community knows they are an important part of the fabric of this community," said Adams. "It is about affirming a population that has been beaten, shamed, ostracized and told to stay in the closet. Today we kick that closet door wide open in Aurora."

His remarks drew applause from the crowd.

Aurora resident and New England Congregational Church Rev. Gary McCann noted his church is LGBTQ-affirming, adding that having a Pride Parade in the city is the right thing to do.

Joanne Kenyon, the mother of a transgender son and longtime Aurora resident, asked the committee to approve the parade while HRC Chicago Steering Committee member Penelope Garcia (who identifies as transgender) said the vote would go beyond a parade.

Aurora residents Margaret and Howard West, parents of a transgender lesbian daughter, also voiced their support for the parade. Both noted that the vote should not have required this much controversy and LGBTQ people pay taxes and vote and they should be afforded the same rights as everyone else.

UCC minister Rev. Karon Van Gelder noted that it was easier to get Detroit's Pride Parade approved 40 years ago while Open Door Clinic Aurora's Sally Bice spoke about the discrimination that her patients face and how much this parade would mean to them.

Aurora Human Relations Commission Vice-Chair William Small read the city ordinance that includes an LGBTQ non-discrimination clause and urged the committee to approve the permit.

Among the parade opponents were speakers Marjorie Logman, Tim Padilla and A Future and A Hope Foundation Executive Director Dan Hass.

Padilla noted that he has stood with the Chicago Pride Parade opponents at the end of the parade route in the past.

"Aurora has been a family town and the Pride Parade is not a family event," said Padilla. "Seeing naked people on a float gyrating is not what people need to see in Aurora. Keep it in Chicago."

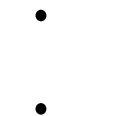
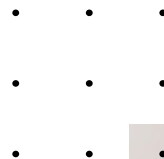
Following the vote, the audience erupted in cheers.

See <https://www.facebook.com/Indivisible-Aurora/> and <https://twitter.com/indivisible11> for more information; to make a donation, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/aurorapride2018>.

**Read more about this news at [WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com).**

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## ELECTIONS 2018: CONGRESS (4TH DISTRICT)

# Sol Flores: Advocate sets sights on Congress

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Sol Flores—the longtime head of La Casa Norte, which assists young people experiencing homelessness in Chicago—says that her “fierce tenaciousness” is what inspired her to try for the Democratic nomination for the 4th District Congressional post being vacated by U.S. Rep. Luis Guterrez.

Flores spoke with Windy City Times about her background and work with the LGBT community.

**Windy City Times: So why have you decided to run for Congress?**

Sol Flores: I really see this as a continuation of my life's work, service and contribution.

Fifteen years ago, I founded, created and built, from the ground up, La Casa Norte, an organization that has helped thousands of young people—and their families—escape homelessness. As I've worked with them, I've seen what it takes to raise them out of poverty—it means access to affordable health care, affordable housing and a living wage job. I've said this publicly for years: Homelessness is not an identity; it is a set of circumstances that we can change when we have the right political and moral will. Those have to come from a strong set of values—love and justice. My values were groomed in me when I was a young kid. My grandparents came from Puerto Rico in the 1950s and 1960s. ... They very much had an “immigrant experience” in the fact that they didn't speak English, and they were Black Puerto Ricans so they experienced racist and discriminatory actions taken against them. I saw how hard that they had to work in order to provide for us.

**WCT: What do you think sets you apart from the other candidates in the race?**

SF: None of them built and created what I've built. There was nothing there in terms of emergency and transition shelters, and other supports for housing programs, I built those. Also, for the last 15 and a half years, I've been super-engaged from a civic perspective. I've sat on multiple boards across the city as we've fought for around issues for equity and access for the the Latino and Latina community, along with housing developments, youth voices, and anti-violence measures. ... Also, if we think our House of Representatives should look like “the People,” that means it's got to look like me. That means someone with a strong woman's perspective, a woman of color, someone from my generation with a type of real, valid community experience of helping people have the life of their dreams. That's pretty significant; none of the other candidates have that record that I have.

**WCT: What are the two or three most important issues for the district right now?**

SF: First off, affordable and acceptable health-care—that is absolutely critical. What I mean by that is, it has to be affordable and cultur-

ally competent. I've worked with young people who've identified as being LGBTQ for over 15 years, and families who identify that way, and one of the things they struggle with is finding health care providers who are open, accepting and non-judgmental of them.

The other thing is ending homelessness. It's actually not rocket science. It's three things: health care, affordable housing and a living wage job—access to a living to support yourself and your family. I've never met a client in 15 years who didn't tell me they wanted to work. They wanted a way to support themselves. They wanted to contribute, to be givers, not takers; the way that they are portrayed are criminalized because they have experienced homelessness.

The third issue is comprehensive immigration reform. Congress has kicked the can on this issue for two many years, and we've got to get this done.

**WCT: What do you think have some of your key contributions in work on behalf of the LGBT community?**

SF: First, for me, fighting for LGBT rights and marriage equality was a civil rights issue. It's something to me that is so near-and-dear. I've been a person who's experienced discrimination. I've been a person on the other side of that. I remember the first time I was called a “nigger,” when I was seven years old. I looked at my mom and couldn't understand what they were talking about. I'm someone who's been on the other side and been discriminated against and not been accepted for what you look like. That's the first thing I want to say. Since I was a little kid, I've been very clear about this.

Working at La Casa Norte, it's been my greatest honor to serve the LGBT community, and my record speaks for itself. I have been a ferocious ally. Here's why: You know that, specific to my work, there are a number of your people who experience homelessness because of their sexual identity. They're kicked out, thrown out, because their families don't understand and will not tolerate them. That's just wrong.

What I've done is, I've helped create an organization, where at every level we go beyond tolerance. I'm not about “tolerating” people for their sexual identity; I'm about celebrating it. I take pride in the celebration of acceptance of gender norms, gender identity and sexual identity. I put my money where my mouth is—for years, our leadership and staff has had members of the LGBTQ community, and the reason they've chose to work there and serve there is because we're doing work that allows young people and their families to be fully accepted for who they are and what they want to be.

Another thing I want to stand for is that we have full acceptance within the racial lens of the LGBTQ world. In my community of the South and West Sides, we've got to force the issue there.



**Sol Flores.**  
Photo courtesy of Flores

Young people should not have to ride the bus or train to go to Boystown to be their true selves. Yes, everyone loves Boystown, but I want to make sure that Humboldt Park, Logan Square and Back of the Yards are also places that are open and accepting, and that people can be themselves in the communities they grew up in.

**WCT: What are some other important issues for the LGBT constituency in the district?**

SF: I think that President Trump's attacks to ban and kick out trans members of the military is absolutely disgusting. While I don't have the number about the exact number of trans people in the district who served in the military, I will fight to make sure that does not happen. To me, that is an abomination. If you are courageous enough to stand up and volunteer to serve and die for your country, then we reject you for who you are and who you want to be? That's horrific.

Another thing that I think is important is that

we have support for LGBTQ families. Children are growing up in a different way. We have got to create support for families that are helpful for those young people, and that means fighting against any kind of discriminatory school policies and these horrific “bathroom laws.”

The last thing is, the gay people I know are not the rich, wealthy, two incomes, earning six-figure incomes and more. There is a significant amount of poverty in the LGBTQ community, and they are discriminated against when it comes to employment and jobs, and entrepreneurial opportunity. I will fight to make sure that we remove any kind of barriers around gender, gender identity and sexual orientation from opportunities from getting jobs and having access to capital. This is about celebrating everyone and making sure that everyone is under the tent.

See [StandWithSol.org](#).

## Education dept. to stop investigating trans restroom complaints

The U.S. Department of Education confirmed Feb. 12 that it will no longer investigate civil rights complaints from transgender students who are barred from school bathrooms that match their gender identity.

Transgender students have said this development will subject them to bullying.

In 2016, then-President Barack Obama directed public schools to allow students to use bathrooms that align with their gender identity. However, shortly after President Donald Trump took office last year, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Attorney General Jeff Sessions rescinded the guidance.

Several pro-LGBTQ groups criticized the move. “While civil rights advocates have suspected that the Department of Education was not acting on complaints brought forward by transgender students, reports that these viola-

tions are completely being ignored are reprehensible,” said Human Rights Campaign Legal Director Sarah Warbelow in a statement. “The department's failure to act conflicts with the law in multiple jurisdictions, including federal circuits, and further emboldens those who seek to discriminate against transgender students. Once again, Secretary DeVos proves she is not interested in protecting transgender students and instead is choosing to advance the dangerous Trump-Pence anti-LGBTQ agenda.”

In a separate statement, PFLAG National Executive Director Dr. Jaime M. Grant, said, “Note to the Administration and the Department of Education: Title IX is still the law of the land, and even this abhorrent act cannot change the law. This is yet another assault on transgender people—this time vulnerable children—by the DOE. Their job is to ensure that all youth have access to education that is good, fair, and safe.

“Trans kids already face a list of significant impediments to getting that access, and now the DOE is adding themselves to the top of that list. We encourage all LGBTQ youth, and their families and allies to continue reporting complaints via our Claim Your Rights program.”

ELECTIONS 2018: 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

# Daniel Roldan-Johnson: Openly gay teacher on the issues

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Daniel Roldán-Johnson, who is openly gay, is running in the Democratic primary against several other candidates: Lauren Underwood, George Weber, Victor Swanson, John Hosta, Matthew Brolley and Jim Walz (who ran in the 2016 general election against incumbent Rep. Randy Hultgren). He currently teaches middle-school social studies in Volo, Illinois.

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

Daniel Roldán-Johnson: I really believe that Congress is not representing middle class people like myself. I am a teacher and former law enforcement. My family was lower middle class growing up. If you look at the tax bill the House just voted on it seems to really benefit the top one percent and corporations. It will not benefit the middle class that much and I think that is true of a lot of legislation that is working its way through Congress right now.

People all across the country have seen the rise of extremism since the last election. A lot of hate speech has seeped into our political institutions and many people are frustrated with that. They want Congress to work and government overall to work as well as real solutions and I want to be, even in a small way, a part of bringing about that change that I feel most people want. I also think Congress should be holding the White House accountable. The founders created the system of checks and balances for a very good reason so that each branch of government can hold the other ones accountable. Right now Congress is not holding the executive branch accountable and that is really why I decided to run.

**WCT: There are [several] other candidates. What makes you stand out among them?**

DRJ: Any of us would do an amazing job compared to Rep. Hultgren. In terms of myself, growing up was hard. When I was very young my dad often did not have a job. He was a part-time contract worker. Then he became a pastor. We had



**Daniel Roldan-Johnson.**

Photo courtesy of Roldan-Johnson

to often rely on either government assistance or the goodwill of others to get by. I was the first in my family to graduate from high school. I did not

have anyone in my life to ask simple questions about what to do if I wanted to apply for college and how to access funding for my tuition. I have always had a fierce determination to make my life better and those around me better. I think that the combination of my upbringing coming from almost nothing to where I am now, that drive and the empathy I feel for others because I want them to do better helps me stand out from the other candidates.

**WCT: Where do you fall on the spectrum politically? Would you say you are more of a centrist or to the far left or somewhere in between?**

DRJ: I would say I am in between. My husband is to the far left so when I am talking to him I seem more centrist but overall I am pretty left of center.

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

DRJ: The single biggest issue, and it is only going to be exacerbated by the recent tax bill, is income inequality. Democracies are in need of a strong middle class in order to survive and we have gotten to where we are in the world because we have a strong middle class. I deeply disagree with the current tax bill. If you look at the economic data the top one percent and corporations have never done better. They have profits coming out their ears. There is such a disconnect with many current members of congress. We need a patriotic tax policy and if your income is more than

**Turn to page 9**

**JB**  
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I am extremely proud to have the endorsement of Equality Illinois, an organization dedicated to building a better Illinois by advancing equal treatment and full acceptance of the LGBTQ community. The passion, the ideas and the commitment the LGBTQ community has shown for equality inspires me and gives me hope in the fights ahead for social and economic justice.

I will always fight for equality and inclusion, and I am here to listen. The LGBTQ community has always had a friend in me and will have a seat at the table in Springfield when I'm governor."

**JB PRITZKER** DEMOCRAT FOR GOVERNOR

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**ELECTIONS 2018:**  
**COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER (13TH DISTRICT)**

# Daniel Foster: Openly gay candidate talks revenue, LGBT issues

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Openly gay computer scientist/software developer Daniel Foster (D) is running in the primary against incumbent Larry Suffredin and challenger Bushra Amiwala. (Chris J. Hanusiak is running unopposed as a Republican.)

Foster, 30, has lived in the district for 24 of those years.

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

Daniel Foster: I am really excited for the future and I want everyone to know they can be exited for the future too. Many people are saying that things are getting worse and I do not think that is true. In my lifetime, things have gotten better including the environment, healthcare and productivity. As a computer scientist, I have a lot of familiarity with technology which is increasing productivity and productivity is synonymous with wealth. People are becoming wealthier all the time. I am optimistic and I think everyone else should be optimistic too and that is what I am trying to bring to our community on the north side.

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

DF: I am looking to bring different ideas to government because there are a lot of things that elected officials are afraid to try, like putting forth new legislation that might be challenged in court. What we need is someone who will work full-time on these issues, not a part-time politician like the incumbent.

My challenger Bushra is more conservative and worked for Mark Kirk during the last election. I also believe she also does not align with the values of the district in terms of her policy positions.

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

DF: If Cook County was a state, it would be larger than 28 other states. The incumbent claims our county's government is too complicated to have an impact on people's lives, but in 15 years he has never represented our district full time. I agree that our government is complicated, but that is why we need someone who is dedicated to navigating it. The people of our district deserve a representative that will spend their days talking to experts, other officials, constituents, writing legislation and working with the other commissioners to see that legislation is passed. I believe our county government should lead the cooperation between all the units of local government,

and that takes a full time commitment.

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

DF: Climate change is a big issue. One of the things I hear from the people in the district is they get water in their basements. About half of the houses experience this and it is an easy problem to fix while fighting climate change. The way this can be done is by replacing the grass that is planted in people's yards which dates back to the 1700s and was used to feed sheep but it is very hard and costly to maintain for the average homeowner. We waste a lot of water maintaining lawns and it does not absorb carbon dioxide. There are other natural plants that would absorb both rainwater and carbon dioxide. I would like us to help make those changes so homeowners can save money and the environment will get better.

I believe that the property tax assessment system needs to be reformed so assessed properties are based on land size, usage and location alone. It would also eliminate the need for one's property assessment to be constantly appealed as well as eliminating the tax penalty on home improvements. This would also incentivize increased development which in turn would reduce urban blight.

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

DF: We can make more resources available online. I also think there should be more outreach to the community to educate them about how our complicated county government is run. It has a lot of levels and offices and I think for the most part people do not know what these offices do and/or whom to talk to if they are having a problem.

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

DF: Representation always matters, but to be honest I am not really running for the County Board just because I am gay. I will say that being gay, and especially growing up as an out teenager, is one of the reasons I believe we should be fighting to achieve true integration in Cook County. I know what it is like to feel separated from the people around you, and I know how difficult and harmful that can be. Too many people live every day with that kind of separation, whether it is because they are LGBT or because of something else—like their income, ethnic origin or the color of their skin. Cook County is actually one of the most segregated counties in the country, and being LGBT means I am not the kind



Daniel Foster.

Photo by Robin Subar

of person that will sit by and let that continue.

I am married and have a Facebook post about coming out in 2001. Back then it was still illegal for gay men to have sex in 14 states. At that time, I never dreamed my marriage would be recognized across the country. I am already living in a better world than I thought I would be living in when I came out publicly. Also, during my entire adult life I have participated in LGBTQ events and gone to protests to advocate for more equality for our community.

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

DF: I think our fight has to do with access. It is still too easy, even in Cook County, to be denied a job or rejected from an apartment because the landlord does not like the fact that you are LGBTQ. There are protections for LGBTQ people in the county but who do you call or how do you prove that you are being discriminated against because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity. We need to make sure those laws are enforced and that you have someone to call if discrimination happens to you.

**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?**

DF: Mass incarceration is the scourge on our generation. Even 15 years ago it may have been reasonable but behavioral and sociological science, thanks to advancements in computers and data, have made leaps and bounds. We now know for a fact that incarcerating people is bad. There have been studies about highly educated, well trained, properly cared for people who have been restricted to small quarters who have suffered severe psychological damage. People with mental disabilities or have a chemical addiction make up

60 percent of our prison population and those are the last people you want to put behind bars. The result of the current prison system is 80 percent of the people go on to commit a second crime when they are released. Science says that is not what we should be doing. We could save a lot of money by diverting those people to social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists and/or mental health professionals rather than damaging them forever by putting them in prison. I think we need to end the era of mass incarceration. It is one of the main reasons why I chose this specific office when was looking to run for office.

The hospital system shares a common problem with the county jail. I think too often people are being turned down for healthcare at private hospitals, which are supposed to be charities, and that is one of the reasons why the county hospitals are having problems.

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

DF: I would not have voted to repeal the soda tax. Instead, I would have offered new legislation to change the way the tax was implemented. My biggest issue with it was the sticker shock at the register. I think the prices you see on the shelf or menu should include the sales tax. Not knowing what you are going to pay erodes consumer confidence.

When the commission was looking for a way to increase revenue to deal with the budget issues they called in experts from many fields. These experts told the commission that a soda tax was the best way to go to not only raise revenue but also decrease healthcare costs. I think we need an entire tax overhaul in the county.

**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?**

DF: County taxes are far too regressive. We tax poor people twice as much of the percentage of their income as rich people. That needs to change because it is not necessary. The current county board is not bold about trying new things. The revenue system relies on fees and fines that are extremely regressive because they are set amounts no matter how much you make and we have to reduce our reliance on those fees and fines. One of the things I want the board to change is the definition of property to include stocks and bonds as well as property. By doing that we could reduce the sales tax and the fees and fines to make our tax system much less regressive.

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

DF: I have an actuarial science background so that is one of the things that has been a real asset to me in forming policy positions and during the campaign because I can analyze data and statistics really well. We have a lot of lawyers who are in office right now but when it comes to understanding scientific facts and figures it is difficult for them because they have not studied it themselves.

**For more information (including about Morrison's latest endorsement, from U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky), visit <https://commissionerfoster.com/>.**



## ROLDAN-JOHNSON from page 7

a million dollars you pay your fair share so that we can continue to have a strong middle class.

I also think climate change is a serious issue. The entire planet is a part of the Paris Climate Accords but the current administration took us out of that agreement when, in my opinion, climate change is a national security issue. We do need to address it. We cannot continue to stand by and let other nations, both in the developed and developing world, innovate in green technologies without us because we are going to be left behind. This is our future and we need to focus on that. We only have one planet and we need to protect it. We can do it if we just decide to.

Infrastructure is also important. We need better road, bridges, railroads, airports and data access. If you look at net neutrality one of the issues that some of the people argue about why we need it is because it is going to cost trillions of dollars to build out the system and yes while it is expensive I do not think we need to close off the pipeline so people have to pay extra in order to build it out. We can build it out but it will take public/private partnerships to do that. All of our infrastructure is important if we want to lead the world in creating jobs.

**WCT: Have you had any interactions with the LGBTQ community? If so, what are they?**

DRJ: I grew up in an evangelical fundamentalist staunchly religious household. I was kicked out when I was 17 and if it were not for one set of grandparents that took me in, I would have been homeless. That is a tragedy that seems to

play out all across the country in certain households where if you decide to be brave and live your truth as an LGBTQ or non-binary person you can get kicked out. There are so few homeless shelters that are dedicated to protecting, supporting and helping LGBTQ youth.

Luckily, I had the support of my grandparents and I built a family of my own with straight allies and other gay people. I am now in the position where I can be openly gay as a teacher. My husband and I have a very strong LGBTQ community at our church, at work, with friends and thankfully, recently, my parents have come around after all these years so that is a good thing too.

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

DRJ: The biggest obstacle at the moment in the country are the so-called religious freedom laws. I am a man of faith and I believe strongly in religious freedom. These laws have nothing to do with religious freedom. They are an attempt, and we have seen this in American history in the past, to hide bigotry behind a law. I am hopeful and optimistic that just like with recent rulings that have brought LGBTQ rights to the nation we will see the Supreme Court do the right thing.

Another big issue that is very close to my heart is LGBTQ youth homelessness because I have experienced it. I really think we can do a better job at providing more funding for more homeless shelters and providing the services those teens and young adults need, including counselors. There has to be a way to make sure their transition into a new school goes smoothly. I am abso-

lutely dedicated to seeing increased funding for LGBTQ youth homelessness.

**WCT: Where do you stand on transgender people in the military, including providing full medical services for those troops?**

DRJ: I completely support the trans community. Our trans service members have dedicated their service and lives to protecting us and our freedoms. We need to stand with them and it is a disgrace that the current administration led by Trump would try to either deny them from service or deny their healthcare while they are serving and afterward.

**WCT: Will you join the LGBT Equality Caucus? What other caucuses are you looking to join?**

DRJ: Yes and I would also join the Hispanic Caucus.

**WCT: Where do you stand on the ERA and women's reproductive choice? What about the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements?**

DRJ: I support the ERA. Also, abortion should be rare, legal and safe. Reproductive rights are an intimate thing between a woman and her partner and the doctor. I support full access to birth control.

If you look throughout American history, there have been social movements and social change that took a long time because we did not have social media to get the word out fast. #MeToo through social media has exposed something that has always been there. I am glad women and men are speaking up. I am hopeful and optimistic that change is happening and will continue to happen as it relates to women and men feeling safe in the workplace. The sexual harassment we have

seen in all industries stops. I am very supportive of the #MeToo and #TimesUp movement.

**WCT: Are there any elected officials that speak to you due to the way they do their jobs?**

DRJ: Former President Obama. I am just amazed at his ability to continually think about the future and remain hopeful even when he was facing a daily barrage of insults, ridicule and attacks as well as a Republican Congress who refused to work with him. He stayed positive and kept his eyes on what he was supposed to do which was move the country forward. He made mistakes because we are all human. If I can embody that optimism about the country and who we are and can be if we choose to, I will be doing my job.

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

DRJ: I learned just enough of my dad's stubbornness to be effective in a positive way and when I set my mind on something I keep fighting for it. I have a tenacity that I learned over the years because of my background and all I have overcome. I am in a biracial marriage with my husband Christian, which gives me a different perspective than others. I am former law enforcement for three years and a current teacher. This helps me remember that I am running for office to help the ordinary working people who are being forgotten by Rep. Hultgren right now.

**Read the entire interview with Daniel Roldan-Johnson at WindyCityMediaGroup.com. Visit DanielRoldan-Johnson.com/.**



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# Election 2018

## ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race.

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

PPAC = Personal PAC

ORI = Our Revolution Illinois

CAI = Citizen Action Illinois

RC = Reclaim Chicago

EI = Equality Illinois PAC

• = Lt. governor candidate; running with candidate above

	WCT	PP	PPAC	ORI	CAI	RC	EI
Bruce Rauner (R)							
• Evelyn Sanguinetti (R)							
Jeanne Ives (R)							
• Rich Morthland (R)							
JB Pritzker (D)	37/38	Y	Y		Y		Y
• Juliana Stratton (D)							
Chris Kennedy (D)	38/38	Y					
• Ra Joy (D)							
Daniel Biss (D)	38/38	Y		Y		Y	
• Litesa E. Wallace (D)							
Bob Daiber (D)							
• Jonathan W. Todd (D)							
Tio Hardiman (D)							
• Patricia Avery (D)							
Robert Marshall (D)							
• Dennis Cole (D)							

## ATTORNEY GENERAL

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

PPAC = Personal PAC

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

	WCT	PPAC	IVI	PP
Erika Harold (R)				
Gary Grasso (R)				
Pat Quinn (D)	37/38			Y
Renato Mariotti (D)	37/38			Y
Scott Drury (D)	38/38			Y
Nancy Rotering (D)	37/38			Y
Kwame Raoul (D)			Y	Y
Jesse Ruiz (D)				Y
Sharon Fairley (D)	36/38			Y
Aaron Goldstein (D)	38/38			Y

## SECRETARY OF STATE

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

PPAC = Personal PAC

EI = Equality Illinois PAC

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

	WCT	PPAC	EI	PP
Jason Helland (R)				
Jesse White (D)		Y	Y	Y

## COMPTROLLER

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

PPAC = Personal PAC

EI = Equality Illinois PAC

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

	WCT	PPAC	EI	PP
Darlene Senger (R)				
Susana A. Mendoza (D)		Y	Y	Y

## TREASURER

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

PPAC = Personal PAC

EI = Equality Illinois PAC

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

	WCT	PPAC	EI	PP
Jim Dodge (R)				
Michael W. Frerichs (D)		Y	Y	Y

## COOK COUNTY RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

PPAC = Personal PAC

EI = Equality Illinois PAC

RC = Reclaim Chicago

CNOW = Chicago NOW PAC

ORI = Our Revolution Illinois

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

CAI = Citizen Action Illinois

	WCT	PPAC	EI	RCCNOWORI	IVI	PP	CAI
<b>BOARD PRESIDENT</b>							
Andrew C.M. Nelson (R)							
Toni Preckwinkle (D)	38/38	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
Bob Fioretti (D)							

## ASSESSOR

Joseph Berrios (D) 36/38

Frederick "Fritz" Kaegi (D)

Andrea A. Raila (D)

## CLERK

Karen A. Yarbrough (D)

Stephanie Joy Jackson-Rowe (D)

Nick Shields (D)

Jan Kowalski McDonald (D) 30/38

## SHERIFF

Thomas J. Dart (D)

Edward "Eddie" Acevedo (D)

John Fairman (D)

## TREASURER

Maria Pappas (D)

Peter Gariepy (D) 36/38

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-1ST DISTRICT

Brandon Johnson (D)

Richard R. Boykin (D) 36/38

	WCT	PPAC	EI	RCCNOWORI	IVI	PP	CAI
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-2ND DISTRICT</b>							
Dennis Deer (D)			Y			Y	Y
Paul J. Montes II (D)							
Antoni M. Williams Sr. (D)							
Lupe Aguirre (D)	37/38						
Eddie Johnson III (D)							
Darryl D. Smith (D)							

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-3RD DISTRICT

George Blakemore (R)

Patricia Horton (D)

Charise A. Williams (D)

Steven R. Wolfe (D) 38/38

Bill Lowry (D)

Joshua Gray (D) 35/38

Erick M. Nickerson (D)

Horace "Washington" Howard (D)

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-4TH DISTRICT

Stanley S. Moore (D)

Maria M. Barlow (D)

Alfred W. Evans Jr. (D)

Marcel Bright (D)

Gaylon Alcaraz (D) 37/38

Robert R. McKay (D)

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-5TH DISTRICT

Deborah Sims (D)

Timothy "Tim" Parker (D)

Adrena Bacon (D)

Audrey Lynn Tanksley (D)

Dexter Johnson (D)

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-6TH DISTRICT

Donna Miller (D)

Louis Presta (D)

Patricia Joan Murphy (D)

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-7TH DISTRICT

Jesus "Chuy" Garcia (D) 38/38

Alexander "Alex" Acevedo (D)

Angeles Sandoval (D) 38/38

Alma E. Anaya (D) 37/38

Ricardo Muñoz (D)

Raul Montes, Jr. (D)

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-9TH DISTRICT

Peter N. Silvestri (R)

Frank L. McPartlin (D)

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-10TH DISTRICT

Bridget Gainer (D)

Mary Ann Kosiak (D)

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-11TH DISTRICT

Carl Segvich (R)

Steven S. Graves (R)

John P. Daley (D)

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-12TH DISTRICT

Bridget Degnan (D)

John Fritchey (D) 38/38

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-13TH DISTRICT

Chris J. Hanusiak (R)

Bushra Amiwal (D) 37/38

Larry Suffredin (D) 38/38

Daniel Foster (D) 38/38

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-14TH DISTRICT

Gregg Goslin (R)

Scott R. Britton (D)

	WCT	PPAC	EI	RCCNOWORI	IVI	PP	CAI
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-15TH DISTRICT</b>							
Timothy Owen Schneider (R)							
Kevin B. Morrison (D)	38/38	Y	Y				Y
Ravi Raju (D)							
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-16TH DISTRICT</b>							
Jeffrey R. Tobolski (D)		Y					
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-17TH DISTRICT</b>							
Sean M. Morrison (R)							
Steve Spagnolo (D)	38/38						
Abdelnasser Rashid					Y	Y	
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD OF REVIEW-2ND DISTRICT</b>							
Michael Cabonargi (D)				Y			
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD OF REVIEW-3RD DISTRICT</b>							
Larry Rogers Jr. (D)							
<b>METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT</b>							
R. Cary Capparelli (R)							
Shundar Lin (R)	33/38						
Debra Shore (D)	38/38	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Kari Steele (D)	36/38	Y		Y	Y	Y	
Martin J. Durkan (D)		Y				Y	
Marcelino Garcia (D)	38/38				Y		
Kimberly Neely Dubuclet (D)	38/38	Y			Y	Y	
Robert Shaw (D)							
Todd Stroger (D)							
Elizabeth Joyce (D)							
Rene Avila (D)							
Toni Williams (D)							
Rachel Wales (G)							
Karen Roothaan (G)							
Tammie Felicia Vinson (G)	37/38						
Christopher Anthony (G)							

**US REPRESENTATIVE RACES**

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race  
 CPC = Congressional Progressive Caucus  
 SEIU = Service Employees International Union  
 RC = Reclaim Chicago  
 ORI = Our Revolution Illinois  
 IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization  
 IND = Indivisible Chicago  
 PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action  
 HRC = Human Rights Campaign 114th Congress, ratings are a percentage of total 100% based on HRC tracking of how candidates voted in the 114th Congress

	WCT	CPC	SEIU	RC	ORI	IVI	IND	PP	HRC
<b>1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Jimmy Lee Tillman II (R)									
Bobby L. Rush (D)								Y	100
<b>2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
John F. Morrow (R)									
Patrick Harmon (R)									
David Merkle (R)									
Marcus Lewis (D)									
Robin Kelly (D)	38/38					Y		Y	100
<b>3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Arthur J. Jones (R)									
Daniel William Lipinski (D)									57
Marie Newman (D)	38/38	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	

	WCT	CPC	SEIU	RC	ORI	IVI	IND	PP	HRC
<b>4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Mark Wayne Lorch (R)									
Richard Gonzalez (D)	37/38								
Sol A. Flores (D)	38/38								
Jesus "Chuy" Garcia (D)	38/38	Y			Y	Y			
<b>5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Tom Hanson (R)									
Benjamin Thomas Wolf (D)	36/38								
Mike Quigley (D)	38/38						Y	100	
Sameena Mustafa (D)	38/38					Y			
Steven J. Schwartzberg (D)									
<b>6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Peter J. Roskam (R)									0
Kelly Mazeski (D)									
Amanda Howland (D)						Y			
Sean Casten (D)									
Jennifer Zordani (D)	38/38								
Becky Anderson Wilkins (D)									
Ryan Huffman (D)									
Carole Cheney (D)									
<b>7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Craig Cameron (R)									
Jeffrey A. Leef (R)									
Danny K. Davis (D)	38/38					Y	Y	96	
Anthony V. Clark (D)	37/38								
<b>8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Jitendra "JD" Diganvker (R)									
Raja Krishnamoorthi (D)							Y		
<b>9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Sargis Sangari (R)									
John D. Elleson (R)							Y		
Maxwell Rice (R)									
D. Vincent Thomas Jr. (R)	30/38								
Janice D. Schakowsky (D)	38/38								
<b>10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Jeremy Wynes (R)									
Sapan Shah (R)									
Douglas R. Bennett (R)									
Brad Schneider (D)									
<b>11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Nick Stella (R)									
Constant G. "Connor" Vlakancic (R)									
Bill Foster (D)									
<b>12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Michael Bost (R)									
Preston Nelson (R)							Y		16
Brendan Kelly (D)									
David Bequette (D)	38/38								
Randy Auxier (D)									
<b>13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Rodney Davis (R)									
Betsy Dirksen Londrigan (D)									
Erik Jones (D)									
Jon Ebel (D)	38/38								
David M. Gill (D)	37/38								
Angel Sides (D)	38/38								

	WCT	CPC	SEIU	RC	ORI	IVI	IND	PP	HRC
<b>14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Randall M. "Randy" Hultgren (R)									0
Victor Swanson (D)	37/38								
John J. Hosta (D)									
Matthew Brolley (D)	38/38								
George Weber (D)							Y		
Lauren Underwood (D)	37/38								
Jim Walz (D)	37/38								
Daniel Roldan-Johnson (D)	38/38								
<b>15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
John M. Shimkus (R)									16
Carl Spoeer (D)	33/38						Y		
Kevin Gaither (D)									
<b>16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Adam Kinzinger (R)									36
James T. "Jim" Marter (R)									
Neill Mohammad (D)	38/38								
Sara Dady (D)	38/38								
Beth Vercolio-Osmund (D)									
Amy "Murri" Briel (D)							Y		
<b>17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
William W. "Bill" Fawell (R)									
Cheri Bustos (D)									Y 100
<b>18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>									
Donald Ray Rients (R)									
Darin LaHood (R)									0
Brian J. Deters (D)									
Junius Rodriguez (D)									
Darrel Miller (D)							Y		

**STATE SENATE RACES**

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race  
 PPAC = Personal PAC  
 EI = Equality Illinois PAC  
 CAI = Citizen Action Illinois  
 RC = Reclaim Chicago  
 ORI = Our Revolution Illinois  
 IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization  
 PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

	WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP
<b>2ND SENATE DISTRICT</b>								
Omar Aquino (D)	38/38	Y	Y		Y			Y
<b>3RD SENATE DISTRICT</b>								
Mattie Hunter (D)		Y	Y					Y
<b>5TH SENATE DISTRICT</b>								
Patricia Van Pelt (D)		Y						Y
<b>6TH SENATE DISTRICT</b>								
John J. Cullerton (D)		Y	Y					Y
<b>8TH SENATE DISTRICT</b>								
Ram Villivalam (D)			Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
Ira I. Silverstein (D)								
David A. Zulkey (D)	30/38							
Caroline McAteer-Fournier (D)	38/38						Y	
<b>9TH SENATE DISTRICT</b>								
Joan McCarthy Lasonde (R)								
Laura Fine (D)		Y	Y	Y				Y
<b>11TH SENATE DISTRICT</b>								
Martin A. Sandoval (D)		Y						Y





	WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP
<b>103RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Carol Ammons (D)		Y	Y	Y				Y
<b>105TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Dan Brady (R) David Paul Blumenshine (R) Benjamin Webb (D)			Y	Y				
<b>107TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Blaine Wilhour (R) Laura A. Myers (D) David J. Seiler (D)							Y	

	WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP
<b>110TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Chris Miller (R) Terry A. Davis (R) Shirley A. Bell (D)			Y	Y				
<b>112TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Wendy Erhart (R) Dwight D. Kay (R) Katie Stuart (D)		Y	Y					Y

	WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP
<b>113TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Doug Jameson (R) Jay Hoffman (D)			Y					
<b>114TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Jason Madlock (R) LaToya N. Greenwood (D)		Y						

**Individual races for which none of the organizations listed did not provide an endorsement were removed for the print version of this chart. For a full listing, see [www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com).  
Judicial charts will be added next week once bar association recommendations become available.**

## ELECTIONS 2018:

# Windy City Times March 20 Primary Survey of Candidates

Each election cycle, Windy City Times mails out surveys to all major candidates for races in Illinois, including downstate state rep and senate candidates. This year was a record year, with more than 800 mailed last December. Just 95 candidates then completed the online link to the survey. It's clear that the more supportive the candidate, the more likely they are to respond to a survey from an LG-BTQ newspaper.

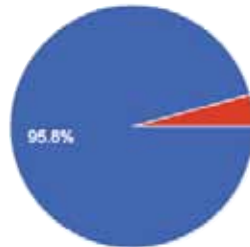
This was our first year with an online survey. This week's Windy City Times has results from the 38 questions for general candidates; we will publish judicial responses soon, as we are waiting for judicial evaluations from bar associations to be published.

Since we did this survey online, we also have some data to share. Below are some highlights of the responses from the 95 candidates in non-judicial races.

Five of the questions were narrative on more complex issues such as prevention of violence targeting transgender people and criminal justice reform including LGBTQs. The remaining questions were yes or no. A few of those yes or no questions are represented here.

● Yes
 ● No
 ● Not applicable

Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination?



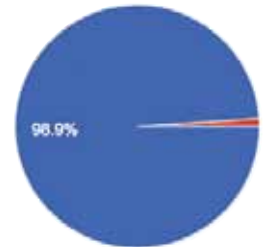
Do you support an increase in funding for research and prevention of HIV/AIDS?



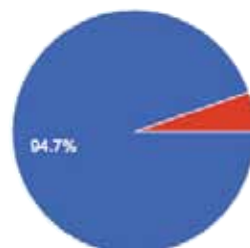
Do you favor lifting the ban on gay men being able to donate blood (having similar restrictions as any other blood donors)?



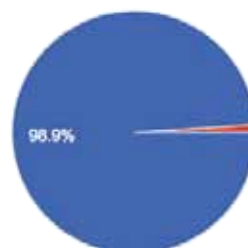
Do you support the Affordable Care Act?



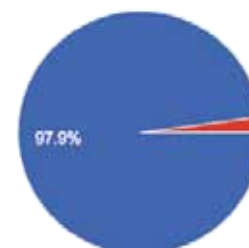
Do you support a single-payer solution to healthcare in the U.S.?



Do you favor comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education in schools, including LGBTQ?



Do you favor LGBT history included in school textbooks and classes?



Do you support open transgender service in the U.S. military?



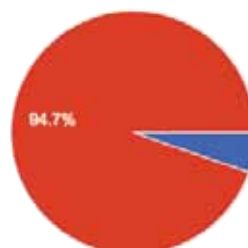
Do you favor a national employment protection law that covers both sexual orientation and gender identity protections?



Are any members of your current staff, either campaign or legislative, openly LGBT?



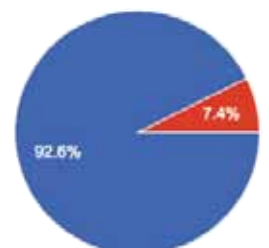
Are you in favor of so-called "religious freedom" laws that would allow businesses to discriminate against LGBTQ and other people?



Do you support measures allowing for legal concealed guns?



Do you support banning employment discrimination based on criminal records?



**ELECTIONS 2018:**  
**COOK COUNTY JUDGE**

# Stephanie Miller on background, being an out candidate

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Openly lesbian Cook County Judge Stephanie Miller was appointed to her current post on the 6th Judicial Subcircuit in January 2017, replacing Judge Robert Lopez Cepero, who had retired.

A former prosecutor and public guardian, Miller is running in the 2018 election to keep her post. She recently spoke with Windy City Times about her professional experience, judicial philosophies and involvement with the LGBT community.

**Windy City Times: What prompted you to accept the post, and run now to keep it in the 2018 election?**

Stephanie Miller: I have spent my entire legal career in public service. I started as an assistant public guardian, representing kids who are abused or neglected, and adults in probate division and then went to the state's attorney's office, where I specialized in sex crimes cases with juvenile and adolescent victims.

I've done public service my whole career. When I had the incredible opportunity to be appointed to the bench, it furthered my commitment to that work. I'm currently part of the pre-trial service division, which is the new bond court reform program.

**WCT: How do you think your background as a prosecutor and guardian has benefited you in the judicial post?**

SM: As I said, I've always worked in public ser-

vice, and I have always, from day one as an attorney, and even when I was a law clerk, been appearing in court. So I'm comfortable with how a courtroom runs and how a courtroom is to be managed, and the appropriate demeanor to be given in front of judges who are maybe a little cranky and hot-headed, and how that affects the attorneys and the litigants who appear in front of them.

I've taken all of that to heart, and I've been in front of some truly wonderful judges that I've learned immense amounts from. I try to model myself taking a little bit from each of them to do the best job I can.

**WCT: What has been your biggest challenge in campaigning so far?**

SM: Certainly, as a sitting judge, it's an entirely different issue about campaigning, because I'm bound by the judicial cannon of ethics. Whereas candidates for alderman or state rep can ask for money or assistance, as a sitting judge I cannot do any of that. Though I'm certainly out every night knocking on doors and going to events, I have to rely on a phenomenal group of volunteers and some staff to help out with the things that ethically I am not allowed to do—that's the difficult part. I like to certainly hit the ground running and do it all myself, but I'm restricted in what I'm allowed to do.

**WCT: Last spring, hadn't you mentioned some problems with folks in your neighbor-**



Stephanie Miller.

Photo courtesy of Miller

**hood having problems with your being openly gay?**

SM: My neighborhood has not been a problem, but my subcircuit encompasses parts of 13 different aldermanic wards and there definitely has been some resistance to me being an open and out LGBT judge and candidate—some subtle, some not so subtle. I understand that comes with the territory and you're a candidate and the public elects you. But it's 2018, and I really thought we're past a lot of that, at least in Chicago and our "blue" area.

**WCT: In that same respect, what's the importance of having openly LGBT individuals on the bench?**

SM: I firmly believe that, when I put the robe on and I sit on the bench, I not only bring my

knowledge the law and experience as an attorney, but I don't check my life experiences at the door when I walk into the courtroom. I'm an out lesbian, I'm a Puerto Rican, I'm a wife, I'm a mother of 12-year-old twins—all of that makes me who I am and gives life experiences that [help] when people appear in front of me in court. They may or may not know my background at all, which is fine. But I [bring] that diversity that I think is crucial for people to be able to relate to and see that it's "someone like me" or "somebody who can empathize with my position." I may not rule in their favor, but at least it brings a level of fairness and unbiasedness when you have diversity on the bench—not just LGBTQ or ethnic diversity, but gender diversity as well.

**WCT: Have your judicial colleagues supportive of your being out?**

SM: Yes, definitely. I'm also part of an organization called Alliance for Illinois Judges. It's the first, potentially the only, LGBTQ judge's association in the country, started before I had the bench but it was something I was a part of even when I was a lawyer ahead of time.

**WCT: What are the most important issues for the LGBT community that a judge has an impact on?**

SM: Part of of my objective, certainly as a judge but throughout my entire career, is my role of the bench can help others come up along the way. I was lucky enough to be mentored by other LGBTQ judges and attorneys, so I certainly trying to give back also. I'm on the board of LAGBAC [Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago]; I'm on the membership committee there. So we're trying to get LGBTQ law students and young lawyers more involved.

If there is some desire on their part to be a judge, I can help with that. I think it's so crucial for everybody to have a mentorship relationship. Whether we like it or not, we're still going to run into hurdles regarding sexual orientation, and if there's somebody to go to bounce ideas off of, that can only help within the community.

See [ElectJudgeStephanieMiller.com](http://ElectJudgeStephanieMiller.com).

#HireTrans

I HAVE EXPERIENCE BEING INVOLVED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF SATELLITES.

DENISE B

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f t i

## What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
  - ◆ Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - ◆ If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - ◆ Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - ◆ Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - ◆ Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - ◆ Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

#### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

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

### Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- ◆ **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- ◆ **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

### What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

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

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://www.FDA.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

**Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.**



# We're open, not unprepared.

**We know who we are.** And we make choices that fit our lives.


**TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.**

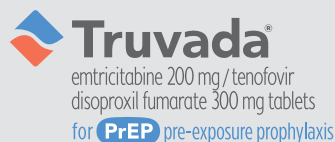
- ◆ TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- ◆ You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

**Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.**

GILEAD

Learn more at [truvada.com](http://truvada.com)

 **Truvada**<sup>®</sup>  
emtricitabine 200 mg / tenofovir  
disoproxil fumarate 300 mg tablets  
for **PrEP** pre-exposure prophylaxis



(tru-VAH-dah)

## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

### TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

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

## ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

### Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

## HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

## IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

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

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

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

**Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.**

## BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

### Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

## HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

## GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) for program information.



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# Clarence Darrow symposium to mark 80 years since his death on March 13

On Tuesday, March 13, the Clarence Darrow Commemorative Committee marks two contributions by famed “attorney for the damned” Clarence Darrow: marking the 80th anniversary of the death of Darrow—the question “How does Darrow’s work and legacy influence you?” will be answered by three Chicago attorneys active in progressive causes: Catharine O’Daniel, Nabeela Rasheed and Scott A. Schoettes.

Then, Darrow’s contribution to the issue of fair housing, and marking the 50th anniversary of Fair Housing policy in the U.S., Marisa Novara, Vice President, Metropolitan Planning Council will discuss the effectiveness of the Fair Housing Law after half a century, and actor Keith Butler will give a dramatic reading of Darrow’s argument on behalf of Ossian Sweet, the Michigan physician 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.

The program is part of a commemoration and symposium held annually on the date of Darrow’s death, beginning at the Clarence Darrow Bridge in his beloved Jackson Park where he once, as a bet, said his spirit would return, if it turned out that communication was possible from the afterworld.

For more than five decades, first friends and relatives, and now descendants and fans, have been gathering on the anniversary of his death to summon his spirit, first by throwing a wreath into the water at the bridge, and then by adjourning to a room in the Museum of Science & Industry to discuss a topic still relevant today that Darrow was passionate about.

The three attorneys who will explore Darrow’s influence on their own careers are:

—Catharine O’Daniel, who is a criminal defense and appellate lawyer in Chicago and the owner of her own law firm. She has tried numerous criminal cases to verdict in state and federal courts across the U.S. In 2015, O’Daniel 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.

—Nabeela Rasheed, who is a Pakistani, British-American, Muslim queer lawyer, biochemist, and activist. Rasheed retrained as a lawyer in Chicago, and recently 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.

Marisa Novara, who will discuss the current effectiveness of the 1968 Fair Housing Law, directs the Metropolitan Planning Council’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. She designed and manages the multi-year Cost of Segregation project.

Excerpts from Darrow’s dramatic argument on behalf of Ossian Sweet will be performed by Keith Butler, who starred as Kevin in the made-for-TV 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 day begins with a traditional brief ceremony and wreath-tossing near the Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park at 10 a.m. Since the actual bridge is closed due to construction, the ceremony will be just to the east of the Darrow tribute marker.

After the ritual outdoor wreath-tossing, guests will move inside to the Museum of Science and Industry’s Rosenwald Room for light refreshments and the presentations at 10:45 a.m. by the attorneys, the discussion of the Fair Housing Law and the dramatization of Darrow’s speech.

## DIRECTIONS TO THE EVENTS

Wreath-tossing and remarks are at 10 a.m. just EAST of the Clarence Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park (the bridge is under construction) 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.

The 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 the Museum from the east side; we all must enter through the 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 skip the outdoor ceremony and just join us inside at the symposium. All events free.

For more information, see <http://www.facebook.com/DarrowBridgeorg-207085072651434/> or [www.darrowbridge.org](http://www.darrowbridge.org) or call 773-387-2394



From left: Keith Butler, Nabeela Rashid and Scott Schoettes.

## CBA to honor Lori Lightfoot Feb. 28

Lori E. Lightfoot, of Mayer Brown LLP, and Larry R. Rogers Jr., of Power Rogers & Smith, will be honored with the Chicago Bar Association’s (CBA’s) Earl B. Dickerson Award on Wed., Feb. 28, at The Standard Club, 320 S. Plymouth Ct.

A reception will start at 11:30 a.m., with a luncheon following.

The awards were established in honor of the late Dickerson, one of the first African-American members of the Chicago Bar Association. Lightfoot, an out lesbian, is also the president of the Chicago police board.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$70; visit [ChicagoBar.org](http://ChicagoBar.org).



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## viewpoints



**Dana  
RUDOLPH**

## MOMBIAN

## Fighting for kids against religious exemption laws

As a growing number of states allow child welfare agencies to discriminate against LGBTQ prospective foster and adoptive parents and LGBTQ youth in care, a new campaign is fighting back—but it needs our help and our stories.

The Every Child Deserves a Family campaign (ECDF), launched last December, brings together dozens of LGBTQ, child welfare, faith-based, and civil rights organizations into a coalition chaired by Family Equality Council and PFLAG. It aims to promote the best interests of all children in the child welfare system by increasing their access to qualified caregivers, and to ensure LGBTQ youth in the system get safe, supportive care. In the current era, that means resisting those using religion to discriminate.

### A growing threat

Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota and Virginia have for several years allowed child welfare agencies to cite their religious beliefs or moral convictions as reasons to reject otherwise qualified parents, including LGBTQ ones, single ones, and ones of different religions. In 2017, similar bills passed in Alabama, South Dakota and Texas, and ones are pending in Oklahoma and Georgia. Most also allow discrimination against LGBTQ children in care, which could mean placing them with a family that does not support their LGBTQ identity, or even wishes to subject them to widely discredited and damaging “conversion therapy.”

Only three states, plus Washington, D.C., explicitly protect prospective foster and adoptive parents against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; five more protect based on sexual orientation alone.

The danger is at the federal level, too. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on January 18 announced a new rule that will allow health care workers to refuse medical services if providing them violates their religious or moral beliefs. A new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division within its Office for Civil Rights will enforce it. While the rule targets medical procedures, including abortion, sterilization, and assisted suicide, Julie Kruse, federal policy advocate at Family Equality, said in an interview that HHS’ language and actions seem to indicate they intend the division’s scope to encompass all of HHS’ activities, including human services such as adoption and foster care.

### The need for homes

Federal data indicates more than 440,000 children are currently in foster care, 117,000 of whom are waiting for adoption. More than 20,000 children age out of the system each year without finding a permanent family, putting them more at risk for joblessness, homelessness, incarceration, and other problems.

LGBTQ parents “can be part of the solution,” said Kruse, citing a study from UCLA’s Williams Institute that indicated approximately 2 million LGB adults were interested in adopting.

And LGBTQ youth are overrepresented in foster care, with studies also showing they are likely to have had more foster placements (less permanency), and more likely to have run away or been homeless, kicked out or trafficked.

### A broad campaign

The new ECDF campaign grew out of earlier work by Family Equality and other organizations to support the bipartisan “Every Child Deserves a Family Act,” first introduced in both houses of Congress in 2009 and reintroduced in every Congress since. The bill would withhold federal child welfare funds from states that discriminate against LGBTQ prospective parents or LGBTQ youth in care, and allow redress in federal courts. With the growing number of state laws intended to withhold funds from those who don’t allow discrimination, however, and an anti-LGBTQ federal administration, “We needed to have a combined federal and state campaign,” explained Kruse.

Frank J. Bewkes, policy analyst at the Center for American Progress (CAP), one of the coalition’s founding members, explained in an interview, “While CAP believes that the free exercise of religion is a fundamental American value, we’re increasingly seeing that right being used as a weapon instead of a shield, which we think is a corruption of its purpose.” Now, he said, “That weapon is harming some of our most vulnerable youths. With the ECDF campaign, we’re mobilizing to combat these religious exemption bills for child placement agencies as they arise, trying to be more offensive in our strategy, or at the very least, more unified and organized in our defense.”

Kruse hopes the new campaign will build on past successes. Family Equality partnered with other advocates to defeat discriminatory child welfare bills in Florida, Georgia, and Oklahoma, and defeated ones Alabama, Michigan, and Texas three times before they passed. They are now on the ground again in Oklahoma and Georgia, working with local groups and national organizations such as Lambda Legal, to combat new bills there.

### The need for stories

To support the campaign, Family Equality and CAP have launched “Welcoming All Families,” an initiative to collect stories of anti-LGBTQ discrimination (and the benefits of inclusion) in adoption and foster care. They want stories from LGBTQ adoptive and foster parents, current or former adoptees, and

foster youth, child welfare providers, faith leaders, and allies that they can share with state and federal elected officials and use in media placements, videos, and reports.

Anti-LGBTQ discrimination in the child welfare system “is a topic that all too often lacks coverage,” Bewkes explained. “We need to show how harmful these laws are. We also want to hear positive stories that we can hold up and say, ‘That’s a family; that’s love,’ because those are messages that any audience can understand.”

Kruse said her goal is to get stories from all 435 Congressional districts across the country, “to show every representative and senator this is an issue that impacts their constituents.” Visit [welcomingall-families.org](http://welcomingall-families.org) to submit yours.

### A plan for action

People should also visit [Everychilddeservesa.family](http://Everychilddeservesa.family) to learn more and sign up for action alerts, Kruse advised.

Additionally, they can give feedback on the new HHS rule, which is open for public comments until March 27. These comments can “have a huge impact,” she said. Visit [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) and search for “Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care.”

Kruse also encouraged people to ask their employers to oppose religious exemption legislation that would harm children in care. She noted the many companies that took action against broader anti-LGBTQ bills in North Carolina and Indiana because they wanted the states in which they’re based to be welcoming to LGBTQ employees. Similarly, “Once they realize that their LGBTQ employees may want to form families, they’ll realize this is an important business decision for them, too,” she added. “I think it’s simply a question of getting the education out there and building that support.”

People should also ask their members of Congress to co-sponsor the Every Child Deserves a Family Act, she said. Even though the current Congress is unlikely to pass it, Kruse feels that if the Democrats regain a majority in the fall elections, the bill could make it into law.

Another way to help is through letters to the editor, “saying that these discriminatory bills are out there, that they are increasing in number, and that they harm kids,” she suggested.

Kruse referenced a Public Religion Research Institute survey from last September that found 68 percent of Americans oppose discrimination against same-sex couples in federally funded adoption, including a majority of Republicans and evangelicals. “I think as soon as the general public realizes what’s going on, we will win,” she said. “Anybody who cares about kids should care about this issue.”

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

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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Life celebration for Aaron at Scot's.



## 'Phantom' thread

23

WCT reviews *Love Never Dies*, the sequel to *Phantom of the Opera*.

Photo of Casey Lyons and Meghan Picerno by Joan Marcus

### DANCIN' FEATS

## Sharp and still with Lin Hwai-min

BY JOANNA FURNANS

Next month the Dance Center of Columbia College welcomes back Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan for a two-night engagement of its latest work "Formosa" at the Harris Theater.

According to Taiwanese legend, 16th-century Portuguese sailors exclaimed "Formosa!" ("Beautiful!") as they came upon the lush island off the coast of China that would eventually be known as Taiwan. In this new work, Cloud Gate founder/artistic director Lin Hwai-min uses the island of his homeland, with all its natural splendor and turmoil, as inspiration and metaphor for our modern-day world.

**Windy City Times: You began your artistic career as a fiction writer in Taiwan and received an MFA from the writer's workshop at the University of Iowa. Can you tell us more about your path from writer to choreographer?**

Lin Hwai-min: The writer's sorkshop required students to take another course in other fields of art. Of course, I chose modern dance. So I started my training at 23. I never thought I was going to become a dancer because I knew I was too old. But being a creative, impulsive young man, I showed my teacher my first choreography and she thought it was very good. She advised me to quit school and go to New York to pursue a professional dance career. I did not. I came back to Taiwan.

I was crazy. But I was a kid growing up in the sixties who thought I could make a difference in a society, if not the world. And since there was no dance company, I founded one. And I thought I would hand it over to the dancers who were professionals while I was just a layman. But 45

years have passed...

**WCT: Are there connections between writing and dancing?**

Lin: Writing and dancing are two totally different things. Writing can be very precise and direct in expressing an idea while dancing, well one of the strongest characteristics of dance is its ambiguity; it is open to many different interpretations.

In the beginning my choreography tended to be narrative but I knew it was not the right way to do it. So it took me about 20 years to erase the "words" in my mind. And I started to create better works—pure dance, that is. So, the two mediums are basically in conflict. But there are things in common. For instance both require a sense of structure.

Formosa has a lot of words. It features poetry all the way through and the type-faces of [Chinese] characters become the only material for the projection design. Somehow I came full circle. And by coincidence, the overseas premiere of Formosa happens to be in Iowa City. Life is a strange but interesting thing.

**WCT: Your dancers are exquisitely trained. Can you tell us more about the cross training they undergo with meditation, martial arts, dance and calligraphy?**

Lin: Since the founding of Cloud Gate in 1973 we thought we would create a style of our own rather than copycats of Western modern dance. So, in addition to ballet and modern dance, we had Beijing opera movements and later the emphasis shifted to meditation, martial arts and qi qong. [It is] less stylized but deals with the beauty of the body and is always grounded: low moving and in a low position. Each movement is



Formosa, performed by Cloud Gate Theatre of Taiwan. Photo by Liu Chen-hsiang

initiated by breathing.

Cloud Gate dancers have a great sense of centeredness. We use the core of the body to move and the mind is very centered. Dancers meditate before a performance, also at the airport, in the plane, in the hotel. Therefore, when they are still, the energy grows. From stillness to sharp movement takes a second, an instant. They can shift like a martial artist. So, that's what we do. It's a very centered and quiet mind and body.

**WCT: What are the biggest challenges when touring your work?**

Lin: Well, we've been touring around the world since the late 70's. Nowadays we tour about 150 days a year and this year we will perform in ten countries. What I'm afraid of is the physical condition of the dancers. I don't want them to be injured. In fact, on this tour, Chicago is the biggest challenge because of the low temperature and the freezing wind from Lake Michigan. We are from a tropical country! But we are prepared.

**WCT: What are you most proud of as an artist?**

Lin: I think I have a very fulfilled life as a

dancer, choreographer and company director. When we started the company we never dreamed about Paris, New York, London or Chicago. You know, from growing up in the 60s, I told the dancers that the main goal of the company is to perform for the grassroots audiences and students on campuses. I feel so fortunate, despite our busy tour, that we are still able to do that. ... I am happy we are able to entertain and inspire the general people, the people who don't enter the opera houses. I feel so blessed that the society, the people on the island helped us come to this point. I think the best review I ever got was from a farmer lady. In the darkness of a nowhere village, a farm lady walked towards me, held my hands and said in a stage whisper, "thank you very much for your beautiful art."

**Formosa will take place Friday-Saturday, March 2-3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St; call 312-369-8330 or visit Colum.edu/dancecenterpresents.**

## THEATER REVIEW

**Breach: a manifesto on race in America...**

Playwright: Antoinette Nwandu  
 At: Victory Gardens Theater at the Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.  
 Tickets: \$15-\$56  
 Runs through: March 11

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

An unwritten rule observed by playwrights from antiquity to the present day is the wholesale denial of sex education as a factor in the psychological development of their characters—an omission making for plot progressions in which the plans of educated adults are upset by accidental pregnancies, babies are born on unwashed floors in public buildings, infants are diapered on cemetery grasslands, fatherhood is presented as an after-the-fact responsibility and motherhood, a before-the-fact vocation.



From left: Caren Blackmore, Keith D. Gallagher and Al'Jaleel McGhee in *Breach*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

Antoinette Nwandu populates her allegorical “manifesto” with archetypes illustrating this conservative cosmology: there is elderly Aunt Sylvia, a former single-mother housecleaner, who now courts hypertension in defiance of her doctor’s advice. There is Carolina, a single soon-to-be-mother, employed as a custodian at the com-

munity college where our protagonist, teacher Margaret Jean, shares an office with her recently hired supervisor.

This is no feel-good proletarian sitcom, though. While it’s true that during the course of the play, our schoolmarm will a) engage in unprotected sex with her new boss, b) discover herself to be

pregnant, c) cultivate an affinity for performing janitorial chores, d) twice reject the marriage proposal of the wealthy, ambitious, practical-minded suitor who adores her—in his way, and e) respond to the onset of Carolina’s parturition in a deserted schoolroom with a jeremiad lamenting her ignorance of midwifery, Nwandu’s heroine ultimately finds within herself the courage to question the imperatives governing her peers, be they based in capitalism, romance or historical precedent.

By the way, did I mention that Sylvie and Margaret are African-American, as is the father of Margaret’s child, or that the big-bucks boyfriend is white, and Carolina, Latinx? Rather than exploit this factor to diminish the gender dynamics operating beneath the narrative’s veneer of stereotypical humor, however, director Lisa Portes and an ensemble of smart actors instead utilize it to amplify the risks faced by young men and women today in resisting conventional wisdom to decide their own destinies and that of their offspring.

## THEATER REVIEW

**Fear and Misery in the Third Reich**

Playwright: Bertolt Brecht  
 At: Haven Theatre at the Den, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
 Tickets: \$18  
 Runs through: March 11

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

After fleeing Germany in 1933, Bertolt Brecht made it his mission to warn us that a political faction therein led by a charismatic upstart named Adolf Hitler was up to no good. This he

accomplished in a series of dramatic sketches illustrating the suffering of innocent people under the manipulative coercion of corrupt authorities—a theme explored in his earlier plays, but now attributed to a particular group of oppressors. Following the premiere in 1938 of the anthologized collection thereof, his alarm secured the allegiance of other countries (the United States among them) to ultimately bring about the defeat of the Nazis in 1945.

Haven Theatre director Josh Sobel is convinced that we need reminding nowadays of this chapter in our history, reproduced verbatim from Brecht’s ripped-from-the-headlines reports and replete with references to the Weimar era, the *Sturmabteilung* squads and geographically accurate place names. The production values likewise evidence

faithful adherence to the author’s principles of intellectual distance—stark industrialist scenery, grayed color palette, cross-casting by race and gender, minimal identification of participating artists—only to inexplicably introduce a bait-and-switch epilogue involving a shower of leaflets exhorting us to “fight fascism.”

No, this doesn’t mean the play’s action has been abruptly transported to Italy under Mussolini, though theatergoers immersed in Brecht’s dramatic universe by this point may be forgiven thinking so. Instead, what we hitherto believed to be a hindsight lesson in popular gullibility has been restored to its original function as a propagandistic call to arms. The term “fascist” having become increasingly indistinct from its source in the intervening decades, however, audiences are

left to fill in the names of their own choice hobgoblins, not all of which may concur.

The verbal alacrity exhibited by the Haven ensemble in navigating Eric Bentley’s stiffly academic translation within an acoustically-challenged environment ensuring moments of inaudibility in every section of the audience is irrefutably commendable, as are the many creative visual devices designed to soften the emotional impact of brutal crimes. Unfortunately, as a teaching tool in 2018, Brecht’s dispatches from 1938 offer us no instructive recourse for active resistance beyond withholding money from the government and saying “no” (to which might be added “watch your back”—but we knew that already, didn’t we?).

## THEATER REVIEW

**Moon for the Misbegotten**

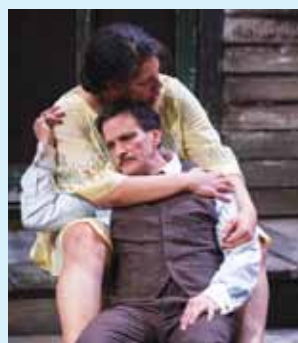
Written by: Eugene O’Neill  
 At: Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Ct., Glencoe  
 Tickets: \$35-80  
 Runs through: March 18

BY KAREN TOPHAM

Writers Theatre’s *A Moon for the Misbegotten* is a powerful, poignant and often hilarious piece of theater.

Conceived as a sequel to *A Long Day’s Journey Into Night*, *Moon* has little of the overwhelming drama of that earlier play that told the barely masked tale of the playwright’s own family. Here the focus is on scion Jamie O’Neill (called Jim Tyrone, Jr. in the play) as he approaches his death due to complications from alcoholism.

Tyrone, played by Jim DeVita, is a broken man who hides his own sorrows in whiskey. DeVita imbues the character with a sense of playful-



Jim DeVita and Bethany Thomas in *Moon for the Misbegotten*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

ness as well as a barely hidden need both to find love and to expiate his guilt over decisions he’s made that have brought him here. We see Tyrone through his tenant farmers, the Hogans. Phil Hogan (A.C. Smith) is a schemer who is always ready for a drink or a fight. His daughter Josie (Bethany Thomas) is the only one of Phil’s children who can stand him, and that’s probably because, at 5’11” and very strong, Josie is as capable of hurting him as he is of hurting her. Smith is brilliant as a man who switches from anger to humor at the drop of a hat, and an

early scene in which he and Josie exact some vengeance on a rich neighbor (a very effete Eric Parks) makes the play seem almost a farce.

In fact, it is far more a comedy than a drama until its final act, in which O’Neill brings Josie and Tyrone together for mutual confessions and powerful moments. Thomas is perfect as Josie. She shows us from the start both the character’s power and her vulnerability, often simultaneously. Josie is often a very difficult role to cast, and it’s a critical one for the play, so the fact that Writers Theatre got it so right boded well for them from the start.

Todd Rosenthal’s set for this play is a very realistic dilapidated farmhouse on a worn bit of land. It is enhanced by extraordinary lighting and sound from Jesse Klug and Andrew Hanson and costumes by Rachel Anne Healy that, in and of themselves, define the characters who wear them. Director William Brown keeps the pace quick, but the play still runs three hours due to two long intermissions. It’s a long night’s journey, but Thomas’s compelling performance is worth the time.

## CRITICS’ PICKS

**Skeleton Crew**, Northlight Theatre at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, through March 3. The experience of four blue-collar workers in a Detroit automotive plant facing layoffs continues Dominique Morisseau’s saga of America’s grit-level economy. MSB

**Blind Date**, Goodman Theatre, through Feb. 25. Rogelio Martinez and Robert Falls check all the boxes in this witty and insightful docudrama of superpowers in the cold-war arms race reduced to a staring contest between its two leaders. MSB

**Pillars of the Community**, Strawdog Theatre, through March 3. Ibsen’s 1877 drama about personal moral integrity and exploitive business practices is compelling, forceful, straightforward and more than ever a cautionary tale for today (and an embryonic feminist work). JA

**You Got Older**, Steppenwolf Theatre, through March 11. Directed by Jonathan Berry, Clare Barron’s autobiographical drama follows a no-longer-so-young woman as she contends with problems that demand way more maturity than she’s needed previously. CES

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan



### Love Never Dies.

Photo by Joan Marcus

## OPERA REVIEW

### Love Never Dies

**Playwright:** Andrew Lloyd Webber,  
**music by** Glenn Slater/Charles Hart,  
**lyrics by** Ben Elton,  
**At:** Cadillac Palace Theatre,  
151 W. Randolph St.  
**Tickets:** 800-775-2000;  
**BroadwayInChicago.com;** \$35-\$100  
**Runs through:** March 4

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Love Never Dies isn't a musical—it's an opera in 19th-century style: a melodrama told via grand spectacle, grand passions and through-scored sweeping music.

It asks if an obsessive homicidal maniac can find happiness with a golden-throated woman drawn to controlling, abusive men. It's risibly implausible and over-the-top, but no more so than Verdi's *Il Trovatore* or Gounod's *Faust*. If you

believe nothing succeeds like excess, you'll love Love Never Dies. I had a good time in spite of myself, engulfed in its utterly rococo theatricality.

This sequel to *The Phantom of the Opera*, set 10 years later, draws on a 1999 Frederick Forsyth novel, with many alterations. Christine Daae (Meghan Picerno) now is an opera star, married to surly Vicomte Raoul de Chagny (Sean Thompson). With their musically precocious son Gustave (Chicagoan Casey Lyons, alternating with Jake Heston Miller), they arrive in New York for Christine's American debut and shockingly find the Phantom (Gardar Thor Cortes) alive and wealthy, the owner of an elaborate Coney Island sideshow. The Phantom—still slipping with ridiculous ease through mirrors—again pursues Christine with tragic consequences in the opera tradition.

Absolutely no one has larger theatrical visions than Sir Andrew—he isn't merely a composer—and this story's combo of Belle Époque setting, *Art Deco* style, opera and carnival gives him kid-in-a-candy-shop opportunities for indulgence. The spectacle alone is worth the

soul singer Ryan Shaw (Judas); tUnE-yArDs tour vocalist Jo Lampert (Mary Magdalene); Broadway and Postmodern Jukebox crooners Michael Cunio (Pilate) and Mykal Kilgore (Simon Zealotes); Diane Coffee frontman Shaun Fleming (Herod); Chicago-based Broadway artist Joseph Anthony Byrd (Annas); West End favorite Cavin Cornwall (Caiaphas); and Chicago-based artist Andrew Mueller (Peter).

Single tickets for *Jesus Christ Superstar* start at \$44 and are on sale now at [jcsuperstar.org](http://jcsuperstar.org), in person at the Lyric Opera House box office, or by calling 312-827-5600.

## SPOTLIGHT

Philip Dawkins exploded onto the scene with 2015's *Charm*, inspired by the life of Chicago's Gloria Allen, a trans etiquette teacher. If you saw *Charm*, you need no further encouragement to check out Dawkins' newest work, **The Burn**. If not, know that he's a playwright of wit, depth, smarts and nuance. With *The Burn*, he tackles high school bullying and a student production of *The Crucible* that puts a stark light on how life imitates art (and vice versa). Public performances are Feb. 23-24 and March 2-3 at Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted



St. (Weekday performances are reserved for students.) Tickets are \$20, \$15 with student ID; visit [Steppenwolf.org](http://Steppenwolf.org).

Caption: The cast of *The Burn*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

ticket price, a dazzling kaleidoscope of sets and costumes (both by Gabriela Tylesova), miraculous lighting (Nick Schlieper), and wigs and hair (*Backstage Artistry*) quite beyond lavish. Then, the orchestra—with full string section—is huge by today's Broadway standards. It's glorious to hear under Dale Rieling's baton, with Mick Potter's astute sound design.

Webber, a classically trained composer, provides always tuneful and complex music with the choicest moments paralleling set pieces in opera: the quartet "Dear Old Friends," the manly Phantom-Raoul duet "Devil Take the Hindmost," Christine's waltz ballad "Look with Your Heart," the tango section of "Beneath a Moonless Sky" and the gorgeous title song—a waltz aria for Christine, grandly Puccini-esque in the best sense. The lyr-

ics are smarter than most Webber works, although Webber remains wedded to repetitive four-line stanzas with predictable A-B-A-B end rhymes.

The cast really is special. Baritone Cortes and contralto Picerno are stellar in challenging, very large and truly operatic roles. Thompson and the gifted young Lyons shine in support, as do Karen Mason (welcome home, doll!) and Mary Michael Patterson as Madame Giry and daughter Meg, central characters in the subplot.

A carny ride operator once told me, "Don't look under the seat; it's where the girls vomit." Despite its strengths, *Love Never Dies* is dark stuff with no truly likeable character (well, maybe Gustave). Coney Island is tawdry beneath the glitz and clowns are scary, and *Love Never Dies* captures that chiaroscuro quite well.

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KK Moggie & Kellie Overbey, photo by Jeff Scortino

## Lyric's 'Jesus Christ' talent announced

Artists from the bands Postmodern Jukebox, tUnE-yArDs and Diane Coffee join Broadway and West End talent for Lyric Opera's North American premiere of Timothy Sheader's Olivier Award-winning production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*, running April 27-May 20 at the Lyric Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr.

The Lyric cast includes: Broadway artist Heath Saunders (Jesus); Grammy-nominated

## NUNN ON ONE: MOVIES

# David Levithan brings 'A' game in new movie

BY JERRY NUNN

Every Day is a new movie based on the novel by out writer David Levithan. It follows the story of a 16-year-old girl named Rhiannon searching for her soulmate. She becomes involved with a soul described as A, who wakes up in a different body each day. The spirit crosses genders in the process, and a challenging romance blooms along the way.

Levithan is known for creating strong gay characters in books such as *Boy Meets Boy* and *Two Boys Kissing*. Several of his adaptations have been films, like *10 Things I Hate About You* and *Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist*. Short works include *Quiz Bowl Antichrist* and *Your Temporary Santa*.

**Windy City Times: Did you always want to be a writer? Who were you influenced by?**

David Levithan: I was always a devout reader, which I think is what clearly led to me being a writer.

Looking back now, I'd say I was influenced by all the authors I loved, whether it was Judy Blume, Judith Viorst, Cynthia Voigt or Ellen Raskin.

**WCT: What makes a good writer?**

DL: To somehow manage to be honest even when you're making things up.

**WCT: What is your coming-out story?**

DL: This is why I write fiction and not memoir, I don't really have one. I had a trailblazing gay uncle, so when I found myself on that trail, nobody was that confused. But I will say that having a novel called *Boy Meets Boy* come out before my high school reunion made it so much easier to come out to high school people who didn't know.

**WCT: What did you learn from writing that novel?**

DL: I learned that readers were ready for stories about gay teens that weren't drenched in misery. It's hard to believe now, but it seemed like a radical notion in the early 2000s to have a dippy happy romantic comedy featuring gay teens.

Now we have *Love, Simon* getting a big ol' movie release. A bunch of other writers and I worked hard to clear that path.

**WCT: Favorite thing about Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist?**

DL: Writing it with Rachel Cohn! To this day, it's the most fun I've ever had writing. We had no idea what we were doing as we emailed chapters back and forth to one another, and we had no idea where the story was going. But we know what we had was magic, even if no one else read it. Then a lot of other people read it. And they made a movie out of it that both of us really, truly loved, which was more magic.



David Levithan.

PR photo

**WCT: Tell people about the story of Every Day.**

DL: It is the story of A, who since birth has woken up every day in a different body and different life. A's lived a very solitary life, but that changes upon meeting Rhiannon, a girl trapped in a bad relationship. A sees her for who she is, and she, after having to adjust to the whole concept of A's life, starts to see A as well. The question is: Can you love someone who changes every day?

**WCT: Where did the idea for it start?**

DL: I was walking to work one day and thought, "What would it be like to wake up in a different body every morning?" I just ran with it, because I loved the notion of A being defined entirely by an interior life, not the way the world sees A.

**WCT: Did you ever wish you were someone else or could switch bodies when you were 16?**

DL: I didn't wish I was someone else, but I totally had body-swap fantasies. Part of this was because of *Mary Rodgers* and *Freaky Friday*.

It was also a good way to keep my imagination going.

Even in high school, I can remember sitting bored in class, imagining what life would be like if I switched bodies with various people in the

class.

**WCT: Talk about Ian Alexander and the trans character Vic.**

DL: I think A is somewhat in awe of Vic because after years of being inside people who passively accept the bodies they were born into, Vic is refusing society's definition of the body Vic was born into, and is instead being exactly who they want to be. Even though A is really agender more than transgender, there's certainly a kinship there. As a result, it was absolutely vital to have Vic be one of the characters in the movie, and to have an actor who shares Vic's identity. Ian Alexander completely nails it.

**WCT: Do you think of terms of it being a movie when you wrote it?**

DL: No, because what movie studio would ever take a gamble on a genderqueer paranormal story where the lead is played by sixteen or seventeen different actors? Happily, I was wrong.

**WCT: Do you think a gay director was important for the adaptation?**

DL: Michael Sucus understood from the get-go what the story was about, and was deeply dedicated from the get-go to having as inclusive a

scope as possible. I imagine his own identity gave him insight into these things, but I think his empathy was the most important factor.

**WCT: Had you seen his project, HBO's Grey Gardens?**

DL: I had! I feel Michael's empathy for strange situations was abundantly apparent in his direction there, too.

**WCT: What is your advice for writers just starting out?**

DL: Read all the time. Let yourself make mistakes. Don't put the pressure on yourself to write something that will be published instead start by writing something your friends can read, and go from there.

**WCT: What projects do you have coming out in the future?**

DL: My next book with Rachel Cohn, *Sam and Ilsa's Last Hurrah*, comes out on April 10. It's about a brother and sister of varying degrees of queerness who throw a rather toxic dinner party right before they graduate high school.

**The sequel to Every Day, called Someday, comes out Oct. 2. Meanwhile, look for Every Day in theaters Feb. 23.**

## Center's Oscars party March 4 at Park West

Center on Halsted's annual event "A Night with Oscar" will take place Sunday, March 4, at 6 p.m. at the Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave.

At 6 p.m., there will be the live red-carpet arrival and auction, with the Academy Awards telecast beginning at 7 p.m. At 9 p.m., the silent auction will end and the event drawing will take place.

Almost all seats have been sold out; visit <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/ANWO>.

## 'Hollywood on State' Oscars 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.

## Her HRC event March 1

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Chicago's annual spring Her HRC event will be held at Chicago Theater Works, 1113 W. Belmont Ave., on Thursday, March 1, 7-11 p.m.

Tamale Sepp will host the evening's festivities, which will include a silent auction, door prizes, dancing and live entertainment by The CoverGirls Violin Show, *Over Your Shoulder*, AMMUNITION, Brittany Meyer, DJ Laura Bee and more.

General tickets are \$20 before Feb. 16 (\$25 if purchased after) and VIP tickets—which include food/drink happy hour at 6-7 p.m., access to limited floor seating and one raffle ticket—are \$40 if purchased before February 16 (\$50 if purchased later). Both ticket tiers include an annual HRC membership or membership renewal.

Visit [HRCChicago.org/her.html](http://HRCChicago.org/her.html).

## MSI's Black Creativity events through Feb. 21

The 2018 Black Creativity program—an annual tradition at the Museum of Science + Industry (MSI), 5700 S. Lake Shore Dr.—runs through Wed., Feb. 21.

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

See [MSIChicago.org/blackcreativity](http://MSIChicago.org/blackcreativity).



## BOOK REVIEW

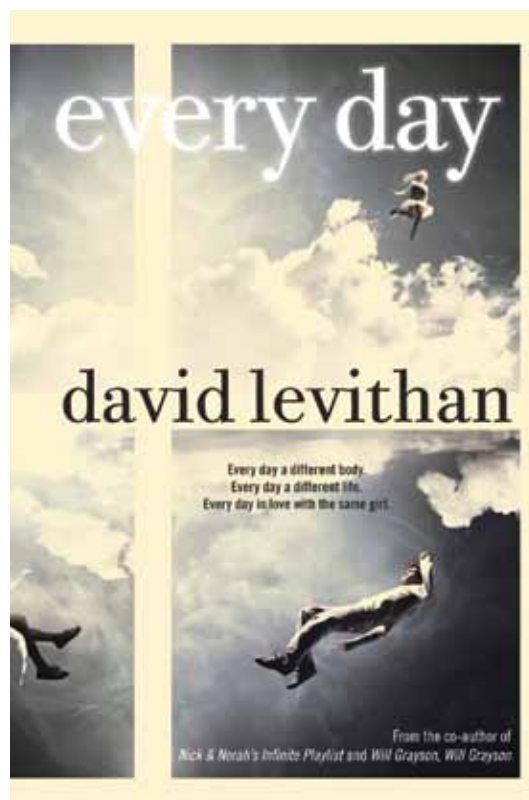
## Every Day

By David Levithan

\$9.99; Ember; 322 pages

REVIEW BY LIZ BAUDLER

David Levithan is a beloved YA author consistently brave enough to take on themes of sexuality and gender identity. *Every Day*, first published in 2012 and about to become a movie of the same title, is likely one of the first portrayals of a sort of nonbinary identity in teen literature. A is a person, or perhaps a free-floating consciousness, who wakes up each day in a different person's body. That person may be a boy or a girl, gay or straight, fairly cookie-cutter or significantly challenged in some way. This has been going on for 16 years, and seems unlikely to change for A, who



came up with their own name as a point of consistency for themselves in their ever-fluid life.

One day A wakes up in the body of an unremarkable, kind of bro-ish teenager named Justin. But it's Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon, who takes A's attention. Normally A tries not to disrupt the lives of the people whose body they temporarily inhabit—they try to discern a baseline normal and go from there, an approach that can backfire when they inadvertently arrive at significant moments such as an anniversary or declaration of love. But A, as Justin, decides to give Rhiannon a special day on the beach, something the lout wouldn't normally do. The next morning, while having moved on to a new life, A's mind is still stuck on Rhiannon. A increasingly disrupts a series of lives in order to be closer to Rhiannon, who gamely tries to both understand and adjust to having a partner who will never appear the same way twice, may often be unable to show up for the plans they've made, and will have a new reality

each day at the stroke of midnight.

It's hard to tell how well the conceit of *Every Day*, and its sequel, *Another Day*, holds up. It is absolutely true that the concept of a relationship doomed by constantly having to leave behind your beloved, to say nothing of never having an established family, home, or friends, is heart-wrenching and likely to leave one with a sense of acute melancholy after reading. The variety of people that A finds themselves inhabiting testifies to Levithan's curiosity and willingness to write new characters, and A's narration throughout is an entirely readable, sweet, plain-spoken poetry. Yet at the same time, the situations presented—A inhabits a depressed girl who's made a plan to kill herself, a "mean girl," and a 300-lb. boy—seem a little after-school special, designed to artificially jerk readers into empathy rather than organically create it. The side plot of A trying to argue with a boy who claims to have been demonically possessed on the day A uses his life to meet up with Rhiannon at a party...it's a little over the top and a weird fit with the exposition of A's situation and the constant striving for togetherness that makes up the rest of the storyline.

And neither Rhiannon or A has much of a personality—their relationship is all action or recalling memories, which doesn't leave us much time to get to know them, let alone that A does that YA thing of falling in love much too fast and unbelievably. It's understandable that we might not get to know A easily. Through their narration we get a sense of them as considerate, passionate, and thoughtful. They have likes and dislikes: occasionally they'll really enjoy a life they end up in, such as Alexander Lin's, a boy with a lime green couch, and they have accumulated knowledge and music preferences throughout their 16 years of presence. Rhiannon though...A says she's kind and considerate, and she is equally as passionate as adventurous as A, but neither one of them are fully-fleshed out characters in a story that's more about the impossibility of a situation than about the two people in it.

Finally, the idea of nonbinary identity as constantly shifting, and not fully realized, is, on some level, disheartening. It's entirely possible that A is not supposed to be nonbinary, and more pansexual, as they mention a previous relationship with a boy, but they are at base, apparently genderless, and so it seems that non-binary would be the closest analogue to A's depiction insofar as it can be understood. Levithan's point might be about the fluidity of identity and the importance of preserving oneself in the face of constant change—an admirable point in YA books—but if so, why be so clear that A is always themselves, not the people they inhabit, while simultaneously making A so vague? While awareness of nonbinary identity has undoubtedly blossomed in the 6 years since *Every Day* was first released, at this point it's far preferable to have a nonbinary character who has more agency to inhabit and create their own life, rather than the suggestion of a slightly damned soul that Levithan seems to have created in A.

This is not to discount the metaphorical release that a teen (particularly, a questioning, trans or genderfluid one) might find in reading *Every Day*, and realizing that they may contain multitudes—my perspective is that of a non-binary adult who is fairly secure in their identity. At the very least, *Every Day* will make an interesting movie, and the way A is portrayed on screen in 2018 will ultimately help update and clarify Levithan's intentions in what is still a highly unique creation.

*Every Day* will be in wide theatrical release on Feb 23.

## CULTURE CLUB

**Fran Lebowitz.**

Photo by  
Brigitte  
Lacombe



## Fran Lebowitz ruminates on Trump, value of privacy

**BY SARI STAVER,  
BAY AREA REPORTER**

New Yorkers understand Donald Trump, according to Fran Lebowitz.

"He's just a cheap, trashy hustler," said Lebowitz, a 67-year-old lesbian raconteur/actress who makes a living making dour observations about life, typically in onstage conversations in theaters around the world.

While many people seem shocked by Trump's constant stream of ignorant tweets, "everyone I know in New York already knew what he is an incredibly dumb guy.

"None of us ever thought he was either a billionaire or a developer. That's no secret here in New York," she added, where Clinton beat him by a margin of nine to one.

"And now ... for the first time, Trump is exactly what he says he is—president of the United States," said Lebowitz.

The Bay Area Reporter called Lebowitz at her New York City apartment to get a preview of her upcoming appearance at the Berkeley Repetory

Theatre. While most celebrity onstage interviews are scripted and audience questions screened, Lebowitz wants to encourage spontaneity.

"I love the onstage experience," she says, "but especially the audience questions. They can be so nutty and so much fun," she said.

The author of two best-selling books—a collection of essays titled *Metropolitan Life* followed by a second collection, *Social Studies*—Lebowitz first gained her large LGBT following as a writer for Andy Warhol's *Interview* magazine in the 1960s.

One thing that became obvious during the interview was that Lebowitz doesn't really like talking about herself.

"I value my privacy," she said, declining to discuss any romantic relationships, past or present. "I won't even allow a journalist or photographer to come to my apartment," she said.

"I've never wanted to make a career" about being gay, she added.

The politics of sexual identity "are narrowing," said Lebowitz. "I grew up in a small town and all I ever wanted was to have a bigger life," she said.

Lebowitz has also declined any sort of "life" online, she said, adding, "I have absolutely no idea what is being said about me," having never owned either a computer or a smartphone.

"I've never liked machinery," she said. "When people were using typewriters, I wrote longhand. People ask me why. I say I also don't own a plane or have a personal chef but, of course, there's the fact that I can't afford those, either."

Lebowitz said gets her news from the Sunday New York Times, which she reads cover to cover (except for the sports section), typically finishing by Wednesday each week. "If something else important happens, I assume people will tell me about it," she said dryly.

How does Lebowitz envision the rest of Trump's term in office?

"I'm kind of out of the prediction business since I was so wrong about the election," she said, having repeatedly announced Trump "didn't have a chance in hell" of beating Hillary Clinton.

"I don't think he'll be impeached," said Lebowitz, noting that the "craven Republicans" currently in power in Congress are not interested in removing him.

"It's more likely that he will resign" rather than face any consequences from the current investigations, she said. "Trump has led the most charmed life of anyone in this country and I don't see that changing," she said.

"He's not at all interested in politics," she continued. "His focus has always been on money. He will do whatever it takes to make money."

And Trump's base isn't likely to desert him, said Lebowitz, because his bigotry was "100 percent of the appeal" to them, adding that people who

are old enough to remember George Wallace or KKK rallies "will remember the similarities," she said.

During the run up to the election, Lebowitz said she "never believed" the reasons Trump's supporters gave for liking the Republican candidate.

"I admit that I don't personally know any West Virginia coal miners who lost their jobs, but anyone who thinks Trump will bring those jobs back has got to be delusional. It's not going to be 1950 again," she said.

The "real reason" most of these people supported Trump, she theorized, "was that they found his bigotry appealing. They knew the jobs were not coming back."

Is she worried about Trump dismantling democratic institutions? "I'm more worried about whether we are even going to be around," she said, noting the increasingly hostile relationship with North Korea.

As to her own future, Lebowitz predicted she will continue her decades-long tradition of doing stage conversations. "People are always asking me when I'm going to write another book. Writing is my central problem," she said. "If I didn't have writer's block, I'd be writing right now. I've been offered the opportunity to write plays but if I can't write a book, how can I write a play?"

"Some people think talking and writing are, in some way, connected. They are completely separate talents and are unrelated."

Lastly, Lebowitz said she doesn't even have to prepare for her speaking engagements: "I just show up. For me, talking is effortless—like having a trick thumb."

### 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).

### Precious Minds project seeks to mentor youth

Precious Minds Mentoring Program is a program for young women, founded by a youth who has experienced her own struggles and who now seeks to help others.

Keonza Phillips is a young entrepreneur adult who grew up on the North and South sides of Chicago. Her main passion was finding a way to give back to the youth in her communities, creating positive reaction decisions, safe spaces and safe circles.

This is she decided to found a start-up program called Precious Minds. Precious Minds is a mentoring program targeting youth who identify as women, ages 10 years to 18 years old, to build confidence, academics and compassion.

According to Phillips, Precious Minds aims to educate youth who identify as women on vital assets of personal development; implementing the value of self-confidence and empathy; gaining communication and leadership skills; and building a solid foundation of trust and support in personal, professional and academic events and/or advice.

Contact Executive Director Keonza Phillips at 773-272-5463 or [phillipskeonza22@gmail.com](mailto:phillipskeonza22@gmail.com).

## MUSIC

# Tracey Thorn: Everything but the Girl, new CD, LGBT rights



Tracey Thorn.  
PR photo

BY ANDREW DAVIS

She's back.

In the '90s, Tracey Thorn shot to stardom as half of the act Everything but the Girl (with Ben Watt), which had a huge dance hit with a remix of the song "Missing." (The lyrics "And I miss you/Like the deserts miss the rain" remain haunting.)

Now, Thorn is releasing Record—her first solo album of entirely original material in seven years—on March 2. The songs have an electro-pop feel, and collaborators include singer Corinne Bailey Rae.

Thorn recently talked with Windy City Times, and discussed music, family and LGBTs—and even revealed something about one of her children.

**Windy City Times: It has been a while since we've heard from you. Was it family time that took you away, or was there some other reason?**

Tracey Thorn: Well, it's not like I haven't done anything. [Laughs] I have been doing quite a lot of different things.

The last full album I made was the Christmas one, Tinsel and Lights, in 2012. Since that time, I've written two books and did a film soundtrack, for The Falling. So I've gotten into the habit of thinking that I do all these other projects. And it just hit me: I just thought, "I have a few songs that I've written over the past few months. Maybe it's time to make a new album." So it just sorta swung back around—I thought, "Maybe I have something to offer."

**WCT: Well, you do. By the way, is the album's title pronounced "REC-ord" or "Re-CORD?"**

TT: I do tend to say "REC-ord," but it's deliberately ambiguous. Because I don't play live any-

more, I thought it was quite a good play on the fact that, now, I re-CORD. I think the ambiguity is fine.

**WCT: There are many things to admire about this album, including smart lyrics. I wrote three words that I associate with this album: "hope," "strength" and "freedom."**

TT: [Laughs] Well, that's great!

You know, one of the things that inspired me to make something was the political events that have happened in the U.S. and the U.K. There's been a feeling of doom in the air, that things have taken a turn for the worse—that we've taken a step backward. And I got down-hearted about that.

And then I had a thought that gave me a kick up the ass: "You can either sit around feeling the world is going to shit, or you can make something." There's a kind of defiance in that—you're defying the negative forces out there and start making stuff. The record was made with that sort of spirit, so I'm glad that the hope and strength come through.

**WCT: My favorite track has to be "Air." I think a lot of people identify with those lyrics.**

TT: Well, yes; I hope so.

**WCT: But tell me about the song "Smoke." It has a sense of history in it.**

TT: I researched my family history a few years ago, and I went back as far as I could go. I'd basically grown up just outside of London, but I knew my parents were born and grew up in London. When I researched, I discovered that my family lived in London for at least a couple hundred years.

The oldest ancestors I could find were Miriam and Job Bush, who came from this little village

in Norfolk and moved to London in the 18th century, I think. So it's a song about the really deep connection I have with London. As someone who lives here, I can see some of the power changing in some ways, which is not dissimilar to a lot of other cities around the world where the makeup has changed—they're not as mixed as I think they should be, and there are increasingly more rich people living there.

What make a city great are its people. When I sing the lines, I'm saying that what's great about a city are the people who live in it, so you want to make sure that it's open to everyone.

**WCT: Indeed. And with the track "Sister," how did you come to collaborate with Corinne?**

TT: Well, the track was almost finished; we had done the backing track and I think I had even done the lead vocal. But I thought it really needed a counterpart and that it would be fantastic to have another woman sing.

Corinne is someone whose singing I absolutely adore, and she's a really great songwriter as well. So I asked her and she said "yes." I sent her the track, and she recorded her part in her own home studio. I really didn't give her much direction or guidance except to say, "I just think you need to come in at this point and, as the song goes, feel free to let it rip." She created her own vocal part. I thought the track was already good, but she really made it sound amazing.

**WCT: Well, I would be remiss if I didn't mention "Missing." There I was in the '90s, sitting in a gay club, when I discovered the remix of the song. Is it true that your label [Blanco y Negro] had dropped [Everything but the Girl] just before this song became a massive hit?**

TT: Yes, that is true. [Laughs] There was some mutual consent involved. I think that it was a working relationship that had slightly run out of steam, and I think it got to the point where they had to pick up the next option on our contract or not do so.

I don't think they were getting any strong feelings from us that we were desperate to stay, even though Ben and I actually knew that we had new ideas and were incredibly positive—but they weren't necessarily the people to go forward with. To be honest, it's not like we were horrified by that; we felt that maybe it was a good time to move somewhere new. I'm sure, six months

Turn to page 30



## CFW's Women's Day Dance on March 3

The LGBTQ Giving Council of the Chicago Foundation of Women (CFW's) 4th Annual International Women's Day Dance will take place Saturday, March 3, 7 p.m.-12 a.m., at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, 3015 W. Division Ave.

Proceeds go to grants that directly benefit organizations working with and for the LGBTQ community.

Single tickets are \$50 each to the 21-and-older event; visit <https://www.cfw.org/wom-ensdance/>.

## CGMC's 'Lipstick and Lyrics' Feb. 24

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus presents "Lipstick and Lyrics: Vice Versa," performing at Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway, on Friday, Feb. 23, and Saturday, Feb. 24, at 8 and 10 p.m. each night.

Audiences can look forward to, among other things, an updated version of the "Cell Block Tango," from Chicago; a take on "God, I Hate Shakespeare," from Something Rotten; a Scream take on Blondie's "Call Me;" a Taylor Swift version of Handmaid's Tale; and a fairy-tale version of "Royals."

Admission is \$25-\$50 each; visit [CGMC.org/lnl](http://CGMC.org/lnl).

# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### ETA Restaurant + Bar; Cafe Robey

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In a recent staycation review, I mentioned how hotel restaurants have skyrocketed in recent years in terms of the quality of the food (although that hotel's spot didn't necessarily make the cut).

Case in point for the place that excels: **ETA Restaurant + Bar** (455 N. Park Dr.; <https://www.loeshotels.com/chicago-downtown/dining/>), which is nestled in the first floor of the Loews Hotel.

Perfect for a date (judging from the low lighting and romantic grooves), telegenic Chef Matt Lange has concocted some incredibly appetizing dishes.

Now that I've finally come around and actually like avocado, a dish like avocado toast (with citrus salad, nduja and soft egg) is a no-brainer. And just try not to eat all the chicken-fried



ETA Restaurant + Bar chef Matt Lange. PR photo

mushrooms. (How did someone not think of this before?) Other appetizer options include Brat in a Blanet (with hot pepper jam) and even beer-cheese croquettes.

Entrees also shine. I actually opted for the fried-chicken BLT—which was as sinful as it sounded. However, the relatively healthful salmon would be a great selection as well; it was expertly prepared. As for the sides, crispy Brussels sprouts definitely get a thumbs-up, although the mac 'n cheese ranked as merely okay next to the other selections.

Also, ETA has some mouth-watering dessert choices. Just try to ignore the hot-fudge brownie for two, the cheesecake panna cotta or the chocolate stout cake—a wonderful item with Nutella ganache, chocolate pretzels and cherries.

Lastly, don't ignore the cocktails at this

hideaway that probably won't be so for much longer. (BTW, drinks are mostly named after various train lines—in line with the restaurant's name.) I really liked the Super Chief (with vodka, pear liqueur, demerara syrup and prosecco), although I still miss the Secret Garden (kappa pisco, black-rose liqueur, demerara syrup, lemon and egg white) I tried last summer.

#### Cafe Robey

Another example of fine hotel dining is **Cafe Robey** (1600 N. Milwaukee Ave.; <https://www.therobey.com/>), located in Wicker Park's The Robey.

Executive Chef Kevin McAllister has whipped up winter menu options that manage to simultaneously feel upscale and comforting. Things started with a sumptuous beer-cheese soup that had a little kick thanks to droplets of chili oil. Unfortunately, this item was part of the Chicago Restaurant Week menu, along with a lovely salmon and decadent Cocoa Puffs panna cotta—complete with a chocolate-studded spoon.

Luckily, Cafe Robey still offers an intriguing olio aside from those Restaurant Week items. The panzanella was a gustatory delight, combining fried sourdough, roasted Brussel sporouts, red onion, pickled red cabbage, apple and butternut-squash vinaigrette. Also, I really liked the braised and crisped pork belly, which comes with sweet potato, five-minute egg, pickled pearl onions, Fresno chiles and kale. Other choices include



Cafe Robey's carrot dish.

PR photo

dishes featuring scallop, duck and even striped bass.

Vegetarians will certainly appreciate the fire-roasted carrot and fennel with carrot puree, quinoa, arugula and tomato vinaigrette.

And I'll have to return to try one dessert item, in particular: a dark-chocolate mousse with charred pineapple, strawberry dust, almond tulle, chocolate crumb and gold leaf. It sounds as fun and intriguing as The Robey itself.

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



## Celebration of Life for Aaron Johnson

Join the Chicago family of friends for a celebration of life of bartender Aaron Johnson, this Sunday, February 25 at Scot's, 1829 W. Montrose Ave, from 3-8 p.m. Aaron was a much-beloved smiling face behind the bar at Scot's for a decade. Before that, many still remember him from Clark's On Clark, which shuttered in 2007.

Aaron was a kind soul and will be missed by many, including his partner, Scott Palango.

A potluck buffet will be part of the celebration.

Photos of Aaron Johnson from the Nightspots archive, including his stint on the cover from an April 2002 issue.



## White Party Puerto Vallarta

Presidents' Day Weekend gave us White Party Puerto Vallarta, with an Under the Sea theme, featuring attendees dressed in white on the beach at sunset. This was the party's second year in row, presented by Jeffrey Sanker, who also makes White Party Palm Springs happen each year.

Photos of Jerry Nunn





"I've been trying and I just can't get pregnant."—**Nate Berkus** describes the efforts he and hubby Jeremiah Brent have had in providing a sibling for their 2-year-old daughter, Poppy. Thanks for playing another spirited round of Who's the Bottom?

**Tom Daley** and **Dustin Lance Black** made a big announcement on Valentine's Day—they've hired a surrogate and are having a child. To make it official, they posted the ultrasound on Instagram. And I say—with almost no trace of sarcasm—good for them. Alas, this news has led to many people online attacking the couple. Some of it seems to be homophobia and jealousy (and, let's face it, both of these guys are pretty hot), but some are attacking them for bringing a child into a relationship destined for failure due to their less-than-stellar fidelity, and the diver not being much more than a child himself. And I say—in all sincerity—mind your own business! If we stopped every good-looking couple in a doomed relationship from having children, where would my future boyfriends come from?

Now we get to the story of **Alexander Polinsky**, who is a former child actor. He was kinda the Danny Pintauro of Charles in Charge. Polinsky claims that he was on the receiving end of physical abuse, assault, mental torture, sexual harassment and homophobic bullying by **Scott Baio**. The part I took special note of is when Chachi allegedly threw a cup of hot tea in the boy's face and called him a "fag." Now, I'm no expert, but I believe the very definition of the term "fag" is a person who throws hot tea in someone's face! Some of Polinsky's other allegations include Baio once pulling the 12-year-old's pants down in front of a group of 100 bystanders. Another time, Scott cut a hole in the canvas wall of Polinsky's dressing room and shoved his genitals through it.

The day after my birthday, I went to The Wallis in Beverly Hills to see BOTH shows by **Patti LuPone** and **Seth Rudetsky**. Patti was in spectacular voice—in fact, she was even better the second show. Since it was days after the Grammys, she told the story behind her appearance in the tribute to **Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber**. Before she started, she said, "Is there any press in the audience? I dunno if I should tell this story if there's press in the audience." After a bit of prodding, she said, "Just don't print it. ... Oh, go ahead, what the hell," followed by "No, don't." So, I'm taking that as a yes. When War Paint was on Broadway, NY1 (a local channel) did a piece on their Sunday morning program about the show. When the interviewer asked LuPone about Webber, she said that she thought Andrew was mentally unstable.

Within days, she got a cease-and-desist letter from famed lawyer **Bert Fields**—who has represented such sane people as **Tom Cruise** and **John Travolta**. She consulted with a lawyer who told



**Nate Berkus** recently discussed, um, personal efforts.

PR photo

her that she could legally express her opinion, so she was in the clear. Then Webber got involved and said it didn't bother him. Fast-forward a month, and Patti gets a call from her manager saying the Grammys wanted her to sing "Don't Cry For Me Argentina." Patti's response was, "Does Andrew Lloyd Webber know? If he doesn't, don't tell him!" The manager said Andrew knows, and he's thrilled! They had a nice rehearsal. (She says when she said the word "detente," she meant it would last one day—like a day-tente.) After the show, Andrew sent her a very nice note and also left her a complimentary voicemail. Why Andrew Lloyd Webber has Patti LuPone's phone number and I don't is a mystery of monumental proportions.

Last weekend, I zipped to our nation's capital to see a couple of special theatrical events. The first was the National Symphony performing a truncated concert version of *West Side Story*. This almost nonsensical rendition decimated the story to the point that many people couldn't figure out what was happening! But it did underline the genius of Leonard Bernstein's score and Stephen Sondheim's words. One expected that an entire symphony orchestra and some of Broadway's finest young talents would deliver a high-wattage evening, but everything was on a low simmer and never came to a boil. In a typical production in a small house, these voices would likely have been fine. But, given the sound mix, nobody quite rose to the level of the event—a missed opportunity, indeed.

The following night, I saw the latest revision of the musical *Chess*, led with aplomb by **Raul Esparza** playing Freddy. While I missed his acerbic take as the Arbiter (the role he played in Seth Rudetsky's Broadway concert version in 2003), there's no denying he's a terrific Freddy, with rock-star abandon and swagger balancing out the quieter bipolar moments. It was a magnetic performance. **Ramin Karimloo** may be the best all-around Anatoly I've ever seen—complete with a consistent Russian accent! As Florence, **Karen Olivo** showed us exactly what was missing from the previous night. She's not lost any power, bite,

or presence since her 2009 Tony-winning *Anita* in *West Side Story*. For me, **Ruthie Ann Miles** was the weakest link; her Svetlana looked like a refugee from a mid-90s Moscow bus and truck tour of *Miss Saigon*—as the matinee cover for Kim! Was she bad? No—just not up to the standard of her colleagues. The theater had electricity in the air. Every entrance, every number and every moment was met with a roar of applause, making it quite an "event."

When Baio's spilling tea, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Here's something you wouldn't have heard from me when I started writing this column over 20 years ago—these 48-hour quick cross-country trips are a killer! I'd rather be sitting home checking out *BillyMasters.com*—where you can get your kicks below the waistline, sunshine. If you have any questions, send them along to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com), and I promise to get back to you before I get a cease-and-desist letter from Patti! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

# WINDY CITY TIMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Wed., Feb. 21

**Current Issues in LGBTQ Health, the LG-BTQ acronym** E.J. Graff! presents "How the amazingly awkward, ever-shifting LGBTQ acronym got foisted on you - and why it won't go away any time soon." Refreshments. RSVP at link. 1:30pm - 3:30pm Stonewall Conference Room, 625 N. Michigan Suite 1400. Chicago <http://isgmh.northwestern.edu/>

**Courageous Conversations: Activism, Then and Now** An intergenerational panel discussion about the history of Black LGBTQ activism. Free event but registration is encouraged. 6:00pm - 8:00pm DuSable Museum 740 E 56th Pl <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/new-events-details.cfm?ID=14659> Tickets: <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/pages/courageousconversations>

## Thursday, Feb. 22

**U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders at Chuy Garcia rally** Cook County Commissioner and 4th Congressional District candidate Garcia's rally. Doors open 2 pm. Free. Register



## FULL NELSON Sunday, Feb. 25

**Nelson Rodriguez plays Abel in the film En Algun Lugar, to be shown at Pride Films and Plays.**  
Publicity still

online. 4:00pm Apollos 2000, 2875 W Cermak Rd., Tickets: <http://www.Chuy-forCongress.com>

**LGBT Chamber of Commerce: A Celebration of Black LGBT Business Excellence**

Panel moderator Vince Williams, Director of Membership & Business Development The Executives' Club of Chicago. Panelists to include Peter Gaona, Reformed School; Kim L. Hunt, PRIDE Action Tank; Brian D. Johnson, Commonwealth Initiative; Taylor Mason, Taylor's Tacos. \$25 members, \$30 non-members 6:00pm - 9:00pm, Currency Exchange Café, 305 E. Garfield Blvd. 773-303-0167

## Friday, Feb. 23

**Gay Men's Chorus Lipstick and Lyrics: Vice Versa** Live singing drag show, new takes on old themes. 21+. \$50 VIP with 7pm reception, reserved seat. \$35 for reserved seat 10pm show only or \$40 at door. \$25 general or \$30 at door. First show 8pm. 10:00pm Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway. Continues Feb. 24 at same times. Tickets: [http://cgmc.secure.force.com/ticket/#details\\_a0S2A00000VR1kFUAT](http://cgmc.secure.force.com/ticket/#details_a0S2A00000VR1kFUAT)

**Dress Codes: Portrait Photographs from the Collection** Black lesbians in South Africa among the images in this exhibit on the cultural significance of everyday dress, subtle codes of clothing, the power of clothing to shape identities before the camera. Through April 22, 2018 10:30pm - 5:00pm The Art Institute of Chicago 111 South Michigan Ave Chicago Tickets: <http://www.artic.edu/exhibition/dress-codes-portrait-photographs-collection>

edu/exhibition/dress-codes-portrait-photographs-collection

## Saturday, Feb. 24

**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/>

**The Burn** The Burn addresses the bullying and social media issues that many teens experience in school. Through March 10, 2018 7:30pm Steppenwolf Theatre 1650 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.steppenwolf.org/tickets--events/seasons/2017-18/the-burn/>

## Sunday, Feb. 25

**En Algun Lugar film screening** Writer-director Tadeo Garcia follows up his 2004 debut feature On the Down Low with a

love story set against the backdrop of the controversial U.S. immigration system. 7:30pm Pride Films And Plays, 4139 N Broadway; <http://pridefilmsandplays.com/en-algun-lugar/>

**Andrew Pearson movement workshop** Andrew Pearson is a Los Angeles-based movement artist who has crafted 3-part solo series that examines the pursuit of happiness, as seen through the eyes of a gay millennial. Free 4:00pm - 6:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago Tickets: <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/pages/bodiesinplay?erid=7458739&trid=b0f485e1-da67-4b73-9ba2-94d0a0f2f37c>

**Celebration of Life For Aaron Johnson** Chicago family of friends will gather to toast the life and love of bartender Aaron Johnson. 3-8 p.m. Potluck buffet will be served. Scot's, 1829 W. Montrose Ave.

## Monday, Feb. 26

**TransSafe: Weekly Transgender Care Services** 2:00pm - 5:30pm Heartland Health Outreach Clinic, 4750 N. Sheridan Rd, 5th floor, Chicago 773-248-5200 x 412 <http://www.chicagohouse.org/transsafe-4/>

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### PUBLISHED PRAYER

**St. Jude's Novena:** St. Jude's Novena: May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and

preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. By the ninth day your prayers will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you, Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, my prayer has been answered. G.L.K. (2/21/18-1)

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## THORN from page 27

later, they looked and thought, "What happened there?" [Laughs]

You know, it worked out fine. We signed up with Virgin for our next album, Walking Wounded, and had a really happy relationship with them. It was all good.

**WCT: I have been heartened to see your support of the LGBT community on [social media] and, in the past, you've written a song about gay-bashing, "A-Z," [on the CD Out of the**

Woods].

TT: Yes. The documentary, Olly Alexander: Coming Out Gay, was on television. I think he's just so fantastic. I was just great to see and it was about his relationship with his mom. And one of our daughters came out as gay when she was in her mid-teens—so I'm obviously interested in those kinds of family stories. You're always heartened when you see those stories of immediate acceptance.

**WCT: And speaking of children, if they wanted to go into the music business what advice**

would you give them?

TT: None of them are yet, although our youngest son is very into music now; he spends time in his bedroom playing the guitar and so simple recordings. But Ben and I were just talking about this last night—but I don't even know how I'd advise him because it's changed so much since we started. I think he'd be better off getting advice from someone younger or who started out more recently. It's a very different world now; you can be very independent nowadays, but I'm not sure how you turn that into a career.

**WCT: I think you're underselling yourself.**

TT: [Laughs] Well, some things don't change. But I guess the point is that every generation is different, and you have to go out there and make your own mistakes, and you learn as you go along. It's important to have that drive to try and try again.

**For more on Thorn, visit <http://splash.tracethorn.com/>.**

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