

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 33, NO. 24 FEB. 28, 2018

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

## WINDY CITY TIMES' LGBTQ WEDDING & SPECIAL EVENTS GUIDE

EIGHTH EDITION

February 2018



Posters For Change

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Local couples wed

Pages 12 & 16



Oak Park

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PLUS:  
Tips on hiring a planner

A marriage-equality timeline

Gay marriage by the numbers

Business listings

## WINDY CITY TIMES' LGBTQ WEDDING & SPECIAL EVENTS GUIDE

SPECIAL INSERT IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

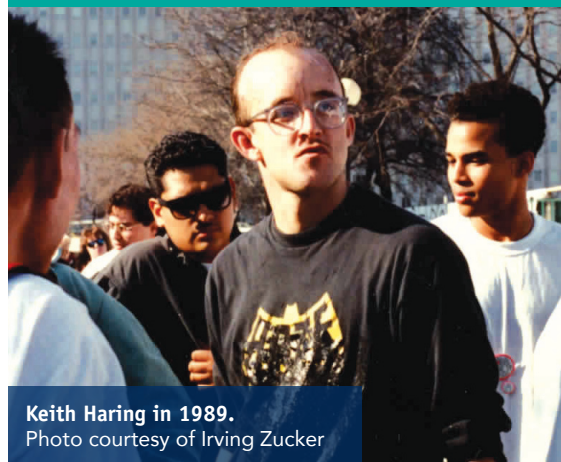
Part of Keith Haring's mural.  
Photo by Marcelino Y. Fahd



# REMEMBERING KEITH

PAGE 24

New Chicago exhibit celebrates the magic of Keith Haring



Keith Haring in 1989.  
Photo courtesy of Irving Zucker

## LGBT CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS



**LAMONT ROBINSON**

Out candidate talks LGBT issues, public safety.

Photo by Matt Simonette

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**MAGGIE TREVOR**

Lesbian candidate discusses district issues, LGBT community.

Photo by Robin Subar

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**JILL ROSE QUINN**

Trans attorney aims for spot in history.

Photo from campaign website

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# OUT!

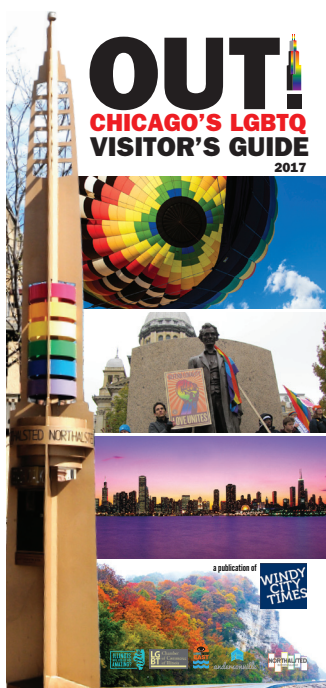
## CHICAGO'S LGBTQ VISITOR'S GUIDE

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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Above: WCT reviews Cosi fan tutte.  
Photo by Cory Weaver

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



## EGG WORK

Egg-yolk snickerdoodles are among the unusual, yet tasty, fare at The Bakery at Fat Rice.  
PR photo

## 'HALF' AND HALF



Bent Nights examines a show by out musician Rostam (formerly of Vampire Weekend), who performed songs from the CD Half Light.  
Photo by Vern Hester

## LET'S TALK ABOUT 'SIX'

Windy City Times reviews the play Six Corners.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Kristin Chenoweth, Stephen Fry and Janelle Monae.

plus  
**DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

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COMPASS

# Fund site launched to help Amy Armstrong after robbery in Mexico

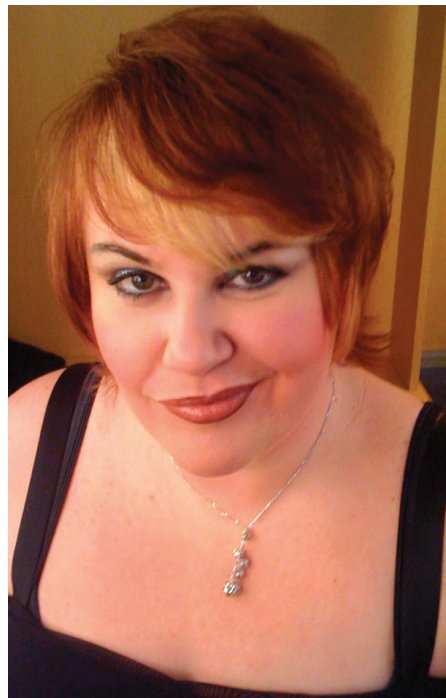
BY MATT SIMONETTE

An online GoFundMe campaign has been formed to assist Chicago-based entertainer Amy Armstrong after an establishment she helps manage in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico was robbed.

According to the GoFundMe site, Armstrong returned to the Palm Cabaret, the Puerto Vallarta nightclub where she is entertainment director, after an engagement on a cruise ship. The morning after her return, she discovered that a safe containing about \$28,000 in funds covering future ticket sales as well as one performer's personal money had been ripped from the wall and stolen. Armstrong's funds covering her management expenses were gone as well.

"At this time, Amy can use our support in this traumatic situation," said the GoFundMe site, organized by Kim Joakim Gustaffson. "Currently she only hopes to recoup the money that was for advanced ticket sales for other entertainers, however, I am hoping that we can create a bigger game and show her how much she means to us and the joy she has brought to our lives and our communities."

As of press time, the drive raised just more than \$13,000. To contribute, visit <http://bit.ly/2CjV9Wc>.



Amy Armstrong.  
Photo by John Fenoglio

## Point notes new college program, holding event

Point Foundation (Point) encourages LGBTQ community-college students who are planning to transfer to a four-year degree program to apply for its Community College Scholarship Program.

Students accepted into the program receive a financial award, transfer coaching, and academic planning guidance at the Point Community College Transfer Symposium in Los Angeles, as well as access to the Point Foundation network of LGBTQ scholars and alumni. Profiles of Point's current Community College Scholarship recipients and application information are online at [Point-Foundation.org/communitycollege](http://Point-Foundation.org/communitycollege).

Applications for scholarships accepted online will be open March 1.

Also, Point Foundation scholars, alumni and supporters will hold an event Thursday, March 8, 6-8 p.m., at Salero, 621 W. Randolph St.

The evening will feature remarks from Point Scholars and staff to help increase awareness of the foundation's mission and work, as well as an introduction on how individuals and companies can help support Point's programs and initiatives.

See <https://pointfoundation.org/events/2018-chicago/>.

## Anti-gay pastor Billy Graham dead at 99

The Rev. Billy Graham—an author, presidential advisor (who met every president from Harry Truman to Barack Obama) and famed evangelist who became known as "America's Pastor"—died at his North Carolina home on Feb. 21 at age 99.

Graham was known for his televised "crusades," which filled stadiums—but he was also known for being anti-LGBT.

Advocate.com noted that while Graham was not as overtly homophobic as son Franklin, Graham was deeply opposed to the LGBT community. In 1993, Graham suggested that AIDS was punishment from God; in 2012, he backed an anti-marriage-equality constitutional amendment in North Carolina.

The Advocate.com piece is at <https://www.advocate.com/religion/2018/2/21/what-obits-arent-saying-evangelist-billy-graham-was-homophobe>.

## GUEST COLUMN

BY ANGELIQUE MUNRO



## My journey, my story

I honestly knew ever since I was able to speak that I was not like other little girls. However, I didn't understand why until much later in life.

Physically transitioning from male to female, or becoming the woman I was meant to be, is a unique and individual process. There is no "right" or "wrong" way to physically transition—or to decide not to do any medical procedures. This is my story and I did what works for me.

While some trans women may choose to undergo Gender Reassignment Surgery (GRS), others may find that Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) is sufficient. Transitioning, regardless of what it entails, is a long, expensive and risky process that can lead to rewarding results. My advice is begin at a very slow pace, be patient and surround yourself with supportive friends and family members.

The start of my transition journey began after my Mother died Jan. 13, 2006. I was finally free then, I was able to seek out a therapist and begin HRT on March 19, 2006. I allowed the hormones to work and slowly change my body, my breasts grew to a full B, then on Jan. 13, 2010 I had gotten full D implants. I researched five doctors and found one that I really thought did the best work, Dr. Gregory Turowski in Skokie.

As we all know, for many, many, many years transgender people only had street resources of street hormones without any kind therapy, and back rooms where people would pump you full of silicone (or at least that's what they said it was) and those results can be very dangerous and sometimes deadly. So in 2018 we have the resources, so please seek a qualified therapist. Remember this is your body and you only have one life to live.

According to the HBGDIA WPATH Standards of Care, you must see a gender therapist prior to receiving hormones or undergoing surgeries. Browse the internet in search of a therapist experienced working with members of the trans community. Commit to the therapist that makes you feel at ease. If your therapist is not a great fit, don't be afraid to switch to a new counselor.

I was diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Any diagnosis can be uncomfortable and yet once again under this huge umbrella called "transgender," what I want out of life may not be the same as what you want and that's perfectly OK. For me I knew I was born in the wrong body and having a penis is very uncomfortable. I do not care what diagnosis or what you want to call it, all I know is I want to feel complete as a woman.

Over the course of a series of sessions, your therapist will evaluate your individual situation, issuing a diagnosis. After determining that you have consistently experienced symptoms such as disgust with your genitals, a desire to remove signs of your biological sex, and/or a certainty that your biological sex does not align with your true gender, your therapist will likely diagnose you with gender dysphoria.

— You must experience these symptoms for at least six months.

— Be honest with your therapist and yourself.

— Gender dysphoria does not mean that you are diseased or broken; it simply means that you are not content with living as your assigned sex. Doctors write this down so they have justification to give you the pills, therapy and/or surgery you want or need.

— Gender dysphoria does not necessarily mean a sad mood. If you have been feeling depressed or anxious, tell the therapist. You may benefit from treatment for that as well.

In 2011, I was introduced to the fabulous attorneys at Transformative Justice Law Project which guided me through my complete name change and gender marker. See <http://tjlp.org/services.html>.

I say select a name that reflects your personality as a woman. Changing your name takes time and requires patience. Start the process early. First, file a petition to change your name with the Chancery division of your Circuit Court. On your appointed date, you will appear in front of a judge with your complete paperwork. If all of your documents are in order, the judge will rule to officially change your name. Following your successful court appearance, purchase original copies of the court order. You will have to use these throughout the process of changing your name on legal documents. The process and forms vary from state to state.

People always ask how did I choose my name? Well for me there is definitely meaning behind my name of choice. One night while doing a guest spot at the Baton Show Lounge, a group of guys mistook me for some girl named Norma Jean and my Drag Mother Monica Munro said two things to me. She said "you're nothing like that girl, you're very much an 'angel' which makes you very 'unique.'"

So I went home that night and I was thinking about what Monica said and I wrote down the word "angel" and the word "unique" and that gives you Angelique.

People tend to be very curious and ask what are procedures I've had thus far: I never wanted

Turn to page 30



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Mon-Thurs: Noon - 7 pm  
Fri: 9 am - Noon; 1 - 4 pm

**ELECTIONS 2018:**  
**STATE REP (5TH DISTRICT)**

# Out candidate Lamont Robinson talks LGBT issues, public safety

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Insurance agent Lamont Robinson Jr.—who runs two Allstate offices—is currently a candidate for state representative in the 5th District, a seat vacated by Juliana Stratton as she campaigns for lieutenant governor.

If elected, Robinson would be the first openly gay African-American legislator in state history, and he was previously interviewed by the Windy City Times when he announced his campaign in October. His opponents in the Democratic Primary are Felicia Bullock, Kenneth Dunkin, Tregg Dueron, Dilara Sayeed and Johnae Strong; none of them returned Windy City Times' request for an interview.

**Windy City Times: What would be your first priority once you got to Springfield?**

Lamont Robinson: The first priority is to bring economic development into the 5th District, which will also bring jobs, and also lessen the violence that we're seeing on the south end of the district.

**WCT: Having gotten to talk to potential constituents, what other issues have arisen?**

LR: Jobs, certainly, which also equate to economic development, and so I'm really tying the three things together. Economic development was extremely important to me, but as I am out and about, jobs and the violence that we're seeing again on the south end of the district keep continuing to come up. But I think we need to look at through an out of the box approach, which is again for me going to be through economic development.

**WCT: Public safety seems to be a big issue for you and your constituents. What approaches besides economic development would you be interested in considering?**

LR: Something that has come up while I've been out in the community door-knocking and meeting with residents is getting back to community policing, where we have officers that know the residents in the area, that have stakes in the community, that might even live in the community. I believe that one of the ways that we get through this hump where we don't trust our police officers is that we don't have a relationship with them. We don't know who they are.

**WCT: How do you feel about initiatives like restorative justice and their connection to public safety?**

LR: I think that's huge. Juliana Stratton, who was the current state representative, had put some bills out there on restorative justice, and that was a very key platform for her campaign. I definitely want to work with Juliana and make

sure that we continue to move those reforms forward, whether that be in the district, or across the state of Illinois.

**WCT: You had mentioned in your previous interview that you wanted to give employment opportunities to the trans community. How would you approach eliminating employment discrimination for those groups?**

LR: I've already done it. I have two insurance practices, and in one of my practices I have hired a trans employee. That person is a manager, so it's one thing to hire someone, but to give them a management role; she can support her family and advance her career, and I hope one day she'll follow my footsteps and run her own insurance agency.

**WCT: To approach that statewide?**

LR: I'd talk about it. I'd be the example. When I'm going out trying to bring businesses to the district, I let people know what I have done, and how important it is to have a diverse workforce.

**WCT: What specific priorities would you have as a state legislator to help the LGBT community?**

LR: It's really disheartening that folks in my community have to travel north for services, whether that be HIV services, wraparound services, shelter or counseling service. My plan of attack is to work with current partners to be able to have something that is on the south end of the district.

**WCT: Who would you reach out to attempting to get those services?**

LR: Howard Brown [Health], the AIDS foundation, the City of Chicago. I'm very happy to report that Ald. Pat Dowell is supportive of my candidacy and she is the chair of [the Committee on Human Relations] in the city of Chicago, and I'll work with her and other organizations to be able to bring something like that to the south end of the district.

**WCT: Since HIV/AIDS does often disproportionately affect racial minorities, what sort of effort do you think is needed to tackle that issue?**

LR: I think that we need education across the board, whether that be in our schools, in our churches and our community organizations.

**WCT: How would you approach working with colleagues in Springfield?**

LR: I understand that I'm coming in as a junior legislator, but I'm not new to the current legislators in the house or the Senate. I plan to work with them on bills that are already trying to get approved or things that are already going in the legislature. I want to continue to move the 5th district forward, whether that be working with



Lamont Robinson.  
Photo by Matt Simonette

the current state rep or state senators, or the Aldermen or the Cook County commissioners that make up the district.

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

LR: I've invested in the community over the years. I'm a small business owner, someone that has brought jobs to the community, someone

that has worked with the current alderman in the area. I also am an educator, a professor at Harold Washington College which is in the district, and I also run a nonprofit for African-American boys preparing to go to college. All of these things are skillsets that I will take with me to Springfield that my other opponents do not have.

See <https://www.votelamontrobinson.com/>.

## ELECTIONS 2018 GOP candidate accused of gay, racial slurs

Burt Minor—a Republican candidate for the Illinois General Assembly (42nd District)—received criticism from his own party amid claims that he asked a GOP-backed, African-American candidate for state attorney general if she was a “lesbo” and used a racial slur while talking with her, Politico reported.

Last fall, Minor talked with Erika Harold (a former Miss America) and “asked Ms. Harold personal questions about her marital status, and even her sexual orientation, going so far as to inquire whether she was a ‘lesbo,’” Republican Illinois House leader Peter Breen wrote in a letter to other Republicans. “The chairman also used the full ‘n-word’ repeatedly in front of Ms. Harold and her assistant, asking whether she found its usage offensive.”

Harold later confirmed this version of events. Minor, the Winfield Township Republican chairman, has said his conversation with Harold has not been reported correctly, the Chicago Sun-Times noted. Minor wrote, in part, “I believe there is no place for racism or intolerance in the Republican Party and the State of Illinois.” However, he did not deny asking Harold about her sexual orientation or using the n-word in front of her.

Minor remains on the ballot, facing fellow Republicans Amy L. Grant and Ryan Edward Byrne in the March 20 primary. Kathleen V. Carrier

is the only Democrat vying for the office.

The Politico item is at <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/02/22/illinois-republican-attorney-general-candidate-racial-slur-421732>. The Sun-Times article is at <https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/ag-hopeful-harold-to-house-candidate-drop-out-for-using-n-word-lesbo-slurs/>.

## Leaders note Trump nominee's anti-LGBT slant

Civil-rights leaders from across the country condemned the Trump administration's nominee for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Gordon Giampietro, after the discovery of two 2015 audio recordings where Giampietro mocks a Supreme Court justice and calls same-sex marriage “an assault on nature against God's plan.”

Organizations such as Lambda Legal, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the Human Rights Campaign, Alliance for Justice, The National Center for Lesbian Rights and People For the American Way, called on the White House to immediately withdraw Giampietro's nomination after news reports of the inflammatory and bigoted language surfaced.

In addition, Giampietro has made disturbing comments in blog posts about what he calls a “racial spoils system;” writing about the Civil Rights Act of 1964, he claimed that “calls for diversity” are “code for relaxed standards.”

# University of Chicago teaching program starts LGBTQ initiative

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

In a new initiative, University of Chicago's Urban Teacher Education Program (UChicago UTEP) is adding gender identity and sexuality to its curriculum.

UTEP prepares teachers for Chicago Public Schools while testing a model for urban teacher preparation. While it is a two-year master's degree program, UTEP describes itself a five-year experience learning program, called Elementary and Middle Grades Pathways. The pathways meet Illinois' new licensure structure and standards for teaching. This includes all core-subjects in self-contained elementary grades 1-6; as well as specific core subjects in middle grades five to eight. According to UTEP's website, three free years of post-graduation supports are offered after this two-year master of arts in teaching and licensure program.

"Our program in general calls itself a social-justice teacher-education program, so it's definitely always been oriented toward justice and in the interest of preparing teachers to really work in solidarity with parents and kids living in low-income neighborhoods in Chicago," said UTEP Co-Director Bill Kennedy. "We consider ourselves to be a reflective program in that we are trying to prepare teachers to be reflective practitioners. What we mean by that is critical reflective practitioners, not reflection with the absence of a look toward justice. 'How is my teacher improving the lives of kids and families, but also myself, too?' As a teacher, how are we working toward a deeper, critical consciousness?"

In its 16 years of operation, Kennedy said, the program has always had a focus on racial justice. Issues of race, class, and culture have always been front and center.

"That justice has always included that intersectional lens, but I would say, in the process of doing that over the years, I think we've addressed some issues of oppression in ways that are better than others," Kennedy said.

Kennedy explained that issues within sexuality and gender have existed for years, and the issues have sped up socially in the last couple years, which was a piece leading to the new LGBTQ initiative.

The point of the new initiative is to prepare teacher candidates to better support LGBTQ students and their families. In designing this curriculum, UTEP partnered with LGBTQ education organizations, particularly Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, and the University of Chicago's LGBTQ Student Life office to learn more about curriculum, classroom practices that create more inclusivity and more representation, terminology, respectful norms and barriers that LGBTQ students experience.

"I think it goes with a larger philosophy that we share in the program, which is these issues can and should be talked about at all ages," said Kennedy, who is a parent of two children. "It goes with this idea that we're really trying to dispel for teachers that these are not conversations you can have until kids are older. You can and should have these conversations. It looks different when you're talking about it in first grade or fourth grade or 12th grade, but kids need to be able to have conversations and as a result teachers need to be prepared to have conversations at all ages. What is the right conversation at each age is a skill that teachers need to learn and the place to learn it is in a teacher ed program that is committed to those kinds of conversations."

Kennedy added that, while recognizing the great work done over the time of the program, LGBTQ studies is an area that has been neglected.

"We've been a little more attune in the way that I think our society has to improving that work," said Kennedy. "So, this year in particular, after a year last year where we had our first graduate student who was non-gender conforming and preferred gender-neutral pronouns, we realized we needed to do some work as staff and also, we realized our students in general coming through the program needed to do some work as well in terms of improving their classrooms toward making more inclusive and empowering classrooms, especially for kids and families beyond racial justice."

The initiative is in the process of being rolled out and is now for second-year students. Additionally, Kennedy said after fading out, an affinity group has been resurrected. The group welcomes people who are either currently in the program or graduates of the program who identify as LGBTQ to meet on a regular basis. The goal, Kennedy described, is to provide a safe space for them to work through issues, talk and provide support for themselves.

"We currently have no staff members who identify as LGBTQ and that seems like a real problem for us in general, but also as a social-justice teacher ed program, so we really feel like we needed to do more," said Kennedy of the new LGBTQ efforts. "It's a priority for us in terms of hiring for the future and it's also something that we think about and this crosses intersectional lines like when you're trying to prepare teachers to be working toward a multicultural critically conscious classroom. You are molding yourself as a teacher, you're molding your own identity, how do you be there for students who don't share those identities, marginalized identities but still need support?"

"It really is consistent with this idea that social justice and working toward justice as teachers means all issues of justice," Kennedy said about



Participants in UChicago's program.

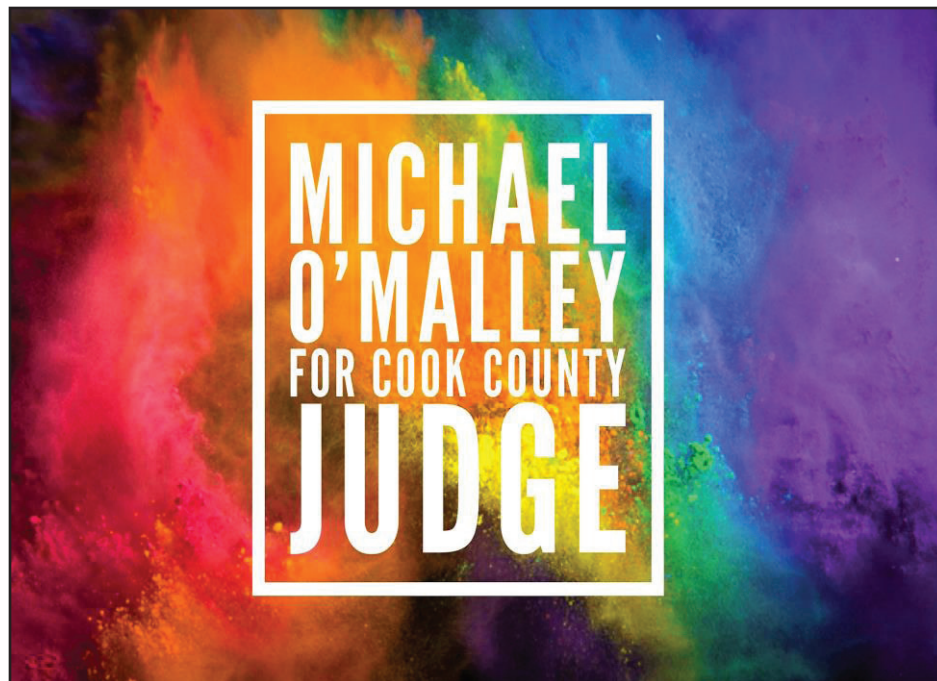
Photo courtesy of Bill Kennedy

how the initiative fits in with UTEP's mission. "So in part, it is a recognition that we ourselves need to practice what we preach and we have to engage in those conversations and prepare teachers to have those conversations.

"To be truly, looking at power and oppression in its broadest forms. So, it's partially that but it also just goes with the belief that we're trying to have teachers create caring and inclusive classrooms and so if we have graduate classrooms

that are not caring and inclusive of our LGBTQ students, which I would say last year, we did not do a good enough job of creating that, that we need to improve that work. We need to make our classrooms feel inclusive, feel empowering for all students and if we're not doing that, we can't expect our teachers to do that."

For more information on UChicago UTEP and its LGBTQ initiative, visit <https://utep.uchicago.edu> and <https://uei.uchicago.edu/>.



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**ELECTIONS 2018:**  
**STATE REP (54TH DISTRICT)**

# Out lesbian Maggie Trevor on district issues, LGBT community

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Former political science professor and current healthcare researcher Maggie Trevor is running in opposition to incumbent Republican Tom Morrison in the 54th District. A Democrat, Trevor is unopposed in her primary. Trevor is also an out lesbian.

**Windy City Times: Talk about your background and what inspired you to run for office.**

Maggie Trevor: I was born and raised right here in Rolling Meadows. I went to the public schools here, went to college at University of Chicago, got a Bachelor's, Master's and PhD there, then went into academia, political sciences, and taught at University of Iowa for a number of years. My background is in American politics and survey research. I left University of Iowa in 1999, went into market research, and moved out to California, where I lived for about fifteen years. Most of my employment there was in the healthcare industry. I worked for Kaiser Permanente, the big HMO out there, and Blue Shield of California. I ended up moving back here and starting my own firm doing custom market research, mostly for the healthcare industry.

I've always been sort of an outside viewer of politics; it was my profession for many years. My mother was a political activist in the Northwest Suburbs when I was growing up so I was always very familiar with what was going on during my childhood. When I was a kid, even the Republicans out here were more socially liberal, economically conservative moderate Republicans. When I moved back here, I found out that I was being represented by Tom Morrison, and the more I found out about him, the more appalled I was, particularly at the whole transgender debate over Fremd High School.

I know that Tom Morrison is way too conservative even for the Republicans in this area. It just galls me that he represents me, and that that this is outsiders' view of what the Northwest suburbs is like. I tried to run in 2016, when I found out who he was and what he was about and that he didn't have an opponent, but there's a two-year residency requirement in the state legislature. I moved back right around New Year's on 2015. It wasn't enough time to run against him in the 2016 election, so I decided to run this time.

I'm not just running against Tom Morrison. There are things I want to do, and my background in healthcare on the business side I think is really relevant, given what's going on at the federal level. I know how the healthcare marketplace works, and my critical issue here is to make sure that we continue to have access to affordable health here, regardless of what happens to the Affordable Care Act at the federal level. Not

only make sure we have an individual market, but that we also have the clinic system within the state of Illinois that supports the number of patients that need access to healthcare, which is something that was dramatically affected by the budget crisis.

**WCT: Describe the 54th District and its makeup.**

MT: I think the last Democrat elected here was in the '70s and '80s. Because it was such a majority Republican district, the democratic organization out in the northwest suburbs never paid much attention to it. The real contest was always in the Republican primary. In 2010, which is the year of the Tea Party Movement, Tom Morrison challenged [moderate incumbent] Susie Bassie in the primary and won. Things have changed since then, not only just what we're seeing now, not only just with this surge in activism that was brought about by the 2016 elections.

I think the demographics of the northwest suburbs has been changing dramatically over the past 10 years, particularly Palatine and Rolling Meadows, both of those areas. Palatine before the 1950s was a little farming town of more than 4,000 people. Most of the housing was built in the 1950s and 1960s, and a lot of people moved out here, my parents included, and stayed in those houses until they passed away. There has been a lot of turnover in the population. It has become more diverse. There are a lot more young people with families that moved here from the city for the same reasons that my parents moved here 60, 70 years ago. It's a nice place to raise kids: good schools, and also easy commute to the city. If you look at how this area has voted over the past few election cycles, it's become increasingly Democratic. I'm running not only because I don't like Tom Morrison and I think I can do something in Springfield, I'm running because I think I can win.

**WCT: What are the biggest issues in your district?**

MT: The incumbent is a big issue. Healthcare is a big issue. I think taxes here are a big issue as well. We need to move to a progressive income tax, which of course needs a constitutional amendment. We need to do it in a way that still protects funding for public schools, so that's the other big issue, I think.

**WCT: What's your connection to the LGBTQ community?**

MT: I have a lot of friends in the community, but I've just started to get involved here. When I was in the Bay Area I was involved with a couple of organizations. I volunteered for BACW, which at the time that I moved there was the big lesbian social organization out there. I was on its board of directors for a number of years, I served



Maggie Trevor.  
 Photo from Trevor

as President for 10 months in the early 2000s. I volunteered for Lyon-Martin health services there. When I taught at University of Iowa I was involved in the LGBTQ community there. I was on the board of Prairie Voices Productions, which put together the Iowa Women's Music Festival. I was also on the advisory board for Women's Resource in Action Center, which is a women's center on the University of Iowa. They were not specifically LGBT, but they were very LGBT friendly and connected to that community.

**WCT: What do you feel like the biggest issue facing the LGBTQ community is at this point?**

MT: I still think it's employment discrimination. In Illinois we have in better than in most places, I think we've made great progress socially, and the changes in the past 20 years have been amazing, but there are still places where people can get fired, and that has to change. Everything else kind of sits on that.

As long as people can still lose their livelihoods anywhere in the U.S., that needs to be the fight. I think we can't lose sight of protecting the gains that we've made, which is why I look at Tom Morrison and think I can't abide by him representing me, he has to be challenged. People don't take him seriously, people don't take what he does in the legislature seriously because they don't think it has a chance, but I think you need to take a look at what's just happened over the past year at the federal level and think, you can lose ground very quickly under the wrong set of circumstances. But I also don't think we should just retrench and guard the gains that we have, we have to look at ending employment discrimination.

**WCT: What you would do on the state level to protect employees and potential hires, particularly trans and gender nonconforming ones, from discrimination?**

MT: Illinois has among the strongest protections against this type of discrimination. Our state is one of only 20 that currently have anti-discrimination laws in place that address both sexual orientation and gender identity for both public and private employers. This is especially important given the current administration's stance that federal civil rights protections against sex discrimination do not apply to transgender persons. Some estimate that half of those who identify as LGBTQ in the U.S. live without adequate protections against employment discrimination. The Illinois Human Rights Act provides those protections in Illinois in the absence of clear protection at the federal level.

As a state legislator, I will work to safeguard The Illinois Human Rights Act from attempts to weaken its protections, for instance by opposing legislative efforts to carve out broader exemptions to these protections based on premise of protecting the religious beliefs of employers.

**WCT: What would be first on the agenda if you were to get to Springfield?**

MT: A lot of it depends on who else gets elected. And some of what I want to do is what people are pushing already. I want to make sure that we protect healthcare, and there has been some movement on that already. We still need to deal with the fact that the recent federal tax bill just knocked out one of the legs of the stool for the individual healthcare market and the mandate. I would like to see something done on that at the state level. I think we need to research what Massachusetts did and research what would be effective here. My guess is that the Illinois marketplace will probably survive this, but still we need to make sure that we have some kind of tax incentive for people to buy insurance to make sure young healthy people enrolled as well as older, sicker people so that healthcare premiums don't explode here in Illinois.

I'm hoping by the time I get there the Equal Rights Amendment will have passed, that's another thing I want to make sure happens. I want to make sure that we start the ball rolling on a constitutional amendment to make sure that we can put some kind of tax reform where the wealthy pay their fair share in Illinois, which is currently not true.

**WCT: As an out LGBTQ legislator, would you be looking to caucus with other LGBTQ lawmakers?**

MT: As an out LGBTQ legislator, yes, I would be looking to caucus with other legislators. I had a conversation with Rep. Greg Harris during the early stages of my campaign where we discussed the growing potential of forming such a caucus as the number of out LGBTQ legislators grows, and we would be looking at this as a possibility after the election.

**WCT: Any final thoughts?**

MT: Living in the Bay Area and coming back to the Northwest suburbs, I'm amazed at the very large, very vibrant LGBT community here. It's amazing, the changes in the suburbs.

See <http://trevorforstaterep.net/>.



# Black History Month event honors local LGBTQA luminaries

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The Chicago Department of Public Health and the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus hosted a Chicago LGBTQA Black history recognitions and awards event honoring luminaries in the community Feb. 23 at the South Side Community Art Center.

"This event is all about highlighting and focusing on LGBTQ Black individuals and allies who have contributed to the quality of life for Black folks," said Chicago Department of Public Health Public Administrator and LGBTQ health outreach liaison Antonio King. "Every year, Black History

Month is celebrated but is focused on cisgender, heterosexual people. Not many people think of the accomplishments of the LGBTQ Black community so this is a night to lift those individuals up and celebrate everything they have done."

Ahead of the ceremony, King spoke about the importance of having this event at the South Side Community Art Center.

South Side Community Art Center Executive Director Masequa Myers noted the history of the venue going back to its founding 77 years ago through the WPA, one of the many initiatives started by then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt

to combat the effects of the Great Depression. Myers explained then First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was on hand for the dedication.

Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus Executive Director Erik Glenn said the caucus was started to address the specific issues in that community, especially the HIV rates being recorded, and now the focus is on holistic health equity.

King, on behalf of the Chicago Department of Public Health presented LGBTQ affirming Lighthouse Church Pastor and activist Jamie Frazier; ally and West Point Baptist Church Pastor Bernard Jakes; poet, activist, spoken-word artist e. nina jay; LGBTQ youth activist and father of the ball scene's House of Mizrahi Kentrele Mizrahi; activist/Lavender Pop Greeting Cards creator and activist Otis Richardson and Brave Space Alliance Founder, community organizer and trans activist LaSaia Wade with recognition letters from Mayor Rahm Emanuel for their years of service.

A special memorial recognition letter from Emanuel was given in honor of the late LGBTQ activist Jackie Anderson. Accepting on her behalf was her grandson, Torrence "Doc" Gardner.

Glenn bestowed community awards to fundraiser/volunteer James DeLoach as well as HIV/AIDS activist and retired Cook County Health and Hospitals System administrator Sidney Thomas.

The special guest—openly bisexual Chicago hip-hop artist Taylor Bennett—congratulated the individuals who received recognitions and awards, and spoke about the positive changes he has seen over the years on the South Side regarding LGBTQ acceptance.

The evening also featured performances by jay, who read one of her poems; Nikki Patin, who read from one of her moving poems and sang a few songs; and exhibition art by Richardson, H.L. "Hana" Anderson, James "Jimmy" Collins and Liz Larue.

See <http://chiblackgaycaucus.org/> and <https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph.html> for more information.



From left: Antonio King, Masequa Myers and Erik Glenn.  
Photo by Carrie Maxwell

## ELECTIONS 2018 Groups unite against Dem Dan Lipinski

Leading progressive groups announced they are united for an unprecedented joint independent expenditure campaign against Democratic Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3).

NARAL Pro-Choice America, the Human Rights Campaign, SEIU, MoveOn, Planned Parenthood Action Fund and EMILY's List are joining together for a campaign to educate voters about Lipinski's record and promote his opponent, Marie Newman.

In his time in Congress, Lipinski voted to block his constituents from care at Planned Parenthood and ban abortions, opposed marriage equality, opposed raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour and voted against the Affordable Care Act.

## ELECTIONS 2018-19 Women of color forum on March 8

The 2018 Women of Color Candidate Forum for Illinois will take place Thursday, March 8, at 7 p.m. at Reunion, 2557 W. North Ave.

Among those scheduled to appear are the following candidates: Gaylon Alcaraz (Cook County commissioner, 4th District), Maria Hadden (alderman of Chicago's 49th Ward), Sameena Mustafa (U.S. Congress, 5th District), Delia Ramirez (Illinois state representative, 4th District) and Charise Williams (Cook County commissioner, 3rd District). Morten Group's Mary Morten is slated to moderate.

To RSVP, visit <http://e3radio.fm>.

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ELECTIONS 2018:  
COOK COUNTY COURT (SURIANO VACANCY)

# Jill Rose Quinn: Trans attorney aims for spot in history

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Jill Rose Quinn is aiming for a place in history.

Should she win her primary- and general-election races, Quinn would be the first transgender judge in Illinois—ever.

Quinn's private practice experience includes working at general legal practices in Chicago, Bloomington, Lombard, Glen Ellyn and Franklin Park, where she has handled a wide variety of case types. In addition, Quinn is a member of the National LGBT Bar Association and Chicago LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

**Windy City Times: If you win, you would make history. What compelled you to run?**

Jill Rose Quinn: I've always wanted to be a judge, and for most of my career I thought that no one would ever elect or appoint a transgender judge.

And then things started changing, and then I went to the LGBT Bar Association's convention in San Francisco one year and I met Phyllis Frye and Vicki Kolakowski, who are the two openly transgender judges sitting right now. I was amazed that there were two openly transgender judges, and Phyllis Frye said, "There [are] *only* two transgender judges!" Then she said, "You should really work on getting on the bench." That's what really said to be that it's possible to do it.

I've applied to be an associate judge, but this opportunity came up in my neighborhood, which is the 10th.

**WCT: You're running up against a fistful of candidates...**

JRQ: ... And it's an interesting compilation. Colleen Daly is the slate candidate; she seems to have the backing of the local ward organizations—which is odd because the sitting judge is Gerald Cleary [who is also running], who'd normally have the inside track. Daly seems to have a lot of advertising behind her, and she has motivation—she's run for seats in the 10th before.

Then, there are two other candidates I know less about; they're less visible. We'll see what happens.

**WCT: So what's a typical day on the campaign trail?**

JRQ: I'm still running a law practice, so it always starts off with me working in the office and trying to catch up on my legal responsibilities—

answering emails, sending out taxes, scheduling real-estate closings, preparing for court. Then I work around that with my campaign manager, who keeps me [up to date] on what events are going on. And we're composing questions to answer for my website, like "What does a circuit court judge do?"

People don't a lot about judges. That's a truly amazing thing. It's one of the parts of the legal system that touches people—but they don't know what a judge does.

I also look to see where I can meet people, we work on phone lists and call up volunteers—things like that.

**WCT: The grind of it all...**

JRQ: It's exciting! [*Both laugh.*] But maybe if I have to run four or five times, it won't be as exciting.

**WCT: What do you feel is your biggest advantage and your biggest challenge in this race?**

JRQ: My biggest challenge is getting my name out there so people know who I am. My biggest advantage is that, if people know who I am, they're going to like me and elect me. I have good experience, I have a broad legal background, I've done a lot of different things, I've represented a lot of people and I've counseled a lot of people over 35 years.

I think I can bring to the bench a lot of experience. Just [interacting] with different people just broadens your mind and gives you a better feel for what you're doing. I just think I'm competent to look into people's lives and make fair decisions about them.

**WCT: Are you ever concerned that you might have problems with objectivity if a case involves a matter that's close to your heart?**

JRQ: I don't want to say "no" off the top of my head, because that sounds fake. I ultimately do not think I'll make a decision that runs contrary to what society needs or what society expects or what the law requires. I don't think I would say, "Gee, it's okay that you murdered a guy because he's a bad guy." I'm not going to go that far, even if that's the cosmically correct result.

I think you have to be responsible to make decisions that are consistent. That's what people need in law—and in everything.

**WCT: In your questionnaire, you said that restorative-justice models can be useful and ap-**



Jill Rose Quinn.

Photo from campaign website

**appropriate under certain circumstances. Could you give one such circumstance?**

JRQ: It might be useful in a contract situation. People might have a contract where neither has gotten what they want, and it might be better to put them in the positions that they were in before the contract instead of punishing them.

In another instance, there's hate-crime legislation that essentially says that you can include, as part of the sentence, appropriate community service. That is kind of a restorative justice, where you can paint over a swastika or work at the Holocaust Museum for two weeks; you can learn what's wrong with your hate. A restorative-justice model could work in any situation where a defendant is amenable to education.

**WCT: You've already talked about this a little bit, but why do you feel we need more judges from the LGBTQ community?**

JRQ: Well, we need more judges reflective of our society. We need to have those viewpoints as part of the collective decision-making process—from the point of view of a trans kid and thinks he or she is an oddball, I think it's good to see trans people in positions of authority.

But diversity is always a good idea, because we're not getting any less diverse—we're getting more diverse. And the sooner people realize that, the better off we'll be, as a society.

I was a community organizer in Houston, Texas; I worked for an organization called ACORN that got a lot of real bad press a few years ago [over questionable practices], but it was undeservedly bad press. However, the point of my story is that I worked with white, rural residents who would say all these bad things about Black people and Mexicans. But you'd get together with them and have them meet with people from [minority] neighborhoods—and then they'd be laughing and even visiting each other.

Maybe it's not that simple but, in my mind, if you get people together they'll realize that we're all made of the same stuff.

**WCT: That's one of the things I've mentioned happens in large cities like Chicago: There's plenty of cultural diversity, but little cultural interaction.**

JRQ: Right. I agree with that. It is one of the most segregated cities in the country, and I think we have to be conscious about that in everything we do. We have to talk better with each other.

**WCT: I'd like to end on a lighter note. Could you tell the readers an interesting factoid about yourself?**

JRQ: Well, I really came to enjoy sports later in life—and I think that had to do with my gender confusion. I never played baseball, although I watched it all the time—but then I started playing it, and it opened my mind and my body. Also, I started running about 10 years ago. The first time, I ran about 60 feet, but I kept at it; within a couple years, I ran my first marathon.

**See [VoteJillRoseQuinn.com](http://VoteJillRoseQuinn.com). Also, Quinn has an ad that responds to Republican gubernatorial candidate Jeanne Ives' anti-trans ad; it is at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=32&v=M4QbyBrzPQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=32&v=M4QbyBrzPQ).**

## Cassidy responds to harassment claims within Democratic Party

Following new allegations about sexual harassment and abusive behavior within the Democratic Party of Illinois, state Rep. Kelly Cassidy released a statement.

She said, "The slow and steady drip of accusations and dismissals has turned into an endless cycle of lather, rinse, repeat, highlighting the culture of harassment in the legislature and political campaigns.

"I am calling for an independent investigation into this culture that appears to pervade the organizations led by Speaker Madigan. Be-

cause of the unique interconnectedness of his Capitol and political operations, the investigation must not be hampered by organizational boundaries. The investigator(s) should not be Democratic elected officials, individuals, or firms with pre-existing ties to the Speaker and should have demonstrated experience with investigations of this nature.

"We must get to the bottom of this with confidence in the independence of the investigator. We need to force the very real culture change required to truly show that #timesup."

Media outlets reported that Madigan, the Illinois House speaker, recently removed a second high-ranking operative (Shaw Decremmer) from his political team due to inappropriate behavior. Decremmer's departure followed that of aide Kevin Quinn over allegations of sexual harassment.



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## Nominations sought for 30 Under 30 Awards

Windy City Times is seeking to recognize 30 more outstanding LGBT individuals (and allies) for its annual 30 Under 30 Awards.

The ceremony will take place Wed, June 20. There will be a 5:30 p.m. reception, with the program being 6-7:30 p.m.

Nominees should be 30 years or younger as of June 30, and should have made some substantial contributions to the Chicagoland LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics or other areas.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 13.

Individuals, organizations, co-workers, etc. can nominate a person by emailing Andrew@Windy-CityMediaGroup.com or faxed to Andrew Davis' attention to 773-871-7609. Self-nominations are welcome.

The nomination should be 100 words or fewer, and should state what achievements or contributions the nominee has made. Nominators should include their own names and contact information as well as the contact information and the age of the nominee.

*Note:* Following the policy instituted in 2005, individuals can only win once. Those have won the award since that year are ineligible for this year's awards.

This year's sponsors include AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Center on Halsted, and Howard Brown Health.

Honorees will be notified in May.

## Lighthouse Church to give away hand warmers March 2

On Friday, March 2, 5-9 a.m., members of The Lighthouse Church of Chicago—which is LGBT-inclusive and predominantly African-American—will gather at the Wilson Red Line stop, 4620 N. Broadway, to distribute 1,000 pairs of hand warmers to CTA riders.

The church is doing this as a way to 1) celebrate four years of life-changing ministry, 2) bless the neighborhood of Uptown in which the church gathers for weekly worship at Uptown Underground, 4713 N. Broadway, and 3) inspire people to learn more about their community and to check out its Sunday morning worship services.

Also, Lighthouse Church members will distribute flyers with the hand warmers that invite CTA riders to a Sunday, March 4, worship experience at 11 a.m. during which The Lighthouse will kick of a new March sermon series, "FREQUENCY: 4 Ways To Tune Into God's Voice."

See [LighthouseChicago.org](http://LighthouseChicago.org).

## LGBT Chamber hosts Black business event

The LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois hosted a celebration of Chicago's Black LGBT business advocates and owners Feb. 22 at the Currency Exchange Cafe, 305 E. Garfield Blvd. Chamber Executive Director Jerome Holston welcomed the gathering of about 30 to the event.

The moderator was Vince Williams, director of membership and business development at The Executives' Club of Chicago and co-owner of a men's shoe company, Alexander Noel.

The panelists were Taylor Mason, owner of Taylor's Tacos; Brian D. Johnson, CEO of The Common Wealth Initiative; Kim L. Hunt, executive director of the Pride Action Tank; and Peter Gaona, a former dancer and owner of Reformed School, a fashion company.

The discussion ranged from being African-American and openly LGBT entrepreneurs to business to tips on marketing and obstacles to success.



From left: Williams, Mason, Johnson, Hunt and Gaona.  
Photo by Tracy Baim

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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	RCCNOW	ORI	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	RCCNOW	ORI	IVI	PP	CAI
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-2ND DISTRICT</b>								
Dennis Deer (D)		Y		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) 37/38

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			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	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		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 Spoerer (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	

**110TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT**

Chris Miller (R)  
Terry A. Davis (R)  
Shirley A. Bell (D)

**112TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT**

Wendy Erhart (R)  
Dwight D. Kay (R)  
Katie Stuart (D)

	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	

**113TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT**

Doug Jameson (R)  
Jay Hoffman (D)

**114TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT**

Jason Madlock (R)  
LaToya N. Greenwood (D)

	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**

# Record number of LGBTs running in March Illinois primary election

This year's elections feature a record number of openly LGBT candidates throughout Illinois. The following individuals have publicly stated that they are members of the LGBT community and were on the ballot as of late February.

**—Gaylon Alcaraz**

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

**Website:** [Gaylon2018.com](http://Gaylon2018.com)

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

**—Kelly Cassidy**

**Race:** Illinois state representative (14th District)

**Website:** <http://citizensforcassidy.com>

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

**—Rev. Marcus Fogliano**

**Race:** Peoria County Precinct Committeeman

**Website:** None

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

**—Mike Forti**

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

**Website:** [JudgeForti.com](http://JudgeForti.com)

**The skinny:** In September 2016, Judge Michael A. Forti was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court of Cook County. He has backing from political heavyweights such as U.S Reps. Jan Schakowsky and Mike Quigley as well as Illinois Senate President John Cullerton.

**—Daniel Foster**

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

**Website:** <https://commissionerfoster.com>

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

**—Marcelino Garcia**

**Race:** Metropolitan Water Reclamation Commissioner

**Website:** [MarcelinoGarcia.com](http://MarcelinoGarcia.com)

**The skinny:** Garcia, an attorney, is director of community affairs for the Cook County health and hospitals system—the nation's third largest public health system. He is also a Partner with Overseas Strategies, LLC, an international business development consulting firm that helps small and medium-sized companies with the logistics of import and export and market development.

**—Greg Harris**

**Race:** Illinois state representative (13th District)

**Website:** [GregHarris.org](http://GregHarris.org)

**The skinny:** Harris—who was chief co-sponsor of SB10, the legislation that brought about mar-



**Top row, left to right: Gaylon Alcaraz; Kelly Cassidy with children. Center row, left to right: Rev. Marcus Fogliano; Mike Forti; Daniel Foster. Bottom row, left to right: Marcelino Garcia; Greg Harris; Janice Bruce Hightower.**

Alcaraz photo courtesy of Alcaraz; Cassidy photo courtesy of Citizens for Cassidy; Fogliano photo from Facebook account; Forti photo courtesy of Forti; Foster photo from campaign website; Garcia photo from campaign website; Harris photo by Matt Mills; Hightower photo from Facebook

riage equality in Illinois—has a district that includes several North Side neighborhoods. Harris (who was first elected to the state House in 2006, and is the first openly gay person in Illinois to become a member of legislative leadership) is running unopposed in the March 20 primary.

**—Janice Bruce Hightower**

**Race:** Kendall County board (District 1)

**Website:** None listed

**The skinny:** Hightower, a civil-rights consultant, had previously lived and worked in New Mexico for 35 years. Hightower is running as a write-in for the Kendall County board.



# WINDY CITY TIMES' LGBTQ WEDDING & SPECIAL EVENTS GUIDE

EIGHTH EDITION  
February 2018



Posters For Change  
Page 26



Local couples wed  
Pages 8 & 10



Oak Park  
Page 24

**PLUS:**  
Tips on hiring a  
planner

A marriage-  
equality timeline

Gay marriage by  
the numbers

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# WINDY CITY TIMES' LGBTQ WEDDING & SPECIAL EVENTS GUIDE

**EIGHTH EDITION • February 2018**

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**NATIONAL SALES** Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863  
**WEBSITE LISTINGS VOLUNTEER** Gene Naden  
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**WEB HOSTING** LoveYourWebsite.com (lead programmer: Martie Marro)

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 Photo of Laura and Patti's wedding at Pleasant Home, courtesy of Visit Oak Park

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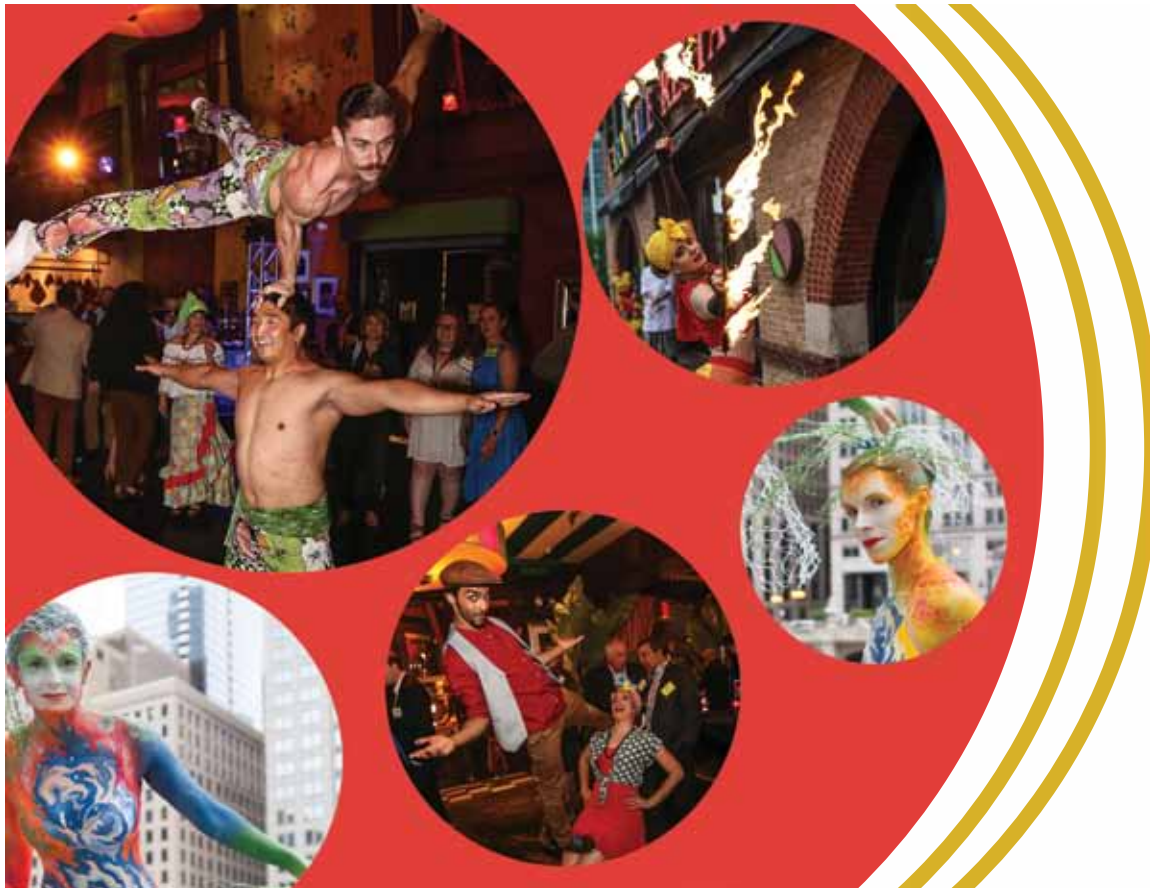
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 podcast: WindyCityQueercast.com

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,  
 5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL, 60640 U.S.A.  
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# HIRING A WEDDING CONSULTANT/COORDINATOR/PLANNER: HOW IT ALL WORKS

BY FRANK J. ANDONOPLAS, MWP, FRANK EVENT DESIGN

Many couples know that hiring a wedding consultant is the right thing for them from the very start. Other couples think this is an unnecessary expense and that they can do it all on their own. My philosophy is that if you trust your taxes to a professional, and your health to a professional, why would you not want to trust this once-in-a-lifetime event to a professional? Each planner does things their way, but here is how I have been providing services for my clients for 25 years.

**Full Service Planning:** I will plan and design the details of the wedding from start to finish.

Additionally, myself and my team are there at the wedding to direct the day's events and coordinate everything that needs to happen and keep things on time.

**Partial Planning:** This level of service is pretty much the same as full-service, but this is if a couple should have their venue selected and then get to the point of "OK, now what are we do?"

**"Day of "Coordination:** This is the common term for wedding-day directions services. I am not a fan of calling it "day of "because it is so much more than just what it sounds like. I review all your contracts, meet with a couple before the wedding and put together the timeline. Then I pretty much take over all the final confirmations and last-minute details. I am there with a staff to direct the day's events and take the stress away from the couple, their friends and family, making sure everything they have planned and selected happens correctly and on time. I also assist with any unexpected occurrences.

**Hourly Consultations:** I offer this service for couples who really want to do this on their own or cannot afford full or partial planning services. I am hired on an hourly basis to review your plans, give you advice on etiquette, guidance on what will work—and more importantly, what won't work—as well as vendor recommendations. This is a great way to tap into my knowledge and expertise at a very minimal investment.

Once I know I am available for their date, I set up an initial interview and discuss their expectations. We talk about the event in detail. You will need to have an estimated guest count and wedding budget. From here, I know if their expectations are realistic. If they are not, one of two things must be done: either increase your budget or decrease your guest list so that you have more money to spend on the details that are a priority. This is where my expertise comes into play in assisting them on deciding on what's most important and how to make the best of their wedding budget. This also gives us a chance to meet and interact and lets us both know if this is going to be a productive and enjoyable relationship.

It's at this initial interview that I can come up with a cost for my services. Every wedding consultant charges a different way. Some charge by the hour, some charge a percentage of your budget. I charge a flat fee based on the amount of detail to your wedding. Since our weddings are different, the fee structure varies.

Once we have contracted, I set up an initial meeting. Here I determine the couple's style by asking a series of interpersonal questions to each member of the couple. We also then talk about each facet of the wedding and the vendors that will be involved. With my 25 years of experience, I can easily fit vendors whose price and style work best with the couple's budget and expectations. I check those vendors availability, then forward the information to the couple for their review. From here, we set up meetings with vendors they like the most. Keep in mind that every vendor that they choose, the couple contracts with each vendor directly. I, unlike other planners, do not subcontract any vendors.

This planning process can take several weeks or even months depending upon how much time we have before the big day. Many clients do not live in the Chicagoland area, so we arrange Facetime meetings and conference calls on a regular basis. I then guide the couple through each intricate detail, use my creative flair to add unique and personal touches and manage the whole event. When the big day arrives, my team and I are there to manage all the details of the day and keep things flowing according to the agenda.

There are now dozens and dozens of wedding consultants out there. I highly recommend you research consultants fully before hiring and going into a contract. Make sure that you ask for references and check online reviews. See what professional credentials and affiliations they have. But most importantly, hire a consultant that you trust and feel comfortable with. This is vital. Beware of anything that seems too good to be true regarding price. I always recommend the old saying, "You get what you pay for."

Just as every planner does things differently, each planner charges in a different way. The most common are hourly, percentage of budget or flat fee. I charge a flat fee so the client knows exactly the amount of the investment they are making, as well as the freedom call, email and meet with me as much as they need to.

Hiring a wedding consultant/coordinator/planner is not for everyone, but the benefits of having one involved in some capacity of your wedding planning is an insurance policy for you. It is such an immense benefit to the couples, giving them peace of mind and less stress during this very emotional time in their lives. This way, you can be a guest at your own wedding.



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photo: Dustin Halleck



photo: Dustin Halleck

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**Cally Raddatz** (in suit) and **Amanda Vevers** wed in August 2017 at the Irish American Heritage Center. They did their best to source their vendors from within the LGBTQ community or those that had a mission that lined up with their values.

*Aaron Ehinger Photography*



**Doug Engel** (left in cake-cutting photo) and **Trey Gehrt** tied the knot in front of friends and family (and their dog, Yoshi) September 16, 2017, at Jerry's in Andersonville.

*Markham Jenkins Images*







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ADAM BEHM &  
BOBBY MEYER

July 15, 2017  
Greenhouse Loft  
Photography by Thomas Slack

THE COUPLE Adam Behm and Bobby Meyer don't shy away from the spotlight: They met when they were both performing with the Chicago Men's Chorus. Bobby spent a year planning a surprise birthday party for Adam, gathering loved ones from Chicago and beyond, and then he proposed. "It's one of the proudest moments of my life."

THE DETAILS For the ceremony and reception, the couple chose Greenhouse Loft, which is "a mix of modernism, and settled-in white decor with a touch of color," says P. who...



**Lisa Hanlon** (left) and **Carmen Cuellar** got married in the Rainbow Room at the Hotel Baker in St. Charles, Ill.  
*Ruben Ramos Photography*



**Nancy Simonsen** (in pants) and **Irene Balogh** got hitched February 15, 2017, at the Skokie courthouse, followed by a small reception at Wildfire in Glenview. The couple are both in their early 60s.  
*Photos courtesy of Simonsen*



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# TRENDS AND SPENDS

As marriage equality more and more becomes part of the fabric of society, certain trends are beginning to emerge. A 2017 survey conducted by theknot.com and Q.Digital LGBTQ Weddings Study presented the following numbers, showing spending habits and more of today's same-gender couples tying the knot.



## AVERAGE ENGAGEMENT RING SPEND



Women: \$3,185

Men: \$2,226



## PERCENTAGE OF DESTINATION WEDDINGS



Women: 29%

Men: 35%



## AVERAGE MARRYING AGE



Women: 36

Men: 46

### MORE NUMBERS ...

- **Average Number of Guests:**

Women, 87; Men, 84

- **Average Length of Engagement:**

Women, 13 months; Men, 12 months

- **Most Popular Month to Get Married:**

Women, October, 15%; Men, October, 15%

- 17% of female couples and 11% of males couples both proposed to one another

- Women are more traditional when proposing, with 43% proposing on bended knee compared to 28% of men doing the same

- Women (86%) are also more likely than men (60%) to exchange engagement rings during the proposal

- Of the women and men who exchanged engagement rings, one in four created a custom designed ring (26% of women; 23% of men)

- According to the study, female (30%) and male (11%) couples admitted that they were turned away from vendors or left feeling uncomfortable due to their LGBTQ identity

- An overwhelming majority of LGBTQ couples (88% of males and 91% of females) agree that vendors should clearly communicate that they are LGBTQ-friendly.

- 91% of males and 92% of females are more likely to book a vendor that caters to the LGBTQ community.

# WIN A WEDDING!

## GayWeddingChicagoSite.com to raffle off full wedding ceremony

Win a full wedding ceremony, valued at over \$2,500 for 30 guests, courtesy of [www.GayWeddingChicagoSite.com](http://www.GayWeddingChicagoSite.com), at this year's 10th annual **Chicago LGBTQ Wedding Expo**, Sunday, March 18 at The Hotel Chicago, 333 N. Dearborn St.

Pine Manor's Rev. Pam Magnuson and her wedding partners will be offering this exquisite grand prize giveaway, which will include the beautiful garden venue Pine Manor Chicago, wedding officiation by Rev. Pam Magnuson, wedding day coordination by Wedding Day Ninja, wedding cake for 30 by Central Continental Bakery with an LGBT-specific cake topper courtesy of IL Nut & Candy, a House Wine toast with custom engraved glasses, live violin music by Emily Ruth, still wedding photography by I Do Photo and overnight accommodations with a jacuzzi suite and breakfast room service courtesy of the Holiday Inn Elk Grove.

To see details of this amazing wedding giveaway, go to [www.weddingofficiantchicago.com/win-a-lgbt-wedding.html](http://www.weddingofficiantchicago.com/win-a-lgbt-wedding.html)



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## EQUALITY ILLINOIS' 2018 GALA

Photos by Kat Fitzgerald ([www.MysticImagesPhotography.com](http://www.MysticImagesPhotography.com)).  
See more photos online at [www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)



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# MARRIAGE EQUALITY TIMELINE



**1953**

August: ONE homosexual magazine cover story headline reads "Homosexual Marriage."

**1961**

During a legislative vote on a new state criminal code, Illinois becomes the first U.S. state to remove its sodomy law from the statutes.

**1970**

May 18: Jack Baker and James Michael McConnell apply for a marriage license in Minneapolis. Hennepin County denies the request, and subsequent court challenges lead to U.S. Supreme Court dismissal of the case, based on "want of a substantial federal question."



**1990 ACT-UP protest.**  
Photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright

**1980s**

With the AIDS crisis striking, activists are fighting for their lives and the lives of those they love; there is not yet a big focus on marriage. However, there is a push in some countries, including Denmark and the Netherlands, for registered partnerships and similar laws.

**1996**

February: In a response to a questionnaire by Chicago's Outlines newspaper (now Windy City Times), Illinois state Senate candidate Barack Obama says he supports same-sex marriage and would fight laws that try to ban it.

**1959**

Illinois passes law that permits legal adoption of an adult provided the adult had lived in the petitioner's home for two consecutive years. John Gregg Allerton's oral history states that Robert Allerton was the first to adopt under the new law, when he adopted John under a decree issued by Judge Henry T. Dighton of Monticello, Piatt County.

**1968**

December: The Reverend Troy Perry, two months after founding the gay Metropolitan Community Churches, performs what is believed to be the first public same-sex wedding ceremony in the U.S.

**1975**

March 27: The first same-sex marriage license is issued in Boulder, Colorado. Five more would follow before the courts shut them down.  
October 20: Two Chicago women are arrested applying for a marriage license in Cook County.

**1990**

December: Three same-sex couples try to apply for a marriage license in Hawaii, sparking the modern U.S. movement for marriage equality.

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Some major steps through history, leading to marriage equality in Illinois and the US. Expanded timeline and images from the book *The Fight for Marriage Equality In the Land of Lincoln* by Kate Sosin and Tracy Baim

## 2001

April: The Netherlands becomes the first country in the world to legalize marriage between two people of the same sex (Belgium follows in 2003).

## 2005

July: Spain and Canada become the third and fourth countries in the world to legalize same-sex marriage legislatively.

## 2008

June 16: California begins issuing licenses to gay couples after the ruling in the case *In re Marriage Cases*, but they are halted November 4 after passage of Proposition 8, a voter initiative banning such marriages.



## 2011

June 1: The civil-union law takes effect in Illinois.



## 2013

Jan 2: Sponsors begin the first push to pass marriage equality during the Illinois Legislature's lame-duck veto session.  
Feb. 14: Illinois Senate passes the bill.  
July 13: LGBTs march in downtown Chicago for marriage equality to coincide with the annual Taste of Chicago.  
Oct. 22: The March on Springfield for Marriage Equality is held.  
Nov. 4: The steering committee of Illinois Unites for Marriage meets with Harris to determine the fate of the bill.  
Nov. 5: The House passes the bill.  
Nov. 20: Governor Quinn signs the bill into law.



## 2015

Marriage equality becomes the law of the land across the U.S.

## 2004

Feb. 12: San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom orders the county clerk's office to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, something that continues through March 11, when he is forced to stop under court order; by this time about 4,000 licenses have been issued.

## 2006

Nov. 30: The South African Constitutional Court legalizes same-sex marriages.

## 2010

Dec. 1: The Illinois Senate passes a bill creating civil unions with all the state-level rights and obligations of marriage.

## 2012

Jan. 9: State Rep. Greg Harris announces he has been in talks with LGBT organizations and other lawmakers about introducing a marriage-equality bill in Illinois.  
Dec. 20: LGBT groups announce formation of the Illinois Unites for Marriage coalition, dedicated to passing the marriage-equality bill.

## 2014

June 1: All 102 Illinois counties start implementation of the marriage equality law.



**2011 image: John Pennycuff (left) and Robert Castillo watch as judge Pat Logue signs their legal paperwork.**  
**2013 image: Activists protesting in downtown Chicago.**  
**Theresa and Mercedes Santos-Volpe and family, getting their marriage license.**

*Photos by Tracy Baim*



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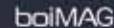
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## FOLLOWING MARRIAGE

Take a look back at the covers of the Windy City Times LGBTQ Wedding & Special Events Guide since its first inception, all the way back in 2014.

- Top row, left to right:  
 First edition, Winter/Spring 2014;  
 Second edition, Summer/Fall 2014;  
 Third edition, Winter/Spring 2015;  
 Fourth edition, Summer/Fall 2015  
 Fifth edition, Winter/Spring 2016.
- Bottom row, left to right:  
 Sixth edition, Summer/Fall 2016;  
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Oak Park, the charming and progressive village that hugging Chicago to the west, offers the best of both worlds: Only 8 miles from Chicago's Loop, it effortlessly blends the liveliness of urban settings with the welcoming sense of suburban communities. As the first village in Illinois to roll out a domestic partnership registry—serving as a model for other communities to develop their own—Oak Park has a proud history of inclusiveness. Plus, its marvelous architecture, historic spaces, and tree-lined brick roads offer a picture-perfect backdrop for your biggest day yet.

## Oak Park Conservatory.

*All photos courtesy of Visit Oak Park*



## Venues

Home to Oak Park's largest ballroom, the **Nineteenth Century Club** exudes unique charm, history, and character. An assortment of lounge and dining rooms on the first floor are perfect for smaller weddings, while the 280-capacity ballroom's sprawling stage graciously accommodates bands for larger ceremonies or receptions.

Take your wedding to the rolling countryside without straying far from the city at the **Cheney Mansion**. Designed to resemble an English country home, this 12,000-square-foot jewel boasts spacious reception rooms and is surrounded by a 2.5-acre garden with tranquil ponds, colorful flowers and towering trees.

Let the intoxicating fragrance of tropical plants, towering palms and rich flora wash over your guests at the **Oak Park Conservatory**. Considered one of the area's top historical sites, this hidden oasis has both indoor and outdoor gardens available for smaller weddings or cocktail receptions.

## A wedding at Unity Temple.



Considered one of the nation's most distinguished examples of Prairie Style architecture, the **Pleasant Home** is a striking 30-room mansion that showcases 19th century craftsmanship with its ornate woodwork and vibrant art glass. Ceremony options include the elegant banquet hall, large front porch and library, while outdoor tents can be pitched in neighboring Mills Park.

**Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple** is a landmark structure that seats up to 350 people in its storied sanctuary, 175 for seated dinner and 225 for a cocktail party. This National Historic Landmark is fresh on the heels of a \$25 million dollar restoration project, ensuring guests will be intoxicated by the renewed grandeur of its skylights, woodwork and art glass.

Whether it's an event with 200 people or an intimate gathering with 20, the **Carleton Hotel** of Oak Park fuses classic elegance and contemporary style. Its cozy fireplaces, stained glass, crown moldings and red-wine drapery ooze romance, and the string lights stretching across the street outside are the glittering setting you always envisioned for wedding day photos.

## Oak Park Jewelers.



Nestled in 245 acres of woodlands in the Forest Preserves of Cook County, the **Thatcher Woods Pavilion** is a historic stone building hugging the Des Plaines River. The recently renovated facility, anchored by a traditional gas-lit fireplace, offers two meeting rooms and a prep-type kitchen.

Steps from the Metra train line in the heart of Riverside's historic downtown is the **Riverside Arts Center**, a non-profit arts organization hosting unique exhibitions for more than 20 years. Its Freeark Gallery and outdoor Sculpture Garden can accommodate 100 guests, making it a popular spot for smaller wedding receptions and private community events.

## Accommodations

**The Write Inn**, fittingly situated in the Frank Lloyd Wright Historic District, is a treasured landmark that fuses old world charm with modern features for a comfortable and memorable stay. Special antiques from the 1920s are showcased throughout, while visitors will relish its proximity both to Downtown Oak Park and the CTA line connected to Chicago's downtown.

## Gifts & Jewelry

A large selection of diamonds, colorful gemstones, gold, silver, and pearls can be found at **Oak Park Jewelers**. Since 1984, this family-operated mainstay has been providing fine jewelry, expert craftsmanship and unparalleled customer service. Custom designs are also offered, ensuring all personal needs and budgets will be satisfied.





Q-BBQ.

What began as a little-known jeweler 12 years ago has evolved into **Gem: A Jewelry Boutique**, a widely respected, upscale shop in the heart of Oak Park. Aiming to inspire their customers, Gem pursues independent jewelers with a style all their own to curate its thoughtful and unique mix of jewelry and personal accessories.

#### Catering

As the catering arm of Cucina Paradiso, a modern Italian eatery in Oak Park, **TwoM-ayToz Catering** emphasizes putting the host's mind at ease. The wide spectrum of services, professional service staff and delectable flavors served guarantee your guests will enjoy the perfect meal.

America's original comfort food gets a

distinct culinary stamp at **Q-BBQ**. Drawing inspiration from barbeque traditions across the country, this fast-casual joint offers authentic slow-cooked meats and made-from-scratch sides. Up to 1,000 guests can enjoy anything from the signature pulled pork to the infamous mac-Q-roni, topped with crumbled Cheez-It crackers.

Serving Italian-American favorites in bustling, industrial-chic spaces in Berwyn and Brookfield, **Paisans Pizzeria** offers catering services for events of all sizes and budgets. Popular entrees such as mango chicken and Nonna's meatballs can be mixed and matched with the eatery's acclaimed pizza, salads and appetizers for an entirely customized experience.

## THROWBACK: Chicago Tribune's first gay wedding announcement

On March 4, 2004, the Chicago Tribune published its very first same-sex wedding announcement for couple Lee Neubecker (right) and David Greer. They traveled to San Francisco to get married on February 19 of that year.

Photo and news of the announcement from the archives of [www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)



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Last summer, more than 300 artists and designers from around the world answered a call to create Posters for Change: Tear, Paste, Protest: 50 Removable Posters, a collection of 50 tear-out posters for people who want to make their voices heard in a time of unprecedented uncertainty and apprehension.

Princeton Architectural Press selected posters that, in addition to being adjudged the best of those submitted, provide a representative sample of the entries received in terms of country of origin, area of concern, and graphic style. Subjects covered in the collection include animal rights, child labor, civil rights, the environment, gun control, healthcare, immigration, LGBTQ rights, mass incarceration, public arts, voting rights, and women's rights.

Shepard Fairey, designer of the Barack Obama "Hope" poster, said of Posters for Change, "This collection of protest posters showcases bold and impactful graphic design with a message, which is always something I can stand behind."

The book is available in March.



# POSTERS FOR CHANGE: TEAR, PASTE, PROTEST: 50 REMOVABLE POSTERS



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White for a boy.  
Black for a girl.  
Pink for a boy.  
Blue for a girl.



Above: Curtis Dickie, *Love Wins*.

Three images, from left:

- Lauren Simkin Berke, *Trans*.

- Ian Perkins, *Green For A Boy...*

- *Silence Equals Death*.

All photos from Posters for Change (c) 2018 Princeton Architectural Press, reprinted with permission of the publisher. *Silence Equals Death* image (c) 1987 AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power

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see also VENUES

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Horan photo from campaign website; Kirchoff photo courtesy of Kirchoff; McHale photo courtesy of McHale; Miller photo courtesy of Miller; Morrison photo from by AJ Kane Photography; Quinn photo from campaign website; Roberts photo courtesy of Roberts; Robinson photo by Matt Simonette; Roldan-Johnson photo from campaign team; Shore photo courtesy of Shore; Trevor photo from Subar; Trowbridge photo by Erica Demarest; Underhill photo from campaign website; Yingling photo courtesy of Illinois House Democrats

—Cecelia Horan

**Race:** Cook Circuit judge (Hartigan Vacancy)  
**Website:** <https://voteforjudgehoran.com>

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

—Andy Kirchoff

**Race:** Berwyn Township Republican Committeeman

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

—Mike McHale

**Race:** Circuit Court of Cook County

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

—Stephanie Miller

**Race:** 6th Subcircuit, Cook County judge (Lopez Cepero Vacancy)

**Website:** [ElectJudgeStephanieMiller.com](http://ElectJudgeStephanieMiller.com)

**The skinny:** Miller (a member of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association of Illinois) has almost two decades of experience handling both criminal and civil matters. Prior to her appointment, Miller was a prosecutor with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

—Kevin Morrison

**Race:** Cook County commissioner (15th District)

**Website:** [KevinBMorrison.com](http://KevinBMorrison.com)

**The skinny:** A Democratic resident of Elk Grove Village, Morrison—who studied environmental sciences at DePaul University—is running against incumbent Commissioner Tim Schneider. The Chicago Federation of Labor is among those endorsing Morrison.

—Jill Rose Quinn

**Race:** 10th Subcircuit, Cook County judge (Suario Vacancy)

**Website:** [VoteJillRoseQuinn.com](http://VoteJillRoseQuinn.com)

**The skinny:** Quinn's private practice experience includes working at general legal practices in Chicago, Bloomington, Lombard, Glen Ellyn and Franklin Park, where she handled a wide variety of case types. Throughout her career, she handled over 4,000 cases and performed appellate work. She is a member of the National LGBT Bar Association and Chicago LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

—Mary Colleen Roberts

**Race:** Circuit Court of Cook County

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

—Lamont Robinson

**Race:** Illinois state representative (5th District)

**Website:** [www.votelamontrobinson.com](http://www.votelamontrobinson.com)

**The skinny:** Robinson—who runs two Chicago Allstate Insurance offices, in Bronzeville

and Humboldt Park—is aiming to fill the Illinois House's 5th District post currently held by state Rep. Juliana Stratton, who is running for lieutenant governor alongside gubernatorial candidate J.B. Pritzker. Should he be elected, Robinson would be the first openly gay African-American state legislator in Illinois history. Interestingly, one of his primary opponents is Ken Dunkin—a neighbor of Robinson's who lost to Stratton in 2015.

—Daniel Roldán-Johnson

**Race:** U.S. Congress (14th District)

**Website:** [VoteRoldan.com](http://VoteRoldan.com)

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

—Debra Shore

**Race:** Metropolitan Water Reclamation District commissioner

**Website:** <https://www.debrashore.org/>

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

—Maggie Trevor

**Race:** Illinois state representative (54th District)

**Website:** <http://trevorforstaterep.net/>

**The skinny:** Trevor, who identifies as lesbian, is the only candidate in the Democratic primary—

and incumbent Tom Morrison is the sole candidate in the Republican primary. Trevor was born and raised in Rolling Meadows, where her parents were among the city's original residents.

—Brad Trowbridge

**Race:** Cook Circuit judge (McGinnis Vacancy)

**Website:** <https://bradforjudge.com>

**The skinny:** As an attorney, Trowbridge has litigated cases in domestic relations, chancery, probate, and criminal divisions. Also, he currently is an adjunct faculty member at John Marshall Law School's Domestic Violence Clinic.

—Ed Underhill

**Race:** 6th Subcircuit, Cook County judge (Cooke Vacancy)

**Website:** <http://edunderhillforjudge.com/>

**The skinny:** Underhill is a trial attorney with more than 30 years of experience, and a Bucktown homeowner for the past 17 years. Underhill has been a member of the Chicago Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Committee and is a former president of the Northern Illinois University Alumni Council.

—Sam Yingling

**Race:** Illinois state representative (62nd District)

**Website:** [SamYingling.com](http://SamYingling.com)

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

## viewpoints

LEE  
LYNCH

## THE AMAZON TRAIL

My daily  
last straw

What exactly is the last straw? I thought it was the presidential buffoon's goading of North Korea, but I was wrong. Our government is suddenly so feeble, so twisted up in procedure, infighting, and tripping over its own all-too-often dropped pants, it can no longer protect its citizens from nuclear war. At least, that's what it looks like to this baffled constituent.

It's impossible for me to understand why this dangerous combination of buffoon and bullying congressional majority, hasn't been declared null and void. Living in Oregon, we see some wonderful protests from Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Jeff Merkley, and others, raising the hue and cry, but their rational heroics are like skywriting airplanes whose messages dissipate within seconds.

The grumbling in my blue town is becoming incessant. Everywhere I go I overhear people speaking of democracy dismantled, and mocking the buffoon, and wondering aloud what we can do to stop the pandering to big business. I'd hoped the Resist and Persist March would have grown in numbers this year, with the new post-election activists Pied-Piping their friends and relations into the streets with signs that spoke to the issues. The numbers were still good, if smaller, but the signs were a disappointment. All too many were clever barbs at the buffoon, who is no more than a court jester distracting the rest of D.C. from its real work of serving the people. The court jester who also acts as a smoke-screen for the Dick Cheney-like connivings of Pence and his out of touch cronies.

Now, I am not the most politically savvy dyke at the women's festival, and the ins and outs of policy aren't something I've put a lot of energy into understanding. I can't even take the stress of our Homeowners Association meetings. The necessity to compromise on all things governmental was a realization that clobbered me many years ago and puzzles me



Lee Lynch.

Photo courtesy of Lynch

to this day. Like that stupid border wall, that economic iron curtain. The answer is simple: no. Yet the proposal is still in play. In fact, many voters support spending billions on it even as the people they elected want to scrimp on Social Security.

As a matter of fact, news of my personal daily last straw came to me today from CREDO, the progressive activist arm of the phone company CREDO Mobile. "Sen. Marco Rubio and Ivanka Trump are coming after your Social Security benefits," read the announcement, urging me to sign a petition.

WTF? I said to myself.

"And what the hell do they have to do with it?????" wrote a friend from Georgia, questioning the unholy union of privileged daughter and son-of-immigrants senator.

Indeed, what the hell is the buffoon's daughter doing cavorting around our White House in the first place? Why hasn't this nepotism been challenged? And where do she and conservative Florida's golden boy, Rubio, come off messing in any way with the Social Security funds I earned in my 50 years of often grueling employment? That my niece and nephews are accruing today?

Where did those two ever come up with this asinine idea of punishing Americans for having children? Yes, the world is overpopulated, but does Ivanka, a working woman, want to undermine the

progress women have made to have both careers and kids? Does Rubio want us back in his kitchen, scrubbing floors? Or is this some sort of stealth birth control: discouraging reproduction by requiring that parents work longer if they're going to selfishly indulge themselves with children?

I thought this administration didn't believe in birth control. Wrong again. It may not believe in anything other than making America white again, not that we ever were.

And that's the dumbest part of the Ivanka-Marco attack on Social Security. The fortunate employees who do have parental leave benefits are still paying into Social Security while on leave. These employees are also the people who have jobs not available to most Americans. The grease monkey who works under your car, for example, or the home health aide who bathes your elderly father—they're more familiar with the term unpaid leave than parental leave.

"Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."

This is nothing new, as Shakespeare documented. I just never expected such rot in our democratic institutions. Checks and balances no longer work when bullies, buffoons, and big business risk overloading America with that last straw.

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February 2018

## Don't boycott the boycott

Dear Editor:

Bermuda became first in the world to legalize and then revoke same-sex marriage. Same-sex couples no longer have equal rights to marry and are only able to access a civil union.

This ruling is a step backwards for equality.

However in response to this decision a misguided reaction is unfolding -- a call to #BoycottBermuda. The online campaign is spearheaded mainly by people in the United States and Europe, who believe that a tourism boycott will show the Bermudian government that repealing same-sex marriage was a mistake.

To be clear, the demand for this boycott is not coming from grass-roots organizations in Bermuda. In fact, LGBTIQ Bermudians are coming out against the boycott.

This campaign stands to hurt rather than help the LGBTIQ community in Bermuda. This boycott, in line with almost all boycotts that do not start locally, is uninformed and ill-advised. It could increase discrimination against local LGBTIQ people, who may very well be used as scapegoats for any negative impact on tourism and the economy. Not to mention the consequences for LGBTIQ people who themselves work in the tourism industry.

People and the media, in the United States and Europe ought not to push their own agendas and instead listen to the priority of LGBTIQ groups on

the ground.

This simple but important rule is central to the way that OutRight functions and engages in enabling social justice. We consult, listen to and are guided by local leaders who are best placed to inform strategy and programs to bring about change.

Without listening to voices from the ground we all stand to do more harm than good. I ask that you #DontBoycottBermuda and instead learn how to empower local organizations and the movement there.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Stern,  
Executive Director  
OutRight Action International

**WINDY CITY TIMES**

VOL. 33, No. 24, Feb. 28, 2018  
The combined forces of Windy City Times,  
founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper,  
founded May 1987.

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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WCT reviews Southern Gothic.

Photo of Ariel Richardson and Peter Ash by Michael Brosilow

### THEATER

# 'The Condition Femme' delves into stories of abuse and survival

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Playwright Lauren Marie Powell can sum up the insidiousness of rape culture with chilling brevity. "It's the silent, unwritten history of the world," said the author of *The Condition Femme*, running through April 1 at the Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway.

Inspired by the words of more than 100 survivors of sexual abuse and assault, the Circle Theatre production explores a culture where many women aren't always equipped to grasp when they've been assaulted, let alone able to advocate for themselves.

"I have a friend, for years we'd joke about how she lost her virginity in a threesome," Powell said of one stories that inspired the play's dialogue. "For years we laughed about it. Like—'hahaha! You really jumped into the deep end right away didn't you?' It wasn't until years after that she realized she hadn't had a threesome. She'd been raped by two men.

"Part of the problem is a lack of education," Powell added. "I'm 27. Did I have hours of sex ed in school? Yes. Was I taught the first thing about advocating for myself in a sexual situation? No. Nobody teaches you that."

Like Powell, director Amanda Jane Long hopes "The Condition Femme" and its all-female cast of 12 will open up conversations as well as eyes. Staged readings of the play have done just that, although the questions provoked aren't always easy to hear.

"There's a scene where a woman is assaulted on a crowded CTA train," said Long of a monologue when a young woman realizes with stomach-churning horror that a man is masturbating against her back. "There's a cop on the train who sees what's happening, but he doesn't do anything. When she gets off the train, he asks her if she's OK, but that's about it. Men—and it's always a man who raises his hand and says this—can't believe the cop wouldn't do something. Intervene. Go after the assailant."

"Over and over, women in the audience would say 'because that's not what happens in real life,'" Long said. "It's always shocking or upsetting for men to understand the reality of the situation—that for women—and especially for women of color—you cannot count on anyone helping you, not even people who are supposed to be these pillars of safety and helpfulness."

The *Condition Femme* has its roots in—of all places—Facebook. After realizing many women she knew had similar stories of being harassed, abused or assaulted, Powell created "The Lady Project" page. She invited about 120 friends to join. She was soon inundated with messages from women who had endured everything from catcalls to rape.

Powell followed up with interviews, her subjects providing inspiration for the drama's series of monologues. Among the 100+ women Powell interviewed were two women who had volunteered at a rape crisis hotline. Powell distilled them into a single character, and made her the



The cast of *The Condition Femme*.  
Photo by Cody Jolly Photography

spine of the play, the thru-line that connects all of the women. Initially a one-woman show, a series of readings last year turned the piece into an ensemble-driven drama.

Under Long's direction, the piece also includes a striking video component, with the audience intermittently barraged with images and headlines that starkly illustrate the massive, entrenched systems that allow female subjugation to thrive. Organized religion and the criminal justice system are the tip of an iceberg that also includes wage disparity, objectification of women in everything from soap ads to tires, and legislation designed for the sole purpose of stripping women of their reproductive rights.

"There's a line in the show about how easy it is to rationalize," said Powell. "You can insist, 'Oh, my church doesn't do that.' Or 'I've never seen that in my world.' The projections point out what people already know, what's already out here. Maybe you didn't see what happened to this one woman in the story, but this isn't news to you. You've seen it before. We're showing you the sys-

tems where you've seen it," Powell said.

"I don't want there to be any finger pointing," Powell added. "My mantra all along has been 'Call them in. Don't call them out.' Make people aware."

Education is crucial, Long concurred.

"We need to teach children how to have autonomy over their bodies from a young age," she said. "The way it is now, men are socialized to see sex as something you have to get, or conquer. Women are taught it's something they have to protect until they decide to give it to someone else. They aren't taught autonomy, they aren't that sexuality isn't something you have to guard until you give it away."

"If we teach children from the beginning, 'hey, is it ok to hug you?' Or, 'can I hold our hand?' that's teaching consent," Powell said. "That's teaching empowerment. That's what we all need."

**The Condition Femme continues through Sunday, April 1, at the Buena Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$28; visit [CircleTheatre.org](http://CircleTheatre.org).**

## THEATER REVIEW

**Surely Goodness and Mercy**

Playwright: Chisa Hutchinson

At: Redtwist Theatre, 1044 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

Tickets: \$35-\$40

Runs through: March 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The publicity synopsis may read like a listing for the Hallmark Channel, but playgoers should not be hasty in dismissing Chisa Hutchinson's play as simplistic sentimentalism. The belief that optimistic endings are incompatible with intelligent arguments is only one of the popular misconceptions debunked by this prolific author.

Our story's hero is 12-year-old Tino, whose mother died, literally, taking a bullet for him—trauma remanding her orphaned son to the reluctant care of his ill-tempered Aunt Alneesa. The sensitive and gifted child finds solace in



Donovan Session and Katrina D. RiChard in *Surely Goodness and Mercy*. Photo by Jan Ellen Graves

the Bible (which he reads “cover to cover, like a James Patterson novel” to the scorn of his surly guardian and derisive classmates). At school, his sole allies are self-mutilating fellow student Deja and gruff cafeteria server Bernadette.

Their tenuous alliance faces a series of crises when Bernadette is diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and Alneesa orders Tino to steal money raised for medical expenses. Far from meekly

acquiescing to bad fortune, though, our trio of misfits discover in themselves hitherto-unrecognized courage, along with the audacity to pursue the resources necessary for each other's deliverance—in *fact*, not just in spirit—from ignorance and neglect.

Let's count the stereotypes refuted by Hutchinson's parable: first, it proposes a teenage male endowed with analytical and intuitive prowess—

Liautaud's play progresses in simultaneous real time over several locales, and as in “mosh pit” staging, audience members are free to roam the performance space at will. Unlike promenade staging, however, they are not ushered in groups, nor do they interact with the characters—this isn't Tony and Tina's Wedding. Once the action commences, spectators are to eavesdrop, but not interrupt.

Our setting on this summer day in 1961 is a post-bellum house in Ashford, Georgia—parlor, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, patio and front stoop, replicated both inside and outside with dioramic accuracy, down to the civic-booster jingles on the radio. (Furnishings include window benches for playgoers of stationary bent, but still the intrigue will be spread over the entire

landscape, couples may want to part.) The occasion is the 40th birthday of Mrs. Suzanne Wellington, the hosts are in-laws Ellie and Beau, attended by the guest-of-honor's husband Jackson, local politician Charles and wife Lauren, trust-fund playboy Tucker and current consort Cassie (who, as a shocked matron gasps, “looks like Lena Horne”).

The dubious legality of interracial dating in 1961 isn't the only socially divisive issue that will ensue—conflicts fueled by the delayed arrival of catered refreshments mandating a repast based in pantry staples and a surplus of alcohol. Before the cake appears, we will bear witness to hints of past crimes, some linked to their time and place (out-of-wedlock pregnancy, marijuana consumption), some still evident today (em-

the latter trait attributed in our culture almost exclusively to girls. Second, it rejects assumptions regarding innate maternal impulses, with both Alneesa and Bernadette defending the wisdom of childlessness for those with neither the skills nor the inclination therefor. Hutchinson also poses a dramatic universe where teachers are often more concerned with classroom discipline than their educative duties, where the purpose of church gospels is NOT the manufacture of hypocritical bigots and where diseases are not invariably fatal.

The snapshot-montage structure of the play (currently making its Rolling World premiere under the auspices of the National New Play Network) renders it particularly well-suited to tiny performance spaces like that of Redtwist. Under the direction of Wardell Julius Clark, an intensely focused cast led by Renee Lockett and Donovan Session resist the temptation to coast on sitcom-cutesy caricature, instead delving their dialogue for grace notes lending warmth and intimacy to personalities too often ignored by adults of superficial values like us.

bezzlement, adultery, domestic abuse). Which of these topics will be explored in greatest detail depends on where you happen to be during discussion thereof—you know, the same as at a *real-life* party.

Ninety minutes of continuous activity involving this many moving parts—did I mention the backyard fistfight?—could dissolve into chaos faster than a soggy spam-and-saltine canape. Fortunately, this Windy City Playhouse production has at its helm David H. Bell, the unsurpassed master of three-ring spectacles. He is assisted by an eight-member ensemble who navigate its confined quarters with drill-team precision to ensure everyone gets his or her just deserts in the end.

## THEATER REVIEW

**Southern Gothic**

Playwright: Leslie Liautaud

At: Windy City Playhouse, 3014 W. Irving Park Rd.

Tickets: \$65-\$85

Runs through: March 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

In some circles, this literary genre would be called “immersive” theater, in others, “fly-on-the-wall” drama. The important thing to remember is that flies don't always remain in the same spot on the same wall.

As in Alan Ayckbourn's House & Garden, Leslie

is the opera's agent provocateur. Between Don Alfonso, the young men and the sisters' worldly maid, Despina (Elena Tsallagova), the women clearly are badgered and entrapped ... although Mozart and Da Ponte almost certainly didn't see it that way.

This production of its farcical, fluffy *Così fan tutte* first was seen at Lyric Opera in the 2006-07 season. It remains a physically charming presentation, with airy and summery pastel-colored designs, across which one literally sees the fresh sea breezes blowing. Mozart's music is impeccable, of course, and is beautifully played and sung by a company under James Gaffigan's sure baton. The cast is on-point, youthful in look and spirit, supple in voice and also convincing as actors in this interpretation, conceived in 2004 by director John Cox, and restaged now by Bruno Ravella, with the understanding that material this precious requires a light touch.

I use “precious” in the sense of affectation concerning refined behavior, because *Così fan tutte* (roughly “all women are the same” in modern English) certainly is that. Even when new in 1790, Da Ponte's admittedly-witty li-

bretto was seen as merrily cynical, or at least sardonic, with its view that all women—even “good girls”—are inconstant, weak and pliable, while men are steadfast and faithful. I wonder how women responded to *Così* in its own era, when powerful Catherine the Great still ruled Russia, and Austria's own great empress, Maria Theresa, was only 10 years dead.

This production sets the story in 1914 Monte Carlo. The call-up of Ferrando and Guglielmo is faked, yet one knows that World War I shortly will engulf both young men, who soon may be dead or maimed. Cox underscores this by having soldiers in gas masks silently enter in the final moments. There's contemporary resonance as well, as both the Afghan and Second Iraqi wars were underway when this production first was seen in 2004 (in Monte Carlo) and 2005 (San Francisco).

Running three hours (plus a 30-minute intermission), *Così fan tutte* is dramatically repetitive—typical of many antique operas—although never slow. Francis Rizzo's projected English titles instantly capture Da Ponte's wit and humor, making *Così* easy to take and understand.

## OPERA REVIEW

**Così fan tutte**

Playwright: W. A. Mozart (music);

Lorenzo Da Ponte (libretto)

At: Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker Dr.

Tickets: 312-827-5600;

LyricOpera.org; \$49-\$258

Runs through: March 16 (in repertory)

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

When summoned to battle, clean-shaven young noblemen Ferrando (Andrew Stenson) and Guglielmo (Joshua Hopkins) bid farewell to the virginal and naive sisters to whom they are engaged, Fiordiligi (Ana Maria Martinez) and Dora-bella (Marianne Crebassa).

Within 24 hours the sisters are prepared to marry two bearded Albanians they've just met, and about whom they know nothing. They do not recognize their own fiancés in disguise, testing the sisters' fidelity to win a bet with Don Alfonso (Alessandro Corbelli in a particularly deft performance), the older, wiser man who

## CRITICS' PICKS

**All My Sons**, Court Theatre, through March 18. When America's leaders are ethical and moral frauds, Arthur Miller's first great play (about personal integrity and war profiteering) is more pertinent than ever. The veteran cast is superb. JA

**Hint**, Steep Theatre, extended through March 17. Calamity West reopens a cold case from nearly a century ago to ask who murdered the Gruber family on their farm in 1922 and why does it remain a mystery to this very day. MSB

**Bye, Bye, Liver**, Byron Hatfield Productions at Stage 773, open run. Its founders may be away exploring new territories, but birthday BFFs and bachelorettes can still celebrate with this inventive blend of sketch comedy and interactive games in the Belmont Avenue Theater District's hippest cabaret room. MSB

**Sleeping Beauty**, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo at the Auditorium Theatre, March 3-4. With a score by Tchaikovsky and choreography based on Marius Petipa's (The Nutcracker) 1899 masterpiece, Les Ballets de Monte Carlo puts a magical spin on an ancient fairy tale. CES

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan



From left: Sarah Price, Isa Arciniegas, Natalie Joyce and Angela Alise in *The Wolves*. Photo by Liz Lauren

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Wolves

Playwright: Sarah DeLappe

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: 312-443-3800;

GoodmanTheatre.org; \$10-\$47.

Runs through: March 11

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Look for ensemble dramas centered on sports teams and you'll find the playing field is almost exclusively male. The rabid soccer fans of *Among the Thugs*, the baseball players of *Damn Yankees* and *Take Me Out*, the wrestlers of *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*—they're all-boys clubs. Plays about women in sports are far and few between.

The dearth of plays about female sports teams gives Sarah DeLappe's *The Wolves* a leg up in terms of sheer originality. But there's far more to the Goodman Theatre production than representation. Running through March 11, *The Wolves* is

a cracking fine drama starring a team of varsity-level players.

DeLappe structures the play in brief scenes, each one unfurling as the women warm up for a game. Both physically and emotionally, director Vanessa Stalling's ensemble excellent. The precision in the team's athleticism makes the group feel like a single organism, yet every player is singular.

Defined by kamikaze bursts of overlapping dialogue, *The Wolves* celebrates female bonding and athleticism, without shying away from the underbelly of teen spirit. Along with its "I-am-woman" roar, *The Wolves* shows the petty gossip, micro-aggressions, casual racism, and unthinking classism that's embedded in any high school peer group.

There's not much plot in DeLappe's 90-minute drama and an 11th hour tragedy feels tacked on by a playwright who couldn't figure out quite how to end things. Even so, personalities rather than actions propel *The Wolves*. From the take-no-shit authority of the team captain (Isa Arciniegas) to the hamfisted attempts of the new girl (Erin

fictional, some a combination of both.

The nine plays, each approximately 10 minutes long, will be presented as a complete 90-minute program on three evenings in The Buena, Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway. They will run March 18, 20 and 21.

Curtain times for all performances are 7:30 pm. Tickets are pay-what-you-can; visit [PrideFilmsAndPlays.com](http://PrideFilmsAndPlays.com).

## SPOTLIGHT

We all know the title character of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* was a stalker as well as a gifted vocal instructor. The Destroyer of Light Fixtures is up to his old tricks in Phantom's sequel, *Love Never Dies*. Set in tawdry/beautiful/creepy Coney Island, it's an eye-popping spectacle. It's also must-see for fan-toms and anyone who wants to know what ever happened to that guy with the mask.

Caption: Garder Thor Cortes and Meghan Picerno in *Love Never Dies*. Photo by Joan Marcus



O'Shea) to fit in, the Wolves are as memorable as they are believable.

Throughout, *The Wolves* offers a microcosm of the world at large. Abortion, religion, genocide, human rights, international politics and the benefits of tampons vs. pads all come to fray, addressed by the teenage players with a mix of startling wisdom and (sometimes) ignorance. Through it all, you can practically feel the bonds that link these young women, even when they're at each other's throats.

Technically, *The Wolves* is a marvel. Delivering lines while in perpetual motion is no small task, but Stalling's cast makes it look easy. Standouts include Taylor Blim as a player whose sunny attitude camouflages the eating disorder. Angela Alise scores as a taciturn goalie who vomits be-

fore every game. O'Shea's athletic prowess makes her depiction of a soccer prodigy wholly believable. And as the team captain whose new haircut signals the onset of a budding romance with a girl who isn't on the team, Arciniegas is a nuanced mix of vulnerability and authority.

Set designer Collette Pollard has created an actual soccer field in the Owen, complete with netting that prevents the audience from getting whacked by a flying soccer ball. It looks absolutely authentic.

*The Wolves* is an automatic must-see for anyone who thrived (or just plain survived) high school PE classes and/or the rigors of competitive sports teams. But it will be just as intriguing for life-long klutzes who can't tell the difference between a striker and a strikeout.

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## 'History Lezons' March 18, 20-21

March has officially been Women's History Month in the U.S. since 1987. In 2018, Pride Films and Plays will celebrate its own "Women-Loving-Women's History Month" with *History Lezons*, a showcase of nine short plays about women of previous eras—some historical, some

## THEATER

# 'The Burn' fuses bullying, identity

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Toward the close of playwright Philip Dawkins' drama *The Burn*, social media literally engulfs the cadre of high school girls at the story's incendiary core.

Online chatter—Instagram, Facebook, texts and more—have been a potent presence throughout, but in the script's final scenes, virtual reality becomes visceral reality. And while the words themselves are a slurry of outright lies, petty insults and vicious slander, they might as well be true. One line sums up the power of the online world with chilling accuracy: "The more people see it, the truer it becomes."



From left: Nina Ganet, Birgundi Baker, Dyllan Rodrigues-Miller and Erik Hellman in *The Burn*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

As a Theatre for Young Audiences production at Steppenwolf Theatre, *The Burn* will be making the rounds of schools and juvenile detention centers throughout March, following three public performances this weekend.

It's the latest from Dawkins, who also penned *The Homosexuals*, a multi-generational look at friendship and romance among gay men; and *Charm*, a poignant exploration of a transwoman's etiquette classes for troubled youth. Both were commercial and critical hits for *About Face* and *Northlight*, respectively.

Dawkins returns to teen life with *The Burn*, setting it in the brutal ecosystem that is high school. The drama follows a group of girls rehearsing a student production of *The Crucible*. As rehearsals commence, life begins to imitate life, student bullying providing a disturbing parallel to the Puritan persecution of so-called witches. With quick, slang-heavy bursts of overlapping dialogue, Dawkins intentionally blurs the line between virtual reality and IRL reality. It's often difficult to tell if someone is communicating

electronically or actually talking face-to-face.

"For older people, adults, I think we have a tendency to think that what happens on social media isn't quite real. It's just virtual," Dawkins said. "But for many young people, the difference between the two doesn't matter. Whether the words come out of your mouth or a machine, words are words. They have intent. They have meaning. They have consequences. Just because it's happening on the web and not over brunch doesn't mean it isn't real," Dawkins said.

As in *The Crucible*, words in *The Burn* have profound and awful consequences. What starts as name-calling escalates into violence.

Along the way, Dawkins explores the multiple

identities the students maintain via various online and offline platforms. "I can be a zillion different people," notes one girl. The all-but-unanswerable response: "Yeah, but which one's real?"

"The play is about identity," said Dawkins. "It's about a generation that is forced to have a whole bunch of identities—you have your school identity, your church identity, your family identity—we've always had those. But now you also have to have your Facebook identity. And your Snapchat identity. And your Instagram identity. And marketers are coming up with new ones every week—a new thing you have to join and make a profile of how you want to be seen. It's an endless performance, endless renderings of who you feel you should be.

"And it's all for approval ratings, all based on how many 'likes' some version of you can get," he said.

Bullying and identity are at the nexus of *The Burn*.

"I think the internet has made bullying worse," said Dawkins. "Adults have made it worse too.

Among adults these days, bullying is acceptable and lauded. Behavior that used to get you fired now can get you promoted to the White House."

A longtime Lake View resident living "happily in sin" with partner Bryan Bosque, Dawkins, 37, remains well-versed in the ways of high schoolers. He teaches playwriting at Loyola, and tutors high school students through the Chicago non-profit Horizons for Youth. To make sure he had teenspeak down, he interviewed members of Steppenwolf's Youth council. Dawkins also has his own experiences with high school bullying.

"I absolutely experienced [bullying]," he said, "Mine was generally more physical because I was [and, hopefully, still am] effeminate. I'm also sure there were kids I bullied as well. I'm not

blameless," he said.

"One thing I've learned is that bullying is the same as it ever was," he added. "It's just moved into different forums. Wherever there is fear and insecurity, people are going to lash out with whatever they have available.

All of us spend so much time being assholes to each other online. Imagine what we could do if we put that energy somewhere else."

**Public performances for *The Burn* are Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 2, and at 3 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 3, the Steppenwolf Upstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 with student ID); call 312-335-1650 or visit [Steppenwolf.org](http://Steppenwolf.org).**

## 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.

## Storytelling class for women of color

Feminine Comique (Fem Com) is a Chicago-based class that provides opportunities for cis-gender and transgender women of color to use

comedy to share and convey their unique stories in an all-female supported environment:

CDPH and FemCom are piloting a free six-week project at the end of March to make the art of storytelling available to a wider audience. This is a beginners workshop and participants do not need any prior comedy or performance experience.

Participants are asked to commit to one two-hour session per week for six weeks. Exact times and locations will be finalized next month with interested participants. Refreshments will be provided at each class.

See <https://www.femininecomique.com/>. To be added to the class list, contact H.L. Anderson at [Hannah.Anderson@CityOfChicago.Org](mailto:Hannah.Anderson@CityOfChicago.Org) or 312-745-0537.

## Company to create venue for sci-fi/fantasy

Otherworld Theatre Company announced a tentative agreement to lease the theater space at 3914 N. Clark St. as its new artistic home and the world's first venue dedicated to science fiction and fantasy performance, pending a successful capital fundraising campaign.

The space is a two-stage facility with a 120-seat main stage, 40-seat black box, bar and lobby. A grand-opening gala is tentatively planned for April 7.

Those looking to support this project are encouraged to visit [OtherworldTheatre.org/new-space](http://OtherworldTheatre.org/new-space). Otherworld is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and as such all donations will be tax deductible.

## Same-sex wedding expo March 18

The 2018 LGBT Wedding Expo will be held Sunday, March 18, 12:30-3:30 p.m., at Hotel Chicago, 333 N. Dearborn St. It will be the 10th year for the expo in Chicago.

Patrons will be able to win a wedding worth \$2,500 for the couple and up to 30 guests at Pine Manor in Mount Prospect, Illinois. Also, there will be music, food samples and much more.

The event is free, but e-tickets are required; see [SameSexMarriageChicago.com](http://SameSexMarriageChicago.com).

## 'Spitfire Grill' opening March 25

Refuge Theatre Project—a company that, among other things, staged *High Fidelity: The Musical* twice in makeshift record stores and *Bare: A Pop Opera* in a church sanctuary—will open *The Spitfire Grill* on Sunday, March 25, at Windy City Cafe, 1062 W. Chicago Ave., according to BroadwayWorld.com.

Christopher Pazdernik, a 2017 Jeff Award winner for his direction of *High Fidelity*, will helm and choreograph *The Spitfire Grill*.

The story (based on the 1996 film of the same name that starred Ellen Burstyn and Marcia Gay Harden) concerns Percy, a parolee recently released from prison who relocates to the fictional small town of Gilead, Wisconsin, after seeing pictures of it in an old travel book.

An openly HIV-positive artist, Pazdernik was also a 2016 Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree for his contributions to Chicago's LGBTQ community, and currently serves on the Ambassador Committee for the AIDS Run/Walk Chicago.

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

## Galesburg hosting 'One State Together'

The Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) and Arts Alliance Illinois announced that the next One State Together in the Arts conference will be held in Galesburg, Illinois, on Oct. 22-23.

Additional pre-conference events for the Illinois Local Arts Network on Oct. 21 will kick off the 10th occasion of this state-wide convening for the arts, culture and creativity.

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

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## ART

# New Chicago exhibit celebrates the magic of Keith Haring

BY TONY PEREGRIN

The buoyant work of Keith Haring—with his “radiant” babies and barking dogs, highlighter-bright palette, and recurring themes of social injustice—is the subject of a new exhibition at the Chicago Cultural Center celebrating one of the largest collaborative public art projects in Chicago’s history.

“Keith Haring: The Chicago Mural Exhibition” features 36 original panels from the 488-foot mural created by Haring and 500 Chicago Public School students in 1989. The Masonite panels originally stretched along the edge of Grant Park at Michigan Avenue between Randolph and Madison streets.

Working without a specific plan in mind, Haring painted black outlines of some of his signature figures on the panels. The students were then assigned five colors—red, orange, sky blue, light green and yellow with minimal instructions to paint each section in a solid color and adjoining sections in different colors. Many students took creative license and included personal messages, from their own initials to support for their schools, to social messages.



Keith Haring in 1989.

Photo courtesy of Irving Zucker

For a number of years, these 36 panels resided at Chicago’s Midway Airport. Following the exhibition at the Chicago Cultural Center, the panels will be returned to the Chicago Public Schools for conservation and distribution to select schools. Other panels have already been placed at various schools and other locations throughout the city.

“About a year ago, in talking with Midway airport, and the fact that they are undergoing some extensive remodeling, it came up that these Keith Haring mural sections needed to be removed and go back to the schools,” said Nathan Mason, curator of exhibits and public art for Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. “And so it just occurred to us that as the mural would be in motion, it was an ideal time to do an exhibition about that project here.”

Mason said the exhibit has the full support of Irving Zucker, a now-retired teacher at William H. Wells Community Academy, who project-managed the effort in Grant Park after meeting Haring in New York in the late ‘80s.

“I was introduced to Keith Haring on a Saturday afternoon at the Tony Shafrazi Gallery in New York City by my friend Diego Cortez back in early 1987,” said Zucker. “Keith had a show in the lower gallery at the time. Diego suggested that I try to work with Keith on some type of arts-in-education project in Chicago, since I was teaching at the CPS and was always looking for ways to integrate the fine arts into my pedagogy. I was looking at Keith’s show when Diego introduced us.”

Zucker and Haring met the next day at the artist’s studio, where they began brainstorming ideas for a potential collaboration in the Windy City.

“Keith had never been to Chicago and was quite excited about the opportunity to work with students,” said Zucker. “For someone of his stature in the art world, he was really very humble and appreciative of any effort I made [to organize this project]. He was astute and intellectual with a great sense of humor. We just had an instant rapport and I can say that Keith was one of the easiest people I’ve ever work with. As an artist, his commitment to the causes he believed in, especially to urban youth, was exemplary.”

Mason described the historic collaboration between Haring and Zucker as inevitable.

“Irving Zucker was sort of a cultural impresario for the Chicago public schools back then, and he was used to organizing large projects,” said Mason. “Irving had been in New York and met Keith, who mentioned that he really wanted to do a do a project in Chicago. So, it’s one of those things where Keith had a personal passion for doing large projects and working with youth, and



Part of Keith Haring’s mural.

Photo by Marcelino Y. Fahd

Irving had the Chicago high schools. And that, I believe, is the simple origin story.”

The exhibit—which will also feature a collection of photographs, correspondence, and T-shirt drawings—is part of the City of Chicago’s Year of Creative Youth program, a citywide, \$2 million project celebrating young artists in Chicago.

“Haring always loved working with kids,” said Julia Gruen, a friend of Haring’s and Executive Director of the Keith Haring Foundation. “He enjoyed their honesty and directness, their humor and lack of pretense and judgment. Working with kids on a multitude of pro bono international projects was one of the ways he gave back.”

“Keith worked for about nine solid hours painting the outline of the 488-foot long mural, and then for the next few days he worked all day with the approximately 500 students bused in from 48 different high schools,” said Zucker. “His energy, his patience, his joy was infectious and deeply felt by all of the students. While all of this was going on during the week, he was constantly interrupted by people asking for a sketch or autograph for which he always kindly obliged.”

Nine months after completing the mural in Chicago, Haring died of AIDS-related complications at the age of 31 on February 16, 1990.

“At the time, Keith had not made his AIDS diagnosis public, [although] all of his friends and associates knew,” said Zucker. “When I first met with Keith in New York to discuss a possible project with students, he told me that he had AIDS. He asked me if that might be a problem. We actually started joking about it. ‘We are organizing an arts project, not an orgy,’ was my response. My partner of many years also had AIDS, so I was personally dealing with this disaster. Keith Haring’s impact on our community is still ongoing. His art speaks to us powerfully and directly and will continue to do so.”

“To me, Keith was an artist entirely and truly of his own era,” said Gruen. “The themes he addressed in his work ranged from mass technology, televangelism, and sexuality to greed, poverty,

violence, and racism. Watching him draw or paint in the studio, which I did on a daily basis, or observing him atop scaffolding or a hydraulic lift or cherry-picker painting a public mural, I was awed by the incredible fluency and confidence of his line and the unadulterated pleasure he took in expressing himself, regardless of scale. Accessibility was his goal. With a passion to reach out and to be completely honest, to expose his feelings, beliefs, and his obsessions, Keith was driven to explode established means of visual communication. I believe that, in this, he succeeded brilliantly.”

**The Keith Haring exhibit runs March 3-Sept. 23 at the Chicago Cultural Center in the Sidney R. Yates Gallery, 78 E. Washington St. Admission is free.**

## Women composers in March’s ‘Hear Me Roar’

In conjunction with its Project W initiative—which makes bold steps for gender equity in classical music—Chicago Sinfonietta announced performances of “Hear Me Roar” at Wentz Concert Hall (171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville, March 11, at 3 p.m.) and at Symphony Center (220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, March 12 at 7:30 p.m.).

Chicago Sinfonietta music director Maestro Mei-Ann Chen will conduct. The program includes Dances in the Canebreaks, by Florence B. Price; Dance Card, by Jennifer Higdon; #MeToo, by Reena Esmail; and Symphony in F sharp minor, Op. 41, by Dora Pejacevic.

Tickets range from \$20-\$99 for concerts at Symphony Center and \$49-\$62 for concerts at North Central College, with special \$10 pricing available for students at both concerts. Call 312-284-1554 or visit ChicagoSinfonietta.org.



## BOOK REVIEW

# Death Goes Overboard

by David S. Pederson  
\$18.95; Bold Strokes Books; 237 pages  
BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Can you float me a loan?

It's a common question when your friends know you're flush with cash. Can I hold a 10 for a minute? Can you spot me five? Sure, you probably could but will it be hard to collect on that debt or, as in the new noir mystery, *Death Goes Overboard*, by David S. Pederson, will you be paid back swimmingly?

The weekend was all set.

Detective Heath Barrington had everything planned down to the last detail: he and police officer Alan Keyes were heading to a cabin in northern Wisconsin, just the two of them, under the guise of a "fishing trip." It was 1947, after all, and discretion was absolutely necessary for two professional gay men, but the getaway would be a great chance to see where their new relationship was going.

Still, despite his and Alan's carefulness, rumors could come from anywhere, which was why Barrington was worried when his boss called him in early one day. Fortunately, the chief didn't want to quiz Barrington on his love life; he wanted to send the detective on a special assignment.



David S. Pederson.

Photo courtesy of Pederson

Milwaukee law enforcement had been following Gregor Slavinsky ever since the small-time hood got out of prison, assuming that he'd screw up eventually—and that's exactly what happened: word on the street was that Slavinsky recently borrowed \$25,000 from Benny Ballentine, a bigger crook and the guy the department really wanted to nab. Both were booked on a Lake

Michigan excursion, and something was afoot. The chief needed Barrington to find out more.

The "fishing trip" cancelled, Barrington boarded a small luxury boat for a weekend tour. With few fellow travelers—two known hoodlums, a henchman, plus a man and his elderly aunt—he thought he'd have no trouble keeping an eye on everyone, especially since the boat's steward was an undercover cop, too. But when a scuffle, a splash, and a missing crook proved otherwise, Barrington knew his assignment had suddenly changed.

Slavinsky was nobody's favorite guy ... but who among the handful of possible suspects had the most reason to kill him?

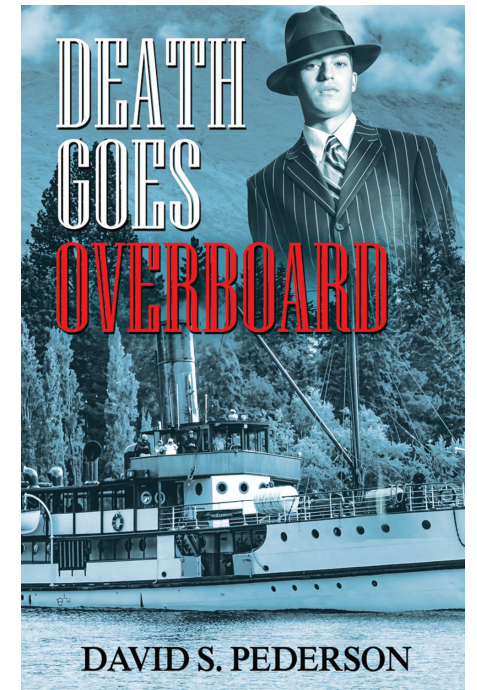
Every cliché ever packed in a noir novel—every single one—seems to be inside *Death Goes Overboard*. You've got mobsters, a fedora-wearing detective in a pinstriped suit, seemingly prim matrons and man-hungry blondes eager for marriage. It's like an old black-and-white movie in book form—but, curiously, you probably won't mind.

You won't mind because author Pederson has packed a lot of else in this novel. You don't normally find a soft-sided, poetry-writing mobster in a noir mystery, for instance, but he's here. And then there's the sweetly chaste, budding romance between two men; not so unusual, again, except that one of them is considering something drastic in order to hide his secret, a side plot that's historically accurate and that fits.

So this novel is both predictable and not, making it a nice diversion for a weekend or vacation. If that's the kind of book you enjoy, then *Death*

*Goes Overboard* will make you buoyant.

Want more? Then look for *Fever in the Dark*, by Ellen Hart; or *Death Comes Darkly*, by David S. Pederson.



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## ART

# Kathleen Gerber, Lori Nix capture a tiny apocalypse

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Kathleen Gerber and Lori Nix are in the business of photographic illusions.

While their cityscapes and interiors appear realistic, if improbable, they're the result of careful miniature model-making, elaborate staging, and painstaking photography, techniques the two life partners have been perfecting over the past 16 years. The pair's latest undertaking, "Empire," depicts ruined urban landscapes: overgrown overpasses, decrepit newspaper boxes spewing their contents over a deserted city, abandoned hot dog carts in a park slowly reverting to jungle. Indeed, the apocalypse is an undercurrent through nearly all of Nix and Gerber's personal work.

"I'm just kind of obsessed with the end of the world. It's sad, right?" said Nix, who traces this preoccupation to growing up in the tornado-prone Midwest. "I'm such an optimist, but say you're in Chicago and you know that North Korea has fired a missile that's heading right to Chicago. Are you going to go hide in the basement and then suffer for the next couple of months as your flesh falls off your body, or are you just going to run out in the middle of the street and be evaporated immediately?"

Beyond their actual content, the images in "Empire" have an ominous quality meant to mirror that of one of Gerber and Nix's touchstones, the Sublime painters.

"It's just overwhelming and it's beautiful and it's frightening and it's hard to take it all in," Gerber said in describing the Sublime aesthetic. "I think some of the grandeur that we've tried to get, and some of the colors, the really active skies, are definitely in that vein."

After settling on an idea, Gerber and Nix create Pinterest boards full of potential images for research and re-creation, but also draw from their immediate surroundings.

"And then we also have to distill it into our style, like what are we capable of making that looks realistic, and that kind of determines everything," Nix explained. "In this particular series, there's an image called 'Arch,' and it's based on an arch that's just right at the top of our neighborhood called Grand Army Plaza. It's not an exact replica, but it's a good starting point for what a triumphal arch looks like."

"It's not such a singular piece of architecture," added Gerber. "There are triumphal arches all over the world and throughout time. There's ruins of them, there's modern versions of them. So it's also kind of universalish thing, as well as our actual neighborhood."

"I'm a pretty serious homebody," Nix admitted. "I'm not the biggest traveler in the world. Instead

of going out in search of images, I would rather stay home and create my own, which is how we started building models anyway. Lack of funds, and lack of desire to leave my close surroundings, and just build whatever I need to build."

And of course, being able to stage the scenes is about the only way these dramatic photographs might exist. As Gerber put it, "You're not going to find a blimp crashing into power lines. Making it up is kind of the best way to get what you want."

The couple readily admitted that while it may take them a year to shoot two images, nothing is perfect. "With this particular series, Empire, we also call it, in the back of our minds, failure," said Nix. "Because we have restaged these pieces two and three times until we get the perfect image. Sometimes I'll set up the image in the way it will be and then I photograph it, and then Kathleen will come in and say, 'Yeah—I think it could be better, and then she'll restage the scene,' and we just kind of work symbiotically until we both agree on what we like."

That uncertainty extends to the details of construction. "As far as that Monument Valley images goes, we've never visited there," said Nix. "That's strictly internet research. Kathleen is responsible for carving those rock formations, so if it's wrong, it's her fault."

While both Gerber and Nix make the models, Nix photographs them, calling Gerber more of the sculptor.

"I think we both sort of gravitate to different aspects," Gerber said about model-making. "Lori's definitely better with real construction of buildings, like hard-corner shapes, and I'm more of the organic shapes. Not necessarily landscape, because she really does have a good feel for that too, but cutting and measuring and all that is really not my strong suit. I'll make tiny bushes and things, and then she'll design the arch."

"It's not like I have a God complex, because it's not like I know exactly what I want as we're building these things," said Nix. "We really enjoy working with our hands, which is also why I'm slow to embrace digital and Photoshop. Punching a keyboard isn't as fun as sitting at a table with an X-acto knife and a ruler and materials."

"Empire" is the first series of images Nix shot digitally, an adjustment that allows for more experimentation since it both cuts out the need for expensive film and provides instant feedback to the artists.

"When it was analog, your camera lens can only do so much," Nix said. "But digitally, you can stack things, you can add pieces later, and now that we're shooting digitally, I'm actually more specific about the final image. Which is like, totally [backward]. Most people would just say,



Lori Nix and Kathleen Gerber.  
Photo courtesy of the couple

"Oh, I'll fix it in Photoshop." I don't want to fix it in Photoshop, I want perfection.

"With the large format camera, we really just set the camera up in one viewpoint, and that was going to be the scene," Gerber explained. "There really wasn't any extra money or time to move the camera, try it higher, try it more from the side, because you might be investing in another couple hundred dollars to see if you even liked it, whereas this, it doesn't take much to raise the camera, change the angle. So in a way, it's made us a little more open to seeing other views of the model."

Although they have differing artistic gifts, Nix describes Gerber and herself as "practically the same people."

"I trust Kathleen, I trust her sense of style, and I trust her vision, and when I ask her to redo something, the temperature rises a bit, but I can usually placate her with a bourbon or promise her a dinner or something," Nix laughed.

"I have bad instincts, so I have to get that initial bristling out of the way," added Gerber. "And then I'll regretfully have to say, yeah, it's probably a better thing. We get along well, we're very fortunate in that, and I think it's nice having a common goal. We don't have kids or anything like that, but this is a joint venture that we both care about."

Aside from their fine art work, the duo is well-known for their commercial work, which has ap-

peared in numerous ad campaigns and on the cover of Time magazine.

"We definitely put our egos away when it comes to the commercial work," said Nix. "I think that the artwork is more important to me and the commercial work is more important to Kathleen, which is also probably a nice way of balancing out this relationship. I feel like whenever there's a commercial job, I'm her underling and she's the boss. Whenever it's artwork, because I'm the one with the digital skills, I feel like I'm the boss, and she's the assistant."

"To have shorter deadlines, smaller projects that are of a different style, that's nice, it sort of keeps things a little bit more loose," said Gerber. "That's also when we learn new techniques...we have to learn how to make something faster, or deliver a look or an object that we've just never had to do before."

But with fine art like "Empire," the couple is free to confront viewers with the glory of their apocalyptic vision.

"[We] try to suck them in through beauty, and then slowly disseminate our message of oh, things aren't really right," Nix said. "Things are really wrong in these worlds."

**"Empire" opens at Catherine Edelman Gallery, 300 W. Superior St. on Friday, March 2, and runs through Saturday, April 28. The March 2 opening reception is 5-7 p.m. More information can be found at [EdelmanGallery.com](http://EdelmanGallery.com).**

## LGBTQ Olympians win seven medals

More than a dozen out athletes competed at the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, winning seven medals, according to Outsports.

The medal winners included Canadian pairs figure skater Eric Radford (gold and bronze medals), Dutch long-track speed skater Ireen Wust (gold and two silver), U.S. long-track speed skater Brittany Bowe (bronze) and U.S. figure skater Adam Rippon (bronze).

Others who competed included Australian snowboarder Belle Brockhoff, Swedish ice-hockey player Emilia Andersson Ramboldt, Belgian figure skater Jorik Hendrickx, Austrian ski jumper Daniela Iraschko-Stolz, Austrian cross-country skier Barbara Jezersek, U.S. freeskier Gus Kenworthy, Dutch snowboarder Cheryl Maas, Swiss snowboarder Simnoa Meiler, Belgian skeleton competitor Kim Meylemans, Czech snowboarder Sarka Pancochova and Belgian bobsledder Sophie Vercauteren.

The Outsports article is at <https://www.outsports.com/2018/2/20/17030582/2018-olympics-lgbtq-athletes-medals>.

## Red Stars part of March 31 double-header

The Chicago Red Stars will begin its 12-home game stretch at Toyota Park on Saturday, March 31, combining with Major League Soccer (MLS) team Chicago Fire for a doubleheader.

Both teams will host their Portland counterparts. The Red Stars will take on Portland Thorns FC at 7:15 p.m. CT, following the Chicago Fire and Portland Timbers at 5 p.m. CT. The game will be broadcast live for both U.S. (NWSLsoccer.com,



Laura Benanti.  
PR photo

go90 app), and international (NWSL app, NWSLsoccer.com) fans.

Chicago will start off its regular season the week prior in Houston on Sunday, March 25, at 4 p.m. CT to take on the Dash for the third-straight season opener at BBVA Compass Stadium.

See <http://chicagoredstars.com/chidoubleheader/>.

## 'RuPaul's Drag Race' cast revealed

VH1 revealed the cast for the milestone 10th season of Emmy-winning RuPaul's Drag Race.

The newest queens vying for the title of "Amer-

ica's Next Drag Superstar" were announced during an episode of RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars, followed by a Facebook Live that introduced fans to the 14 competitors. The season of "Drag Race" premieres Thursday, March 22, at 7 p.m. CT and will feature 90-minute episodes.

The only Chicago entry is The Vixen. Hailing from Chicago's South Side, The Vixen combines elements of political art and protest into her performances. Other contestants are from cities such as Kansas City, Missouri; Tampa, Florida; New York City; and Johnson City, Tennessee, among other sites.

See [VH1.com](http://VH1.com).

## Benanti to headline workshop benefit

On Sunday, March 18, Chicago Theatre Workshop will hold its spring benefit on the Main stage at Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.—with Tony Award winner Laura Benanti as the headliner.

Benanti will perform at 5 and 8 p.m.

Benanti most recently co-starred alongside Amy Schumer and Keegan Michael Key in Steve Martin's Broadway play Meteor Shower. In 2014, she joined the cast of ABC's hit series Nashville guest-starring as songbird Sadie Stone, and has also appeared in recurring roles on CBS's The Good Wife and HBO's Nurse Jackie. She can currently be seen on TBS' The Detour.

Tickets are at [ChicagoTheatreWorkshop.org](http://ChicagoTheatreWorkshop.org).

## Point Foundation event March 8

Point Foundation scholars, alumni and supporters will hold an event Thursday, March 8, 6-8 p.m., at Salero, 621 W. Randolph St.

The evening will feature remarks from Point

Scholars and staff to help increase awareness of the foundation's mission and work, as well as an introduction on how individuals and companies can help support Point's programs and initiatives.

See <https://pointfoundation.org/events/2018-chicago/>.

## 'Faust' March 3-21 at Lyric Opera

Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker Dr., will run Faust March 3-21, for seven performances.

A classic story about the perils of making a deal with the devil in pursuit of eternal youth set to romantic music, this new production of Faust features production designs by the award-winning sculptor John Frame, in his theatrical debut. Lyric's Faust is infused with Frame's artistic vision, which utilizes the production's sets, costumes, 3-D projections and more.

Tickets start at \$34; visit [lyricopera.org/faust](http://lyricopera.org/faust) or by call 312-827-5600.

## WMG 26th-anniv. gala May 11

Woman Made Gallery (WMG) will hold its 26th-anniversary gala Friday, May 11, 6:30-9:30 p.m., at Lacuna's Reverie Gallerie, 2150 S. Canalport Ave.

There will be a cash bar, a silent auction, a three-prize raffle and musical entertainment by Emanon. Also, artist and WMG board member Sandra Perlow will be honored.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/wmg-26anniversarygala2018> for tickets.

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# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Truluck's; Andersonville Restaurant Week

BY ANDREW DAVIS

**Truluck's Seafood, Steak and Crab House** (41 E. Chestnut St.; <https://trulucks.com/locations/downtown-chicago-illinois/>) is one of the most recent restaurants in a city that has so many steakhouses that they range from the traditional (like Gene and Georgetti as well as Gibsons) to flashier, more contemporary models (STK Chicago).

And if you're not sure what type of establishment you're entering (located in what was seafood restaurant McCormick & Schmick's), look no further than the spot's website, which states, "We are business casual. Thank you for not wearing tank tops, sleeveless shirts, flip-flops, gym wear or short shorts. Dress shorts are acceptable. Please remove your hat when entering the restaurant." (Still, it's not like it's requiring suits—but don't think about donning a



Truluck's miso-glazed sea bass.  
PR photo

muscle shirt.)

My friend and I knew we were in for an intriguing evening when we met our server, Rico, who said he's from Tierra del Fuego, Chile, and was once a Calvin Klein model (breaking out photos from his phone as we sat in disbelief).

What followed was, overall, a wonderful experience, with every diner's need being catered to. (Yes—I notice the people around me as well.)

Regarding drinks, I started with the Voila, which Rico insisted I get because "it comes with a show." I was afraid where this might go, but the "show" involved my drink bubbling and smoking like a witch's cauldron because of the dry ice it contains.

Things then progressed to stone-crab claws, which Truluck's is known for, as it has its own fisheries. The claws were meaty, indeed, and tasty even without the accompanying sauce. (However, one large claw is \$24, so one may want to tread carefully.) The crab cakes (and I'm a snob about these items) were actually impressive—sizeable

items with very little breading and full of plump crab.

A lobster bisque was very good (and the added goat cheese turned out to be necessary for taste and viscosity). Sides like the king-crab mac 'n cheese and kung pao cauliflower were surprisingly hit-or-miss, although my friend absolutely loved the cheddar grits.

As for the entrees, my friend had a New York strip that was done expertly—and I had to say the same for my miso-glazed sea bass, accompanied by cucumber slaw. (I wish the dish were larger, but that just be my greed talking.)

One other note: I have to give a shout-out to Nyla McDaniel, the chanteuse/pianist who beautifully sang songs by everyone from Aretha Franklin to Gnarns Barkley—and somehow her voice carried even though she didn't sing loudly.

Truluck's (which has social-hour and gluten-free menus, by the way) is a Houston-based chain

that has spots in Texas and Florida, with Chicago its foray into the Midwest. It's a most welcome addition to the Windy City.

### Andersonville Restaurant Week

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

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

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

## Sidetrack's OUTspoken! Series: March's featured storytellers



Bear Bade



Caleb Hearon



Dr. Ray Lauk



Hasan Kilani



Allison Reese



Grant Swanson

The March edition of OUTspoken! LGBTQ storyteller series takes place Tuesday, March 6, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. Doors open at 6 pm, stories begin at 7.

See [www.outspokenchicago.com](http://www.outspokenchicago.com) for more info.

—**Nicholas "Bear" Bade** is a 37-year-old transgender male. He holds two second-degree black belts and a license in structural massage therapy. After he beats you up on the dojo mats, he can put you back together on the massage table, and then he'll be more than happy to make you a fantastic cappuccino and discuss coffee and food pairings. At 37 years old, Bear is excited to celebrate his third name day coming up on March 25.

—**Caleb Hearon** is a rural Missouri transplant living and performing in Chicago. You can find him performing regularly at The Crowd Theater and irregularly at iO, Second City and The Annoyance. He is currently performing on college campuses and at improv festivals with his teams Fancy, Fancy and Paris, Texas. Caleb talks about Julia Roberts, the Dixie Chicks and being gay far too much but it's, like, endearing (he hopes).

—**Dr. Ray Lauk** is the owner of Dr. Ray's Toffee and is also a professional speaker and educator. As a professed "late-in-life gay," Ray is intent on making his second 50 years of life even more fun and exciting than the first 50. This October, Ray will be running his eighth Chicago Marathon in the last ten years.

—**Hasan Kilani** is an LGBT activist and co-founder of the first LGBTQ organization in Jordan. Since June 2017, Hasan has been serving with Human Rights Organization in Chicago as part of the fellowship program. Travelling, meeting new people and trying new foods are among his hobbies.

—**Allison Reese** is a comedian/ musician who performs in the Chicago Area. She is a former Bob Curry Fellow at the Second City and is the creator of Matt Damon Improv at the Annoyance Theatre.

—**Grant Swanson** was born and raised in Omaha, Neb. He attended North Central College and later taught sixth grade at St. Francis Indian School on the Rosebud Lakota Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. In 2015, he enrolled at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, began his ordination process as a deacon within the United Methodist Church and became a proud member of Urban Village Church: Wicker Park. Grant just married his partner of five years, Connor Showalter, on February 18.



## FROST FEST '18

Northalsted's Frost Fest returned to Boystown Feb. 24 and 25, raising money for Hope for the Day, a suicide prevention organization. The event took place under a tent with many beer vendors and a DJ to keep the party going.

Photos by Jerry Nunn



## BILLY Masters

"I want to normalize relationships like this. It's good for the world; it's good for me as a gay man with kids."—**Ricky Martin** explains how he hopes The Assassination of Gianni Versace makes gay open relationships more socially acceptable.

The Mardi Gras known as **Billy Masters' birthday** is slowly inching to a close after partying on two coasts. And one of the ways I did that was by seeing **Bananarama** on the act's first-ever North American tour. Admittedly, four dates make for a pretty paltry tour, but the capacity crowd at The Novo in Los Angeles was out of control as the girls played more hits than you even knew they had. Back in 2006, when Bananarama made a stop in LA as a duo, I sat down with Sara and Keren. We talked about them performing at LA Pride, and they asked if I thought gay men would come out to see them. Duh! The glitch was they didn't have background tracks without vocals—"but you guys could play the records and we could get up and dance," they said. I thought about that during this concert. While there was a band onstage, there were also background tracks and perfectly synced videos. So, I cannot attest to how much actual "singing" was going on. But for 90 minutes and 19 songs, the audience loved every second!

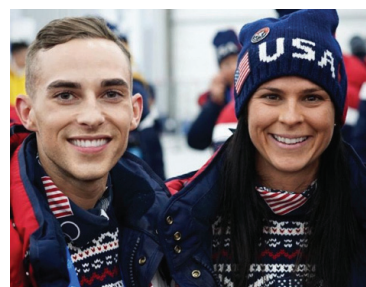


It's easy to see why actor **Russell Tovey** is engaged to **Steve Brockman** (above).  
Image from Brockman's Instagram account

the games. This was news to Adam.

On Feb. 19, he tweeted, "I am flattered that NBC wanted me to work as a correspondent for them here in PyeongChang. Doing this would require me to leave Team USA and move out of the Olympic Village. I don't want to do that so I had to decline the opportunity." And, yes, that is exactly what he wrote! He added, "I love being on Team USA and representing our country. My teammates were there for me during the events, and now I NEED to be there for them. I look forward to being with them, and I'm very excited for the rest of the competition. Go Team USA!!!"

**Gus Kenworthy** made history when NBC tele-



Left: The kiss seen around the world: **Gus Kenworthy** (left) and boyfriend **Matt Wilkas**. See page 27 for more Olympic news. Right: **Adam Rippon** with **Brittany Bowe**, out and proud.

From Instagram

Each year, **Jeffrey Sanker** works hard to top himself, and each year I tell him to stretch first—that kinda activity could kill ya! This year, with his legendary White Party in Palm Springs, he has certainly outdone himself. Sanker has secured the services of **Kylie Minogue!** The party is April 27-30, and Kylie will be performing at the Sunday Tea Dance, and I can assure you that she will most definitely be singing LIVE! You can grab tickets to this sure-to-sell-out event at [JeffreySanker.com](http://JeffreySanker.com).

I dunno about you, but I am all Olympic-ed out! But for a brief moment things appeared to be looking up with the announcement that **Adam Rippon** would be doing commentary for NBC. Then he wasn't. Then he was ... after hearing about the job via Twitter! Then he wasn't again. Frankly, if he spun this quickly in mid-air, he could have taken the gold! Here's how it all went down. On Feb. 18, NBC's spokesperson said that Rippon would be a correspondent for the rest of

visited him kissing his boyfriend before competing in the slopestyle ski. Gus was amused by all the attention: "Didn't realize this moment was being filmed yesterday but I'm so happy that it was. My childhood self would never have dreamed of seeing a gay kiss on TV at the Olympics but for the first time ever a kid watching at home CAN! Love is love is love."

Another athletic gay made a bit of news last week. Actor **Russell Tovey** announced his engagement to rugby player **Steve Brockman**, posting, "Completely unexpected but very very happy and looking forward to having a proper party to celebrate when back in London." Then we learned that Tovey's fiancée has done some "adult film work" for Randy Blue under the name Ryan Stack. According to reports, he's done three hardcore sex scenes with partners and one solo scene. But despite the paucity of footage, he performed well enough to make it to the Randy Blue Hall of Fame. You can check out his body of work

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I can't tell you how many have written in asking for nude photos of **James Maslow**—probably because on *Big Brother After Dark*, he expressed concern that he might have made a "dick slip" on the live feed. I won't devote a full "Ask Billy" paragraph about this because nothing has come forward ... yet. But if you'd like to see what Marissa was drooling over, I'll post some hot photos on [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com).

When people are wondering how big a brother Maslow is, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Congratulations to **Marissa Jaret Winokur** for winning *Celebrity Big Brother*. And congrats to **Ross Mathews** for being voted America's Favorite Houseguest—a prize he definitely deserves! This was one of those situations where I would have been happy with either winner, since I love them both. And, of course, all my famous friends check out [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com)—the home of brotherly love ... but only in places where that's legal! If you have a question for me, send it along to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com). So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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# WINDY CITY TIMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Wed., Feb. 28**

**Proud and Included: Meet and Mingle A** fun, informative, and energizing evening of interactive learning about ways to expand inclusion for LGBTQ adults with disabilities. Please RSVP at proudandincluded.org. Questions to mgandy@neumannfamilyservices.org or phone Marie Gandy. 5:30pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago 773-506-3060

**40+ Monthly Peer-Led Support Group and Potluck** Peer-led support group that highlights the experiences of Black, LGBTQ women. This support group is open to women who are 40 years old and older, and the discussion centers the experiences of LGBTQ women of color. Fourth Wednesday of the month. Bring a dish to share. 7-9 p.m., Affinity Community Services 2850 S. Wabash Ave. #108; <http://www.affinity95.org>

**Thursday, March 1**

**American Veterans for Equal Rights monthly meeting** Chicago Chapter of



## AILY OCCURRENCE March 7-11

**The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will perform at the Auditorium Theatre.**

Photo by Paul Kolnik

American Veterans for Equal Rights, the national organization of LGBT veterans formerly known as Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA). 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Hal-

sted Chicago <http://www.averchicago.org/>

**Her HRC - Wonder Women** Chicago's powerful, talented, and creative LGBTQQA wonder women. Live music, performances, art and comedy. Dress as your favorite superhero to be entered to win a prize. Theater tickets, dates, dinner reservations in live auction. 7:00pm - 11:00pm Chicago Theater Works, 1113 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago <http://www.hrcchicago.org/her.html>

**Penthouse Party, celebration of Self-Love in queer community** Journey through third season of RuPaul's Drag Race All-Stars together. Proceeds from a featured cocktail will benefit Howard Brown's Broadway Youth Center. Every Thursday through the season. Free. W 7:00pm WayDown, 311 N Morgan S. 312-764-1919 Tickets: <http://tinyurl.com/WCTEvent>

**Friday, March 2**

**LGBTQ Gallery Opening: Jeff Cote & Robyn Day** The opening night event is the official premiere. Opening night reception will include a cash bar. \$5 Suggested Donation. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=15083>

**Keith Haring: The Chicago Mural Ex-**

**hibition** Celebrating the monumental mural created by Haring and Chicago Public School students in 1989. Free admission. Through Sept. 23 10:00pm - 7:00pm Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St. Chicago <http://chicago-culturalcenter.org>

**Saturday, March 3**

**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.firwchicago.org>

**Bobby Jo Valentine** Award-winning San Francisco singer/songwriter known for honest, raw sound. He is an influential part of the LGBT community. Sponsored by Oak Park Area Gay and Lesbian Assn and Pilgrim Congregational Church Youth Ministry and the LGBTQ & Allies. Donation \$10-20 7:30pm Pilgrim Congregational Church 460 Lake St Oak Park, IL 60302 <http://opalga.org>

**Sunday, March 4**

**Fundraiser for Commissioner Debra Shore** Metropolitan Water Reclamation District \$100 to \$2,500. RSVP to [nish@debrashore.org](mailto:nish@debrashore.org) 3:00pm - 5:00pm Prairie Moon, 1502 Sherman Ave., Evanston Tickets: [nate/finishline18](http://secure.actblue.com/do-</a></p>
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**A Night with Oscar** To benefit the Center on Halsted. 6:00 pm: Live red carpet arrival and auction. 7:30 pm: Academy Awards telecast. 9:00 pm: Silent auction ends and event drawing. Hors d'oeuvres and buffet dinner. Raffle. 6:00pm Park West Chicago 322 W Armitage Ave.; <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/anwo/> Tickets: <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/ANWO>

**90th Academy Awards, Hollywood on State: Where You're the Star** Vintage Hollywood with food, film, and libations at Chicago's longest-running Oscars party. \$100. 6:00pm Gene Siskel Film Center 164 N State Chicago 312-846-2600 Tickets: <http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/hollywoodonstate2018>

**Wed., March 7**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** Annual engagement features three different programs of relevant, inspiring new works. Through March 11. 7:00pm Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University 50 E Congress Pkwy.; <http://www.auditoriumtheatre.org/shows/alvin-ailey-2018/>

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### GUEST COLUMN from page 4

to alter or do anything to my face or body besides have a name change, go on HRT, and get breast implants. Honestly, all I ever wanted to be was be as "natural" looking as I could be—I'd rather blend in with society than stick out.

For me my obvious next step was to consider vaginoplasty. Once I found out my insurance would cover it, I became extremely emotional. I never thought I would be alive to see the day the surgery would happen for me. So I began searching the Internet, reading everything I could about the surgery, researching doctors and I found a doctor right here in Chicago at Weiss Memorial Hospital. Shortly after I began electrolysis on my kitty area to prepare for gender confirmation surgery.

March 9, 2018 is the beginning of a new chapter in my life—I will undergo my gender confirmation surgery.

During this procedure, surgeons work to convert my penile and scrotal tissue into a vagina, clitoris and labia. After this procedure, my genitals will appear feminine. Yes I will be able to have sexual intercourse and reach orgasm. This surgery is irreversible. So make sure this is the right thing for you.

Thank you for all the love, support and donations over the years to help me achieve the reality of my gender confirmation surgery.

I am so excited.

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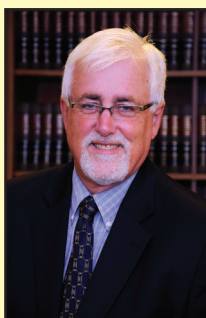
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