

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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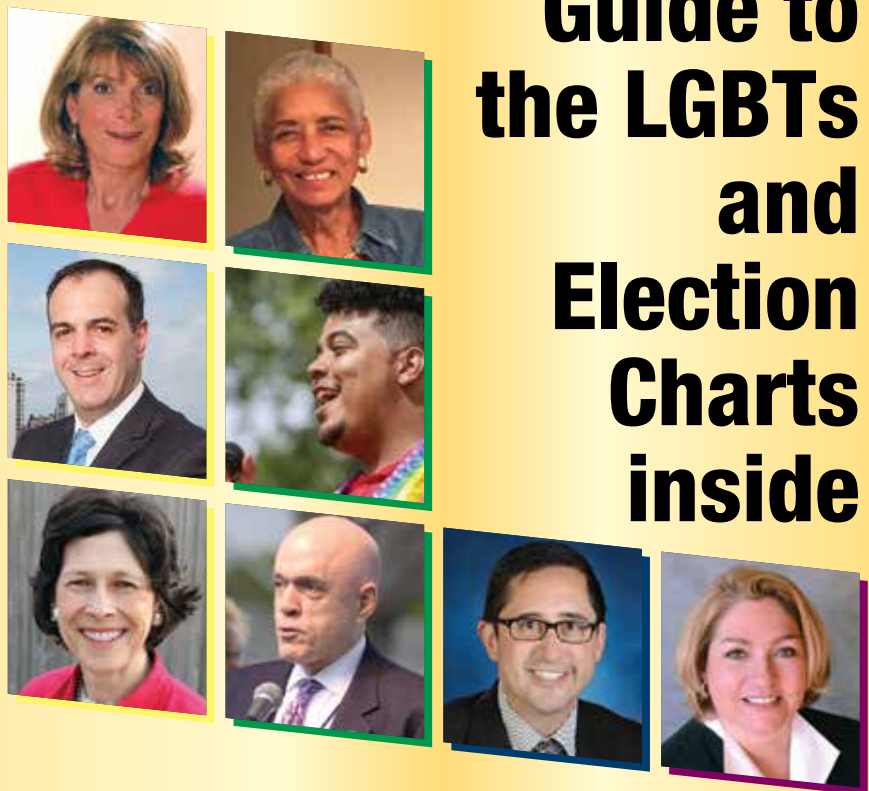


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PRIMARY ELECTION 2018

Guide to the LGBTs and Election Charts inside



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Above: WCT reviews Time Is on Our Side.
Photo by Michael Brosilow

online exclusives at
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UH, OH—IT'S MAGIC

The new Chicago Magic Lounge is
enthraling people of all ages.
PR photo by Daniel Boczarski

LAND OF LINCOLN



Bill Malcolm's explores Springfield,
Illinois, for his value-travel series.
Photo by Bill Malcolm

FLOWER POWER

WCT presents the latest Fairy
Gardener column.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Michael B.
Jordan, Jorja Fox and Gus Kenworthy.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

This Week's Featured Properties

COMPASS

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home on corner lot in prime
location.

-
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6 Bed | 5.1 Bath
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East Lakeview



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1/2 block from the Lake.

-
538 W. Stratford Place
5 Bed | 4.2 Bath
\$2,495,000

East Lakeview



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space with amazing views of the
lake, park and harbor.

-
3200 N. Lake Shore Drive #506
2 Bed | 2 Bath
\$425,000

East Lakeview



Picture-perfect views of the
park and harbor, this rarely
available unit offers so much at
an ideal price-point.

-
3200 N. Lake Shore Drive #905
3 Bed | 2 Bath
\$450,000

East Lakeview



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perfectly renovated vintage.

-
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PASSAGES

Varoujan A. Ketenjian

Varoujan "Var" Ketenjian, 56, of Barrington, passed away unexpectedly on March 9. He was 56.

He was born Oct. 21, 1961 in Arlington Heights, Illinois. He was a graduate of Barrington High School and earned a BS degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

Var owned a dog-grooming business in Barrington, and for the past eight years he was a factory manager.

Var is survived by his cousins Ani Karagozian, Andre Balian, Viken Stambouljian, Chris Stambouljian and Ohan Stambouljian. Var is also survived by his loving fiancée, Todd Davidson.

Var was a huge jeep fan, loved to travel, loved to cook and was a huge animal lover. For the past three years, he was especially fond of birds, and is survived by Perci, Sparky, Mango, Kiwi, Bobo and George.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Margaret Ketenjian, and will be buried next to her.

Var was loved by many far and wide. His smile, laugh and personality will be remembered by friends and family forever.

Visitation was March 13 with a funeral service at Davenport Family Funeral Home and Crematory, 149 W. Main St. (Lake-Cook Rd), Barrington, IL 60010.



Varoujan A. Ketenjian (right) with fiancée, Todd Davidson.

Photo from Davidson's Facebook page

In lieu of flowers, please consider the needs of the family in this difficult time: <https://www.gofundme.com/vars-funeral-and-legal-fund>.

South Side Help Center founder dies

Mrs. Betty L. Smith, the founder of Chicago's South Side Help Center, has passed away, according to a press release from the organization. She passed away at home after a long illness and complications of Alzheimer's disease.

Her daughter, Vanessa Smith, is the center's current executive director.

Homegoing services are being planned to take place at the church where Smith spent many years in faithful service, Chatham-Avalon Church of Christ, 8601 S. State St. close to the end of next week (possibly on March 16 or 17), and will be announced once they are confirmed.

For 30 years, South Side Help Center has provided critical services to help negate the incidence and impact of HIV/AIDS in Chicago's communities of color. Initially founded in 1987 by Betty Smith, the initial goal was to educate the African-American religious community so it could be sensitive to the needs of people impacted by HIV/AIDS.

Since then, SSHC's services have evolved to include HIV/AIDS outreach and direct care services and a comprehensive range of youth and capac-



Betty L. Smith.

Montage of photos from South Side help Center

ity building programs to help people of all ages embrace a lifestyle of prevention against mental, physical and social ills by providing positive, healthy alternatives so that community residents can lead productive lives.

THE SEASONED LIFE

BY JANO



You might find this hard to believe, but it's true.

Before I came to earth I had already picked out my parents and siblings and waited for the correct body for myself. I waited until I grew impatient and finally requested, "Next available, please." The third day of August, I was born a 6 lb 5 oz baby girl.

For many years I thought that my little girl's life was like most little girls. I played drums with pencils on the top of the grits box. I woke up looking forward to playing baseball with my plastic ball and bat. On Friday nights, I went to sleep listening to the boxing match on the radio as my bedtime story and dreamed of playing for the Chicago Cubs when I grew up.

One day, a backyard friend told me that if I could kiss my own elbow, I could change into a boy. He had witnessed my frustrations, as adults on the street on the other side of our fence had commented on my baseball enthusiasm. They often made my friends, who were boys, feel bad for being out hustled by a girl.

"For many years I thought that my little girl's life was like most little girls. I played drums with pencils on the top of the grits box. I woke up looking forward to playing baseball with my plastic ball and bat."

I didn't want them to feel bad or for me—to continue to feel that I couldn't be the winner in our games, because I was a girl. So I spent a whole 6-year-old summer day trying to turn myself into a boy.

I kept trying to kiss my own elbow. My sister Tam, who was two years older, monitored my progress and encouraged me to twist that elbow a little more. I even made up a song expressing my efforts, "Boy, girl, boy oy oy oy." But by evening, we were both tired and resigned to the fact that I would never be able to kiss my own elbow, which meant, I would have to remain a girl for the rest of my life.

I went on playdates with my best friend from

school, to cook with her Easy Bake Oven and play hours of boring games like hopscotch and rock teacher. When I became old enough to understand where babies came from, which to me was the main thing that made girls different from boys, I figured one day, I too would have a child. In my naïveté I imagined I could have enough children to form a basketball team.

The day before I was to enter eighth grade my life changed forever; I came on my period. Although my mother had been very instructive about menstrual cycles and what it meant, the thing I remember her saying sadly and almost apologetically was, "You can no longer play with the boys like you have been. You have to be more careful now." She even admitted that she had prayed that I did not start menstruating until I turned 17.

For the next 40 years, life was dictated by my menstrual cycle. In the beginning, the joy and wild abandon I had in playing an impromptu game of slow-pitch softball became an excuse or feigned disinterest for not joining in. The flame of my natural desire to climb a tree or scale a fence was dampened by the red and white between my legs. At any moment, I could go from laughing with the boys to being pulled aside and whispered to, about the untimely red stains on the back of my clothes.

Moving from my teens to adulthood did not make these monthly visits any easier. The boy that lived inside of me had learned how to impersonate a girl so well. However, when it came to that monthly cycle, I harbored confusion, depression and shame. I often felt bullied as well as betrayed by life. It was oppressive and kept me tethered to a spirit of caution so deep that I often rearranged my plans with friends (which made me seem fickle) because of its untimely arrival and my inability to understand or manage it. I recall watching the women's track and field event at the 1988 Summer Olympics on television, wondering what their secrets were for running in those outfits seemingly unconcerned of whether they would come on their period before the finish line.

Then one day, my menstrual cycle stopped; which turned into a year of not showing up. Which turned into a different season of this female body—menopause.

The end of one chapter and the beginning of another.

I graciously accepted it.

Jano is a writer with an insatiable curiosity who has also written for the Chicago Defender, Chicago Sun-Times, Out Magazine, Fisk University Almanac of Popular Culture and more. She wrote a column for Nightlines, a sister publication to Outlines (now Windy City Times) in the 1990s.



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Philanthropist Miriam Hoover dies

BY TRACY BAIM

After a life well lived for 104 years, Miriam U. Hoover passed away at her home in Palm Springs March 6.

Miriam, the aunt of Chicago LGBT activist and philanthropist Michael Leppen, followed her nephew's guidance on her support of HIV/AIDS and LGBT causes for decades.

Miriam was born in Humboldt, Michigan, on Nov. 1, 1913, the daughter of Justina and Thomas Ulvinen. She grew up with eight sisters and three brothers on the family farm. She worked as a governess and then married H. Earl Hoover (1890-1985) who was her best friend and the love of her life. They traveled the world together and enjoyed every moment of their life together.

Miriam always led an active life. She loved opera, symphony, ballet and theater.

She was an active member and supporter of various churches, charities and social service and educational programs. She was a trustee for: Seabury Western Theological Seminary, Episcopal Charities, The Living Desert, Palm Springs Art Museum and Bishop Anderson House. As a philanthropist she supported many agencies not only in the Chicago area, but throughout the country and world.

Miriam was "a great woman with an enormous spirit and generous legacy who gave so much to the LGBTQ community in Chicago," said Amy Maggio. "A very early supporter of HIV/AIDS organizations, her generosity will live on through the lives of all of those who have benefited from her many acts of kindness."

Anne Rossiter said: "Miriam was a woman who lived with her heart wide open, no judgment, just love, in supporting her community from her beloved Episcopal Church community to her hospital, North Shore University Health System, the Center on Halsted and hundreds of other social welfare and arts organizations. She was a giant among the philanthropists in Chicago and beyond."

"I had the opportunity of knowing Mrs. Hoover for over 15 years," said Hadley Rue. "I worked with her, traveled with her, she was like a grandmother to me. Mrs. Hoover was always on the run. She loved being on the move, seeing things and as she would say 'there is no moss growing under my feet.' She loved going to dinner with a group—preferably a group of six or more. She was the bell of the ball and loved have handsome gentlemen in ties with her. She was part of a bygone era which no longer exists and it was special to be part of it. An experience that can never be replicated. She already is missed and will be forever."

"I am saddened by the passing of Mrs. Miriam Hoover, a pillar of the Chicago community," said Center on Halsted CEO Modesto Valle. "Her leadership, among so many organizations, will continue to inspire myself and so many others for years to come. Mrs. Hoover will also be re-

membered as an important supporter of Center on Halsted. Her significant personal gift, the largest such individual gift during the campaign to build our facility, helped to ensure the completion of the capital campaign. At Center on Halsted, our Hoover Leppen Theatre is named in her honor and that of her nephew, Michael Leppen. Mrs. Hoover exemplified the importance of civic leadership and philanthropy."

"AIDS Foundation of Chicago is grateful for Mrs. Hoover's longtime support—particularly in the early days of the HIV epidemic, when the community had few options but to help people die with dignity," said AFC CEO John Peller. "It's a testament to her character, and her love for her nephew, Michael Leppen, that Mrs. Hoover stepped up and made a lasting impact on so many organizations in Chicago."

"I am saddened to hear about the death of Miriam Hoover," said Pride Action Tank Executive Director Kim Hunt. "She and her nephew, Michael Leppen, were supporters of Affinity Community Service's youth work when I was the executive director there. My heart goes out to Michael and the rest of the family and loved ones on the loss of this incredible spirit."

Miriam had a devout faith and was supportive and loving of her family and their extended families. She loved getting together with family and reliving memories of her life with her sisters and brothers. She always enjoyed the family reunion in Michigan with four generations of the family getting together with her. Family was always important to Miriam.

That faith included her support of Bishop Anderson House.

"We are mourning Miriam's death here at Bishop Anderson House," said Executive Director the Rev. Thomas S. Rogers, III. "I got to see Miriam one last time on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017 which seems like an appropriate day now upon further reflection. Miriam was one of the saints who supported our work providing professional chaplains to see patients and families in the trauma unit and Project Connect, the inpatient HIV+ unit, at Stroger Cook County Hospital. Her nephew, Michael Leppen, who served on our board of trustees started collecting teddy bears for HIV+ patients in the 1980s when doctors and nurses were afraid to touch patients before people knew how HIV was transmitted. Today, we live into this heritage by providing professional chaplaincy to HIV+ patients and their families."

"We are so grateful to Miriam for her longstanding support of Bishop Anderson House and offer our prayers and condolences to her family and friends at her death. She is a great representative of a life well lived with much joy—I will never forget her authentic smile anytime we met."

She is preceded in death by her loving husband, Earl, her parents, her brothers and sisters and their spouses, stepsons Gordon, Jack and Bob and daughter-in-laws, Carol, Nancy and Bea.

Miriam is survived by Michael A Leppen, her



Miriam Hoover (left) with nephew Michael Leppen and his mom, Vi, at the Center on Halsted. Photo by Tracy Baim

nephew, companion and best friend; her stepson and friend H. Earl Hoover II (Barbara); her step-grandchildren Gordon Hoover II, Wendy Chandler, Diana Filkins (Rick), Michael Hoover (Janis), Tim Hoover (Debra), Elizabeth Tapia (Richard), Courtney Cummings (John), John Hoover and Robert Hoover II (Candace). Also by great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and great nieces and great nephews.

Miriam will be buried at Oakwood Cemetery in

Chicago, next to husband Earl.

A memorial will be held at St. Paul's in the Desert, Palm Springs, California, on Saturday, March 17, at 11 a.m. After the service, there will be a luncheon reception at Le Vallauris.

There will also be a memorial service in Chicago at the Cathedral of St. James on Saturday, April 28, at 11 a.m. A luncheon reception will be served at the Drake Hotel's Gold Coast Room following the service.

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Photo: James Guffield

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LGBT judges discuss paths to the bench

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A panel of prominent LGBT judges and one justice from the Illinois State Supreme Court met March 8 to discuss the need for diversity on the bench.

"The Lavender Bench: Experiences of LGBTQ Judges in Illinois" was held in the downtown offices of the Hinshaw & Culbertson law firm, with the session moderated by openly lesbian Cook County Circuit Court Judge Cecilia Horan. Participants included Associate Judge Mary Catherine

Marubio and Judge John Ehrlich of Cook County Circuit Court, and federal Judge Staci Michelle Yandle. Illinois State Supreme Court Justice Mary Jane Theis also took part.

Theis spoke at length about the need for persons from a variety of backgrounds among judges, noting that, "I'm committed to diversity on the bench—that means I want all the people in this room on the bench."

She further explained the rigamarole involved in getting to that stage in a legal career, de-

scribing the legal experience, community participation and political acumen a prospective judge needs to acquire. Campaigning for a judgeship, Theis said, is often one of the most difficult steps in a legal career.

"You have to go out and communicate to people why they should vote for you, and that's tough," she said. "[The decision] may be up to a million voters."

Ehrlich concurred. After an early, difficult campaign, he vowed that he would never campaign again, but the possibility of a new position later became enticing.

"You have to be willing to go out and get [ballot] signatures yourself," he said. "You have to go to the fundraisers for the alderman and the committeeman, because that's where you meet people with money."

Yandle, who was appointed to her job by former President Barack Obama, was spared having to campaign, but her confirmation process was no less arduous. She recalled that the application, without any attachments, was about 60 pages, and she had to undergo both an IRS audit and a scrupulous background check.

"They found people that I hadn't seen since I was 13," she said.

Yandle was one of about a dozen openly LGBT judges nominated by Obama. Though she has long been out, she was rarely in such a high-profile position before her confirmation. Prior to the nominations, only one federal judge was openly gay, so Yandle had to accept that her being a member of the LGBT community would be part of the "narrative" that went along with her confirmation.

"That was when I learned the difference between being openly gay and publicly gay—they're not the same thing," she recalled, adding that she ultimately faced the most scrutiny from federal officials because she was a trial lawyer.

"That's what they beat me over the head with," she said.

Marubio said that, for the near future, it would still be important for LGBT judges to publicly identify as members of the community, adding, "I think it needs to carry the narrative."

After the discussion, Horan added, "We've got some wonderful diversity on the bench now, but we've got a 'bubble' in Cook County. We've got a good number of judges here, but that needs to spread into southern Illinois and the federal bench as well."



From left: Judges John Ehrlich, Mary Catherine Marubio, Staci Michelle Yandle, Mary Jane Theis and Cecilia Horan.

Photo by Matt Simonette

Back 2 School offers scholarship

Back 2 School Illinois (B2SI) has announced its 2018 College Scholarship program.

B2SI, a non-profit organization that creates and supports educational opportunities that enrich the lives of Illinois children, will award \$2,500 cash grants to 10 college-bound Illinois high school seniors, for their freshman year of study. The scholarships will be awarded based on each student's academic achievement and financial need as well as their demonstrated leadership skills in both their school and community.

The application for the B2SI scholarship is available via Back 2 School Illinois' website (www.b2si.org) and must be postmarked by Sunday, April 1.

Corrections

A Feb. 14 review of Paramount Theatre's Cabaret should have credited Katie Spelman for direction and choreography. The program for Cabaret credited both Spelman and Sam Mendes with direction, and Spelman and Rob Marshall with choreography.

Windy City Times sincerely regrets the errors.

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ON MARCH 20th PUNCH #130

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- Alderman Tom Tunney, 44th Ward
- Committeewoman Carol Ronen, 48th Ward
- Rick Garcia, LGBTQ Activist

Owner of the Billy Goat Tavern

Paid for and authorized by the Friends for Tom Sam Sianis





Landscape architect Natalie Gongaware shows her designs, held up by Chris Jessup. Photo by Tracy Baim

AIDS garden planned for Belmont Rocks; Haring art to be included

BY TRACY BAIM

About a dozen people gathered for a meeting March 8 to discuss a planned garden to memorialize the loss, activism and resilience of Chicago's fight against HIV/AIDS.

The planned garden, at the Belmont Rocks in Lake View, is being designed by Clauss Brothers, Inc., landscape architect Natalie Gongaware. She presented her preliminary designs to the group invited to Ann Sather on Belmont by Ald. Tom Tunney.

Attendees included LGBTQ, HIV/AIDS advo-

cates, historians and parks advocates, including representatives from Center on Halsted, Howard Brown Health, Friends of the Parks, the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Parks Foundation and Windy City Times.

The Chicago Park District has designated space near Belmont Harbor for the garden, and Tunney funded the draft landscape plan. The tentative name of the project is AIDS Memorial Garden, but Howard Brown Health CEO David Munar suggested the name should also pay tribute to the activism. Attendees also said there should be a way to memorialize Chicago's own efforts to combat HIV/

AIDS, those lost to the disease—and to make sure there is an educational component about the current fight.

The Belmont Rocks have a long history of LGBT activity, from colorful graffiti, cruising and sports to the annual Black Pride event held there for decades. Lake View itself has a diverse history, including strong Latino roots. Ideas at the meeting included incorporating all of that history, in addition to perhaps having markers or murals in other parts of the city to note the widespread impact of the disease across the entire region.

The tentative plans include several beautifully

landscaped, free and public spaces just south of the parking lot at Belmont and Lake Shore Drive. Areas are marked, including the Garden of Tranquility, the Stand Against Intolerance, Circle of Peace, a Hope and Healing Space, Quiet Reflection and a Community Remembered. There would be some of the painted rocks of the famous old Belmont Rocks landscape, plus many different trees and other plantings.

Perhaps most exciting will be a planned 30-foot sculpture being made available from the Keith Haring Foundation. The final selected design will be announced soon, but its height would be visible from many directions, including Lake Shore Drive. Haring, a pop art and graffiti artist, was among the most prominent Americans who died of AIDS complications—in 1990, at age 31.

The project is expected to cost about \$2 million, which Tunney expects to raise from independent sources, not through the city. Funds will also be raised to maintain the park once it is built. The project could be completed in as quickly as 18 months.

For details, including how to support the project, or to give input, contact 44th Ward Director of Public Safety and Community Affairs Chris Jessup at Chris.Jessup@cityofchicago.org or 773-525-6034.



44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney. Photo by Tracy Baim

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ON MARCH 20TH
PUNCH #147



Chicago Tribune

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Point Foundation hosts networking event at Salero

Approximately 80 people attended Point's 2018 Chicago Cornerstone Society Reception at Salero restaurant on March 8.

Point board members Alexia Ward and Pete Subkoviak (also an alum) welcomed everyone and host committee member Kenn Plebanek spoke to his connection with Point and his experience as a scholarship application reader. (Point received 2,100 applications for scholarships this year and relied on 120 volunteer readers.)

Also addressing the attendees were Community College Scholarship Recipient Sergio Tundo (who is taking part in Harry S. Truman College's pre-nursing program) who spoke about how Point enables them to pursue their goal of serving LGBTQ communities through inclusive health care. Point Scholar Donna Scaffidi spoke to her experiences leading up to law school, and how Point provides her with a mentor and network of LGBTQ people who make her believe her dream of becoming a judge is possible.

Point Foundation is the nation's largest provider of higher education scholarships to LGBTQ students. See <https://pointfoundation.org/>.



Sergio Tundo (left) and Donna Scaffidi (right) at Point Foundation event.
Photos by Hal Baim

JUDGE MYRON "MIKE" MACKOFF
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Chicago Tribune

PUNCH #162

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PUNCH #160

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as posted in a press release at www.windycitymediagroup.com on 3/5/18

www.athenaforjudge.com

Paid for by Athena for Judge

Forum spotlights women of color candidates in Illinois

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Morten Group, E3 Radio, Reunion Chicago, Equality Illinois and Chicago NOW PAC partnered to present the 2018 Women of Color Candidate Forum for Illinois on March 8 at Reunion Chicago.

The event, held on International Women's Day, gave first-time women of color candidates running for elected offices a platform to introduce themselves and talk about various issues.

"The purpose [of the forum] was to shine a light on first-time women of color candidates," said Morten Group President Mary Morten. "We have not seen any type of forum that focused on the perspectives and experiences of women of color and I happen to know or be friends with numerous women of color who are running for the first time. It's exciting and I wanted to do something to draw attention to campaigns where people really need our support!"

Morten came up with the idea of this forum, knowing a number of women running for office. Morten then spoke to Anna DeShawn, founder and CEO of E3Radio, an online radio network streaming with a queer point of view, about some programming ideas. This project was a first-time

partnership and Morten added it was amazingly easy.

"My work as an activist and advocate has always been as a bridge builder trying to bring people together across differences for some productive conversations," said Morten.

Reunion Chicago, Morten explained, was the ideal venue to hold such an event as it is "an accessible location and an open space you make your own." The art gallery, event space and project incubator is located in Humboldt Park and has been under the management of event/cultural producer Kristen Kaza and brand strategist/cultural producer Elijah McKinnon since 2016.

"Kristen and Elijah want to do this kind of programming, so it was a perfect match," said Morten. "Equality Illinois and Chicago NOW PAC made sense since we wanted organizations that do electoral work and that Anna and I had connections with prior to the program."

The panel of candidates included Gaylon B. Alcaraz, candidate for Cook County commissioner, 4th District; Maria Hadden, candidate for 49th Ward alderman; Delia Ramirez, candidate for Illinois state rep, 4th District; Charise Williams, Cook County commissioner, 3rd District; and



Gaylon Alcaraz.

Photo by Melissa Wasserman

Sameena Mustafa, who is vying for a U.S. congressional seat in the 5th District. Mary Morten moderated the forum.

"We have far too few of these opportunities," said Morten. "It was quite obvious that these women wanted nothing more than each other's success."

To start, Morten asked each candidate why she was running and "why now." Then questions covered topics such as LBT issues and inclusion, healthcare, education, gun violence, incarceration and mental-health support, among others.

"If I could add anything else, I guess it would be that, when the question was 'why are you run-

ning and why are you running now,' I think it's just important as a mom, a grandmother, as a former Girl Scout troop leader, as a woman that has mentored young women, I think it's important for people to see this, for young people to see this, for children to see this, for young women of color to see this—that this can be done," said Alcaraz. "I just think that it's critical for us to see these type of images; to know that this can be done."

"It's important because we're changing the landscape of how things look—politically, across the board, sports, boardrooms—we're doing these things," said Alcaraz. "So, we have to have these types of spaces to come to, to have discourse, to talk, so that's pretty much it, wrapped up into the other thing that I said. It's just critical. These spaces are not open for us or people don't lay these out or make these available to us, so our voices can be heard. Our voices have to be heard."

In talking about her ideas for the LGBTQ community with Windy City Times, Alcaraz said she will work toward total inclusiveness by creating various councils in her office fueled by the community, including an LGBTQ council. She added that now is not the time to hide and it is the time to be more visible than ever.

After the prepared questions, attendees had the opportunity to ask their own questions. The forum was also livestreamed.

Speaking at this type of event on International Women's Day, Alcaraz said, was important, adding women are considered almost second class citizens.



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PUNCH 128



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PUNCH 158 ★ **VOTE MARCH 20, 2018** ★
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A copy of our report is filed with the State Board of Elections and is available for review on the Board's official website or for purchase from the Board in Springfield, IL.

ELECTIONS 2018:
COOK COUNTY COURT (COOKE VACANCY)

Ed Underhill: Out attorney talks LGBT judges, running again

BY ANDREW DAVIS

If nothing else, Ed Underhill is about longevity.

A lifelong Chicagoan, Underhill is a trial attorney with more than 30 years of experience, and has been a Bucktown homeowner for the past 17 years. He has been with his husband, Liam, for several years. Now, he hopes to continue the next phase of his career and life as a judge. His Democratic primary opponents include Charles Beach and Andrea Webber.

Windy City Times: This is your second time running for judge. What did you learn last time that you can apply this time?

Ed Underhill: I learned that you have to build relationships within all the political organizations. You can't ignore any of them—political organizations, ward organizations. And you still have to know the neighborhoods as well, you still have canvass them. Those two things are probably the most important.

WCT: You didn't canvass last time?

EU: I did, but what I want to stress is that there are about 10 to 12 wards in each of these subcircuits. It would be easier to run simultaneously for alderman in four wards than to campaign effectively in a subcircuit. Knocking on every door is not feasible, but it helps to go to neighborhoods and meet people and see what their concerns are. But you have to work with the political organizations as well, because they have the people who can get your message out to the street. The trick is to get them to support you.

WCT: The last time you ran, you told Windy City Times it was "fun." Is it fun this time?

EU: It is fun. [Smiles] In fact, it's even more fun—but it's more exhausting. Now I've been invited to more events, and I've become more deeply involved in the communities in the subcircuit. There's hardly a day that goes by that there's something I don't attend.

I've always been interested in running for office, and the learning curve was so great the last time I ran that it makes it more fun this time around. In some ways, it's less stressful; I know what to expect. On the other hand, once you become part of a ward organization, you have to attend those events as well as your own. It's a great opportunity.

Last year might've been the busiest year I've had as a lawyer. Coming off of that has been a challenge—but this isn't an opportunity a lot of people get. Out of 25,000 attorneys in Cook County, only about 500 at any given time are eligible to run.

WCT: So what are your biggest advantages and disadvantages in this race?

EU: The biggest advantage is that I'm endorsed by the majority of our committeemen and committeewomen in our subcircuit. For example, the last time I ran I got the endorsement of my alderman, Scott Waguespack. This time, I have the endorsement of several committeemen and aldermen, including Scott Waguespack, Proco Joe Moreno (who's with the 1st Ward), Brian Hopkins (2nd Ward), Walter Burnett Jr. (who's in the 27th Ward); in the western part of the subcircuit, I have the Arroyo family, including state Rep. Luis Arroyo, and others. That's a bigger difference; they're helping me, including providing amazing amounts of wisdom.

The last time I ran, a goal was to run as openly gay, married candidate and see what resistance I got from doing that. This time around, I find I don't have to highlight that as much; they remember me and my husband. I don't think it's as big an issue as it once was. Stephanie Miller has been appointed; she's a married lesbian with two kids. Sometimes, we go canvass together.

The biggest challenge is certainly time management. I'm spending a lot of time in those different wards, and it's difficult to juggle that time and see everyone. I love hanging around seniors, though; you learn so much from them.

WCT: By the way, it seems that relatively few people, when they vote, select judges.

EU: It's distressing—but understandable. Few people know the judicial candidates. However, I do give millennials credit; they read up on candidates and look up [online] to see who progressive organizations support. Older voters tend to take the judicial evaluation ratings into the polling places with them.

WCT: Why is it important to have LGBT judges?

EU: It's important to have those because the community has expanded to include [transgender individuals]. In 2014, President Obama appointed progressive, liberal federal-court judges who would protect the rights of minorities.

It's 2018, I'm running, again—and the reverse is true. We have a president who's racist, homophobic and anti-immigrant, and he's appointing judges who are either incompetent or who share his racist/prejudiced views. Now, more than ever, we need a state judiciary that will protect our rights. I don't think we can count on the federal judiciary as much right now. For most of my life, I hadn't heard the term "sanctuary city"—but I'm glad I live in one.

WCT: I do want to discuss something in your background. Could you talk about Northern Star [a newspaper at Northern Illinois University, where Underhill attended]? You're still



Ed Underhill.

Photo from campaign website

involved with it, correct?

EU: Yes. For more than 30 years, I've been the informal legal advisor to Northern Star. I've advised generations of editors about constitutional and legal issues they've faced.

In the early 1990s, the Northern Star attacked some policies of the university president. As a result of that, he tried to restrict the freedom of the newspaper by removing the faculty advisor, among other things. Some alumni, including myself, fought that and formed Alumni for a Free Press. We protested at various graduations and met with the governing board of the university. Soon afterward, we were able to effectively stop the attacks on the newspaper and the advisor was restored to his position. Shortly afterward, the president resigned.

Howard Brown annual meeting March 21

Howard Brown Health will hold its annual meeting Wed., March 21, at Joffrey Tower's Studio A, 10 E. Randolph St., 6-8 p.m.

At this free event, Howard Brown will review its accomplishments and discuss how to continue its advocacy. In addition, there will be a screening of Nick Cave's short film, Upright.

See HowardBrown.org. RSVP to Events@HowardBrown.org by noon on March 21.

I've understood that there's a natural tension between the student press and a university so I've tried to bridge that over the years. But joining that paper in undergrad taught me so much; learning to write 250 words in three hours is an essential skill.

WCT: Is there anything you wanted to add about yourself or your campaign?

EU: I'd like to encourage more lawyers to [run for judgeships], and to do it earlier in their careers. You learn an awful lot about yourself. It's a challenging experience—and I feel much better about Chicago politics, having done this. The ward committeemen—whether they're supporting me or not—work very hard. I know that they do a lot.

See <http://edunderhillforjudge.com/>.

LGBTQ town-hall meeting March 28

The Association of Latino/as Motivating Action (ALMA) will host an LGBTQ town-hall meeting on Wed., March 28, 6-7:30 p.m., at the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance, 3000 N. Elbridge St.

Among those slated to attend are Illinois state Sens. Iris Y. Martinez and Omar Aquino, along with Illinois state Rep. Will Guzzardi.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Anamary Torres at anamarytorres@aol.com.

AG candidate says anti-gay adoption sentiment has shifted

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Republican Illinois State Attorney General Candidate Erika Harold said she does not recall allegedly saying in 2000 that she'd prefer foster children being placed with child abusers rather than a same-sex couple, according to reports. Her opponent in the March 20 primary, Gary Grasso, has called on her to withdraw from the race over the matter.

NBC 5 broke the story Dec. 8, reporting that multiple individuals recalled Harold's answer in a 2000 background interview she participated in with Miss Illinois pageant officials. She was asked whether it would be preferable to place a foster child with a gay couple or a household wherein the foster parents were known child abusers. Harold supposedly chose the latter; she lost the contest that year, but won the title two years later and went on to be Miss America.

State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago), a supporter of both LGBT and adoption rights, expressed dismay at the developments in a Dec. 9 statement: "Illinois cannot risk electing an Attor-

ney General who will allow her personal bigotry to reverse years of progress on adoption policies that reflect inclusion, equality and the best interest of the child standards that are codified in Illinois law.

"Whether Harold recalls what she said or not, I demand that she answer that same question now and to answer it publicly."

In a statement, Harold campaign spokesman Jason Heffley said, "It is troubling that NBC Chicago chose to run with a political hit piece based on anonymous sources that occurred almost twenty years ago.

"Two decades ago when Erika was 20 years old, she did not support same sex adoption. It was a different era when many from both political parties did not support it. Erika, like many others, has changed her position on the issue over the last twenty years. She acknowledges that position was wrong and now strongly supports same sex adoption and foster placement.

"She does not recall the specific exchange alleged by anonymous sources. If some form of that exchange did occur, it was wrong and it is in no

way reflective of how Erika feels or has lived her life. She has spent her career working to protect the interests of the underserved and advocating for those who have been bullied and abused."

Harold, an Urbana attorney, announced her candidacy in August 2017. She publicly opposed marriage-equality in 2013. But in February she also publicly discussed an exchange with a GOP legislative candidate, Burt Minor, who asked her about her sexual orientation using an anti-lesbian slur. In recalling the incident, Harold reported that she told Minor that sexual orientation should not disqualify a person from office.

Grasso, for his part, is backed by the anti-LGBT Illinois Family Institute; on its website, that organization praised his questioning of the constitutionality of state legislation banning anti-gay conversion therapy for minors.

NBC 5's report is at <https://www.nbcchicago.com/blogs/ward-room/AG-Candidates-Sound-Off-on-Gay-Adoption-Comment-Controversy-476430433.html>.



Attorney general candidate Erika Harold.
Image from campaign website

WINDY CITY TIMES' LGBTQ WEDDING & SPECIAL EVENTS GUIDE

Available for download at www.WindyCityTimes.com

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MARCH 20TH 2018

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—Malala Yousafzai

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Chicago Tribune

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
BOARD PRESIDENT								
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)					Y	Y		Y
Andrea A. Raila (D)								

CLERK

Karen A. Yarbrough (D)		Y					Y	
Stephanie Joy Jackson-Rowe (D)								
Nick Shields (D)								
Jan Kowalski McDonald (D)	30/38							

SHERIFF

Thomas J. Dart (D)		Y						
Edward “Eddie” Acevedo (D)								
John Fairman (D)								

TREASURER

Maria Pappas (D)		Y					Y	
Peter Gariepy (D)	36/38			Y				

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-1ST DISTRICT

Brandon Johnson (D)		Y		Y	Y		Y	
Richard R. Boykin (D)	36/38					Y		

	WCT	PPAC	EI	RCCNOW	ORI	IVI	PP	CAI
COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-2ND DISTRICT								
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)				Y				
Steven R. Wolfe (D)	38/38							
Bill Lowry (D)		Y				Y		Y
Joshua Gray (D)	35/38							
Erick M. Nickerson (D)								
Horace “Washington” Howard (D)								

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-4TH DISTRICT

Stanley S. Moore (D)		Y						Y
Maria M. Barlow (D)						Y		
Alfred W. Evans Jr. (D)								
Marcel Bright (D)								
Gaylon Alcaraz (D)	37/38			Y				
Robert R. McKay (D)								

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-5TH DISTRICT

Deborah Sims (D)		Y						Y
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	Y		Y				Y
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	Y						
Alma E. Anaya (D)	37/38						Y	Y
Ricardo Muñoz (D)								
Raul Montes, Jr. (D)								

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-9TH DISTRICT

Peter N. Silvestri (R)		Y						
Frank L. McPartlin (D)								

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-10TH DISTRICT

Bridget Gainer (D)		Y		Y		Y		
Mary Ann Kosiak (D)								

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-11TH DISTRICT

Carl Segvich (R)								
Steven S. Graves (R)								
John P. Daley (D)		Y						

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-12TH DISTRICT

Bridget Degnan (D)								Y
John Fritchey (D)	38/38	Y		Y		Y		

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-13TH DISTRICT

Chris J. Hanusiak (R)								
Bushra Amiwalala (D)	37/38							
Larry Suffredin (D)	38/38	Y		Y		Y		Y
Daniel Foster (D)	38/38							

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-14TH DISTRICT

Gregg Goslin (R)								
Scott R. Britton (D)		Y						

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

US REPRESENTATIVE RACES

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

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

	WCT	CPC	SEIU	RC	ORI	IVI	IND	PP	HRC
4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
Mark Wayne Lorch (R)									
Richard Gonzalez (D)	37/38								
Sol A. Flores (D)	38/38								
Jesus “Chuy” Garcia (D)	38/38	Y			Y	Y			
5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
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)									
6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
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)									
7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
Craig Cameron (R)									
Jeffrey A. Leef (R)									
Danny K. Davis (D)	38/38					Y		Y	96
Anthony V. Clark (D)	37/38								
8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
Jitendra “JD” Diganvker (R)									
Raja Krishnamoorthi (D)								Y	
9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
Sargis Sangari (R)									
John D. Elleson (R)							Y		
Maxwell Rice (R)									
D. Vincent Thomas Jr. (R)	30/38								
Janice D. Schakowsky (D)	38/38							Y	100
10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
Jeremy Wynes (R)									
Sapan Shah (R)									
Douglas R. Bennett (R)								Y	
Brad Schneider (D)									
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
Nick Stella (R)									
Constant G. “Connor” Vlakancic (R)									
Bill Foster (D)								Y	100
12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
Michael Bost (R)									16
Preston Nelson (R)									
Brendan Kelly (D)									
David Bequette (D)	38/38								
Randy Auxier (D)									
13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
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
14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
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								
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
John M. Shimkus (R)									16
Carl Spooner (D)	33/38					Y			
Kevin Gaither (D)									
16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
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			
17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
William W. “Bill” Fawell (R)									
Cheri Bustos (D)								Y	100
18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT									
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	
2ND SENATE DISTRICT									
Omar Aquino (D)	38/38	Y	Y		Y			Y	
3RD SENATE DISTRICT									
Mattie Hunter (D)		Y	Y					Y	
5TH SENATE DISTRICT									
Patricia Van Pelt (D)		Y						Y	
6TH SENATE DISTRICT									
John J. Cullerton (D)		Y	Y					Y	
8TH SENATE DISTRICT									
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		
9TH SENATE DISTRICT									
Joan McCarthy Lasonde (R)									
Laura Fine (D)		Y	Y	Y				Y	
11TH SENATE DISTRICT									
Martin A. Sandoval (D)		Y						Y	

	WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP
12TH SENATE DISTRICT Steven Landek (D)		Y						
14TH SENATE DISTRICT Emil Jones III (D)		Y	Y				Y	
17TH SENATE DISTRICT Donne E. Trotter (D)							Y	
18TH SENATE DISTRICT Bill Cunningham (D)			Y					
20TH SENATE DISTRICT Iris Y. Martinez (D) Bart Goldberg (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
21ST SENATE DISTRICT Michael Connelly (R) Laura Ellman (D)		Y	Y				Y	
23RD SENATE DISTRICT Seth Lewis (R) Thomas Cullerton (D)		Y	Y				Y	
24TH SENATE DISTRICT Chris Nybo (R) Suzanne “Suzy” Glowiak (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	
26TH SENATE DISTRICT Dan McConchie (R) Tom Georges (D)	34/38	Y	Y	Y			Y	
27TH SENATE DISTRICT Tom Rooney (R) Ann Gillespie (D) Joe Sonnefeldt (D)	38/38	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
29TH SENATE DISTRICT Barrett Davie (R) Julie A. Morrison (D)		Y	Y				Y	
30TH SENATE DISTRICT Soojae Lee (R) Terry Link (D)		Y	Y					
32ND SENATE DISTRICT Craig Wilcox (R) Mary Mahady (D)		Y	Y				Y	
33RD SENATE DISTRICT Karen McConnaughay (R) Nancy Zettler (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	
36TH SENATE DISTRICT Neil Anderson (R) Gregg Johnson (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	
38TH SENATE DISTRICT Sue Rezin (R) Heidi Henry (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	
39TH SENATE DISTRICT Don Harmon (D)	38/38	Y	Y	Y			Y	
41ST SENATE DISTRICT John Curran (R) Bridget M. Fitzgerald (D)		Y	Y				Y	
42ND SENATE DISTRICT Linda Holmes (D)		Y	Y				Y	
45TH SENATE DISTRICT Brain W. Stewart (R) David Simpson (D)		Y					Y	

48TH SENATE DISTRICT
Seth McMillan (R)
Andy Manar (D)

54TH SENATE DISTRICT
Jason Plummer (R)
Rafael Him (R)
George Barber (R)
Benjamin L. Stratemeyer (R)

56TH SENATE DISTRICT
Rachelle Aud Crowe (D)

57TH SENATE DISTRICT
Bob Romanik (R)
Tanya Hildenbrand (R)
Christopher Belt (D)

ILLINOIS REPRESENTATIVE RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions
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
VF = LGBTQ Victory Fund

	WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP	VF
1ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Daniel J. Burke (D) Aaron M. Ortiz (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	
2ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Theresa Mah (D)		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	
3RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Luis Arroyo (D)		Y					Y	Y	
4TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Delia C. Ramirez (D) Alyx S. Pattison (D) Iris J. Millan (D) Anne Shaw (D)	37/38 36/38 38/38 38/38	Y Y Y Y		Y			Y		
5TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Dilara Sayeed (D) Lamont J. Robinson, Jr. (D) Felicia N. Bullock (D) Kenneth “Ken” Dunkin (D)		Y	Y				Y	Y	Y
6TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sonya Marie Harper (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	
7TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emanuel “Chris” Welch (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	
8TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT La Shawn K. Ford (D)		Y							
9TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Arthur Turner (D)		Y					Y	Y	
10TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Melissa Conyears-Ervin (D)		Y					Y	Y	
11TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Ann M. Williams (D)		Y	Y				Y	Y	
12TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sara Feigenholtz (D)	38/38	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	

	WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP	VF
13TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Gregory Harris (D)	38/38	Y	Y	Y				Y	
14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Arthur Noah Siegel (D) Kelly M. Cassidy (D)	28/38 38/38	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	
15TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Amanda Biela (R) John C. D'Amico (D)		Y						Y	
16TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lou Lang (D)	37/38	Y	Y	Y				Y	
17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Peter Lee (R) Alexandra Eidenberg (D) Pete Dagher (D) Candance Chow (D) Mary Rita Luecke (D) Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz (D)	38/38 38/38	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Julie Cho (R) Robyn Gabel (D)		Y	Y					Y	
19TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Ammie Kessem (R) Robert Martwick (D) Jeffrey Laporte (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	
20TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael P. McAuliffe (R) Merry Marwig (D)		Y	Y						
21ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Silvana Tabares (D)		Y						Y	
22ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Madigan (D)		Y	Y						
23RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Zalewski (D)		Y						Y	
24TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert Rafael Reyes (D) Elizabeth “Lisa” Hernandez (D)	37/38	Y	Y	Y				Y	
25TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Curtis J. Tarver II (D) Angelique N. Collins (D) Anne Marie Miles (D) Adrienne Irmer (D) Flynn Rush (D) William Calloway (D) Grace Chan McKibben (D)	38/38 38/38	Y	Y	Y					
26TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Christian L. Mitchell (D)		Y	Y		Y			Y	
27TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Justin Q. Slaughter (D) Tawana J. (T.J.) Robinson (D)		Y	Y	Y					
28TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert “Bob” Rita (D) Kimberly Nicole Koschnitzky (D) Mary Carvlin (D)		Y		Y				Y	
29TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Thaddeus Jones (D) Corean Davis (D)		Y	Y	Y				Y	
30TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT William “Will” Davis (D) Deyon L. Dean (D)		Y	Y	Y				Y	

	WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP	VF
31ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mary E. Flowers (D) Willie Preston (D)		Y		Y				Y	
32ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT André Thapedi (D)		Y						Y	
33RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (D)		Y						Y	
34TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D)		Y						Y	
35TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Herbert Hebein (R) Frances Ann Hurley (D)		Y						Y	
36TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kelly M. Burke (D)			Y						
38TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Max Solomon (D) Debbie Meyers-Martin (D) Cecil Matthews Jr. (D) David Bonner (D)	38/38	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	
39TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Will Guzzardi (D)		Y	Y		Y			Y	
40TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jaime M. Andrade, Jr. (D)		Y	Y					Y	
41ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Grant Wehrli (R) Val Montgomery (D)								Y	
42ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Burt Minor (R) Amy L. Grant (R) Ryan Edward Byrne (R) Kathleen V. Carrier (D)				Y			Y		
43RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Andrew R. Cuming (R) Anna Moeller (D)		Y	Y	Y				Y	
44TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Katy Dolan Baumer (R) Fred Crespo (D)		Y						Y	
46TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Gordon (Jay) Kinzler (R) Roger Orozco (R) Deb Conroy (D)		Y	Y					Y	
47TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Deanne Marie Mazzochi (R) James M. “Jim” Caffrey (D) Anne Sommerkamp (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	
48TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Peter Breen (R) Terra Costa Howard (D)				Y				Y	
49TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Nic Zito (R) Tonia Jane Khouri (R) Karina Villa (D)		Y	Y						
53RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Katie Miller (R) Eddie Corrigan (R) Mark L. Walker (D)		Y		Y				Y	

	WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP	VF
54TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Tom Morrison (R) Maggie Trevor (D)	37/38	Y	Y					Y	
55TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Marilyn Smolenski (R) Martin J. Moylan (D)		Y						Y	
56TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jillian Rose Bernas (R) Charlotte “Char” Kegarise (R) Michelle Mussman (D)		Y	Y					Y	
57TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mary Battinus (R) Jonathan Carroll (D)		Y	Y					Y	
58TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Cindy Masover (R) Bob Morgan (D)	38/38	Y	Y					Y	
59TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Marko Sukovic (R) Karen Feldman (R) Daniel Didech (D) Susan Malter (D)		Y	Y	Y				Y	
60TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Rita Mayfield (D)		Y							
61ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sheri Jesiel (R) Joyce Mason (D)		Y	Y					Y	
62ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Adam Solano (R) Ken Idstein (R) Sam Yingling (D)		Y	Y					Y	
65TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Dan Ugaste (R) Richard Johnson (D)								Y	
66TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Allen Skillicorn (R)									
67TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Maurice A. West II (D) Valeri DeCastris (D) Gerald O. Albert (D) Angela Fellars (D)	36/38						Y	Y	
68TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT John M. Cabello (R) Jake Castanza (D)		Y	Y	Y				Y	
69TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Joe Sosnowski (R) Angelique “Angie” Bodine (D)		Y		Y				Y	
70TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jeff Keicher (R) Paul Stoddard (D) Howard Solomon (D)	35/38			Y				Y	
71ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Tony M. McCombie (R) Joan Padilla (D)		Y	Y	Y					
72ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Glen Evans Sr. (R) Michael W. Halpin (D)		Y	Y	Y				Y	

	WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP	VF
77TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anthony Airdo (D) Kathleen Willis (D)		Y							Y
78TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Camille Lilly (D)		Y							Y
79TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lindsay Parkhurst (R) Lisa M. Dugan (D)									
80TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anthony DeLuca (D)		Y							Y
82ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jim Durkin (R) Michael “Mickey” Straub (R) Elyse Hoffenberg (D) Tom Chlystek (D)				Y					
83RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Linda Chapa LaVia (D)		Y	Y						Y
84TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Patty Smith (R) Stephanie A. Kifowit (D)		Y	Y						Y
85TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lisa Bickus (R) John Connor (D)		Y	Y						Y
86TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Rick Laib (R) Lawrence “Larry” Walsh, Jr. (D)		Y							Y
88TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Keith P. Sommer (R) Jill Blair (D)	38/38		Y	Y					Y
90TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Tom Demmer (R) Amy Davis (D)		Y	Y	Y					Y
91ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael D. Unes (R) Carolyn Blodgett (D)		Y							Y
92ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jehan Gordon-Booth (D)		Y		Y					Y
93RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Norine K. Hammond (R) Joshua L. Griffith (R) John Curtis (D)				Y	Y				
94TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Randy E. Frese (R)									
97TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mark Batinick (R) Mica Freeman (D)		Y	Y						Y
98TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Alyssia Benford (R) Natalie A. Manley (D)		Y	Y						Y
99TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mike Murphy (R) Marc Bell (R)		Y	Y						Y
101ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Todd C. Henricks (R) Dan Caulkins (R) Randy J. Keith (R) Jennifer McMillin (D)	35/38	Y	Y	Y					

	WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP	VF		WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP	VF		WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP	VF
103RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT										110TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT										113TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT									
Carol Ammons (D)										Chris Miller (R)										Doug Jameson (R)									
										Terry A. Davis (R)										Jay Hoffman (D)									
105TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT										Shirley A. Bell (D)																			
Dan Brady (R)																				114TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT									
David Paul Blumenshine (R)																				Jason Madlock (R)									
Benjamin Webb (D)																				LaToya N. Greenwood (D)									
107TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT										Wendy Erhart (R)																			
Blaine Wilhour (R)																				Y									
Laura A. Myers (D)																													
David J. Seiler (D)																													

JUDICIAL EVALUATIONS

Windy City Times does not endorse candidates. Rather, we list their answers to our questionnaire as well as the ratings of legal organizations so that readers can make informed choices when they vote.

Key to Organizations:

- 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
- CNOW – Chicago NOW PAC
- RC - Reclaim Chicago
- CBA - Chicago Bar Association
- CCL – Chicago Council of Lawyers
- CCBA – Cook County Bar Association
- DSL – Decalogue Society of Lawyers
- ISBA – Illinois State Bar Association
- LGB – Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago
- WBAI – Women’s Bar Association of Illinois
- BJVG - Benchmark Judicial Voting Guide

Key to Ratings:

- Q – Qualified
- NQ – Not Qualified
- WQ – Well Qualified
- HQ - Highly Qualified
- HR - Highly Recommended
- R - Recommended
- NR - Not Recommended
- NE - Not Evaluated (through no fault of candidate)*
- (D) = Democrat
- (R) = Republican
- * Candidates who do not participate in the evaluation process are rated NR.

The Benchmark Judicial Voting Guide issues recommendations based on screenings from several groups, as well as consideration for time in law practice and other factors. See <https://benchmarkjudicialvotingguide.com/guide/> for more. In addition, Cecilia Ann Horan and Michael A. Forti were recommended by the LGBTQ Victory Fund.

	WCT	PPAC	IVI	CNOW	RC	CBA	CCL	CCBA	DSL	ISBA	LGB	WB	BJVG
Cook Circuit Court (Brewer vacancy) Oran F. Whiting (D) Kathryn Maloney Vahey (D) John Maher (D) Lisa A. Copland (D)	31/31	Y	Y			Q Q Q	Q Q Q	R R NR	R R R	Q Q Q	R R NE	R R R	Y
Cook Circuit Court (Clay vacancy) Kathaleen Theresa Lanahan (D) Jonathan Clark Green (D) Michael I. O’Malley (D) Lori Ann Roper (D)	31/31			Y		Q Q NR NR	Q Q Q Q	R R R R	R R R NR	Q Q Q NR	R R NR R	R R R R	Y
Cook Circuit Court (Dooling vacancy) Tom Sam Sianis (D) Timothy John Leeming (D) Corri Diane Fetman (D)	31/31		Y	Y		Q Q NR	Q Q NR	R R NR	R R NR	Q Q NR	NE Q NR	R R NR	Y
Cook Circuit Court (Egan vacancy) Rosa Maria Silva (D)	31/31					Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Y
Cook Circuit Court (Dunford vacancy) Thomas F. McGuire (D)				Y		Q	Q	R	R	Q	NR	R	
Cook Circuit Court (Flanagan vacancy) Amanda Moira Pillsbury (D) Preston Jones Jr. (D) Keely Patricia Hillison (D) Ioana Salajanu (D)	31/31	Y				Q HQ Q NR	NQ Q Q Q	NR R NR R	R R NR NR	NQ Q NR NR	NE R NR R	R R NR NR	Y
Cook Circuit Court (Hartigan vacancy) Cecilia Anne Horan (D) Keith L. Spence (D)	31/31					Q NR	Q NQ	R NR	R NR	Q NQ	R NE	R R	Y

	WCT	PPAC	IVI	CNOW	RC	CBA	CCL	CCBA	DSL	ISBA	LGB	WB	BJVG
Cook Circuit Court (Jordan vacancy) Clare Joyce Quish (D) Jerry Barrido (D) Patrick Dankwa John (D)	31/31		Y			Q Q NR	Q Q NQ	R R NE	R R R	Q Q Q	R NE NE	R R R	Y
Cook Circuit Court (McGinnis vacancy) Brian Terrence Sexton (D) Peter Michael Gonzalez (D) Bradley R. Trowbridge (D)	31/31 31/31	Y	Y	Y		HQ Q Q	NQ NQ Q	NR R R	R R R	Q Q Q	NE NE NE	R R R	Y
Cook Circuit Court (Rooney vacancy) Jack Hagerty (D) Mable Taylor (D)	31/31	Y		Y		HQ NR	Q NR	R NR	R NR	Q NR	NR NR	R NR	Y
Cook Circuit Court-1st Sub (Hambright, Jr. vacancy) Litricia Payne (D) Erika Orr (D)	31/31 31/31	Y	Y			Q Q	Q Q	R R	NR R	Q Q	R NE	R R	Y
Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub (Lampkin vacancy) Tiana Ellis Blakely (D) Fredrick H. Bates (D)	31/31	Y	Y	Y		Q Q	Q Q	R HR	R R	Q Q	HR HR	R R	Y
Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub (Laws vacancy) William H. Laws (D) Adrienne Elaine Davis (D)	31/31	Y	Y	Y		Q HQ	Q Q	R R	R R	Q Q	HR HR	R R	Y
Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub (Rhodes vacancy) Toya T. Harvey (D) Tiesha L. Smith (D)	31/31	Y				HQ NR	Q NR	R NR	R NR	Q NR	R NR	R NR	Y
Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub (Turner, Jr. vacancy) Travis Richardson (D) Ieshia Gray (D)				Y		Q Q	WQ Q	R R	R R	Q Q	R R	R R	Y
Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub (Willis vacancy) Debra A. Seaton (D) Sheree D. Henry (D) Ubi O’Neal (D)	30/31	Y	Y	Y		HQ Q NR	Q Q NR	R R NR	HR R NR	Q Q NR	R NE NR	R R NR	Y
Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub (Turner vacancy) Devlin Schoop (D) Arthur Wesley Willis (D)						Q NR	WQ Q	R R	R R	Q Q	HR R	R R	Y
Cook Circuit Court-3rd Sub (Delehanty vacancy) Patrick Thomas Stanton (D) Michael Hayes (D) Kevin Patrick Cunningham (D)						Q NR Q	Q NQ Q	R NE R	R R R	Q NQ Q	R R R	R R R	Y
Cook Circuit Court-4th Sub (Davy vacancy) David R. Navarro (D) Caroline Jamieson Golden (D)	31/31 31/31	Y				HQ HQ	WQ Q	R R	HR R	Q Q	HR R	R R	Y
Cook Circuit Court-4th Sub (Riley vacancy) John Andrew O’Meara (D) Elizabeth Ciaccia-Lezza (D) Danny Collins (D) Martin D. Reggi (D)	31/31			Y		HQ Q Q NR	Q Q Q	R R R	R R R	Q Q Q	R NE R	R R	Y

	WCT	PPAC	IVI	CNOW	RC	CBA	CCL	CCBA	DSL	ISBA	LGB	WB	BJVG		WCT	PPAC	IVI	CNOW	RC	CBA	CCL	CCBA	DSL	ISBA	LGB	WB	BJVG
Cook Circuit Court-5th Sub (Banks vacancy)														Cook Circuit Court-10th Sub (Suriano vacancy)													
Rhonda Sallee (D)						NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		Colleen Reardon Daly (D)	31/31	Y		Y		Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Y
H. Yvonne Coleman (D)	31/31		Y			Q	Q	HR	R	Q		Y		Noreen Patricia Connolly (D)						NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
Gino Betts (D)						NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		Gerald Cleary (D)	31/31					HQ	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	
Gwendolyn D. Anderson (D)						NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		Jill Rose Quinn (D)	31/31	Y	Y			Q	NQ	R	R	Q	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-5th Sub (Jones vacancy)														Thomas J. Gabryszewski (D)						NR	Q	R	R	NQ	R		
Marian Emily Perkins (D)			Y			NR	Q	HR	R	Q	R	R		Cook Circuit Court-11th Sub (Kennedy vacancy)													
Jenetia Marshall (D)						NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		Joanne F. Rosado (D)	31/31	Y	Y	Y		Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Y
David L. Kelly (D)						Q	Q	R	R	Q		Y		Scott J. Frankel (D)						HQ	WQ	R	R	Q			
Cook Circuit Court-5th Sub (Washington, II vacancy)														Cook Circuit Court-12th Sub (Maki vacancy)													
Robert Harris (D)			Y			HQ	Q	R	R	Q	NE	R	Y	David Studenroth (R)						Q	Q	R	HR	Q	R	R	Y
Shay Tyrone Allen (D)						NR	NQ	R	NR	NQ	NE	R		Alan M. Jacob (R)						NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
Mary Alice Melchor (D)						NR	NQ	R	R	NQ	R	R		Joel Chupack (D)	31/31	Y	Y			HQ	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Y
Cook Circuit Court-6th Sub (Chevere vacancy)														Carmine Trombetta (D)						NR	Q	R	R	Q	R		
David C. Herrera (D)	31/31					NR	NQ	R	R	Q	R	R		Thomas Raymond Molitor (D)						NR	Q	R	NR	NQ			
Kent Delgado (D)	31/31	Y	Y	Y		HQ	WQ	R	HR	HQ		Y		Cook Circuit Court-13th Sub (Crane vacancy)						Q	Q	R	R	Q		R	Y
Sean Patrick Kelly (D)	31/31					NR	NQ	NR	NR	NQ		R		Gary William Seyring (R)						Q	Q	NR	R	Q		R	
Cook Circuit Court-6th Sub (Cooke vacancy)														Susanne Groebner (R)						Q	Q	R	HR	HQ	HR	R	Y
Edward J. Underhill (D)	31/31					Q	Q	R	HR	Q	HR	R	Y	Ketki “Kay” Steffen (D)						Q	Q	R					
Charles “Charlie” Beach (D)	31/31		Y	Y	Y	Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R		Cook Circuit Court-13th Sub (Lawrence vacancy)													
Andrea Michelle Webber (D)						Q	Q	R	R	Q	HR	R		Daniel Patrick Fitzgerald (R)						NR	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-6th Sub (Lopez Cepero vacancy)														Micahel Perry Gerber (R)						HQ	Q	R	HR	HQ	NE	R	Y
Linda Perez (D)						Q	Q	HR	R	NQ		R		Shannon P. O’Malley (D)	31/31					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
Stephanie K. Miller (D)	31/31		Y	Y		Q	Q	R	R	Q	HR	R	Y	Cook Circuit Court-13th Sub (O'Donnell vacancy)													
Cook Circuit Court-8th Sub (Fabri vacancy)														Christine Svenson (R)						NR	Q	NR	R	Q		R	Y
James “Jamie” Shapiro (D)	31/31	Y	Y			HQ	Q	R	R	Q	NE	R	Y	Sameul J. Betar III (D)	31/31					HQ	Q	R	R	Q			
Stephen J. Feldman (D)						Q	NQ	NR	NR	Q	NE	R		Cook Circuit Court-14th Sub (Garcia vacancy)													
Robin Denise Shoffner (D)				Y		Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R		Marina E. Ammendola (D)						HQ	Q	R	R	Q	HR	R	Y
John Christopher Benson (D)						Q	Q	R	R	Q	NE	R		Beatriz A. Frausto-Sandoval (D)	31/31					NR	NQ		NR	NQ			
Bonnie C. McGrath (D)	31/31	Y				NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		Cook Circuit Court-15th Sub (Scully, Jr. vacancy)													
Cook Circuit Court-8th Sub (Liu vacancy)														Ashonta Rice-Akiwowo (D)						NR	NQ	R	R	NQ	R	R	
Lindsay Hugu (D)	31/31		Y			Q	Q	NE	HR	Q	R	R		Michael B. Barrett (D)						HQ	Q	R	R	Q	NE	R	Y
Michael A. Forti (D)	31/31	Y				Q	Q	R	R	Q	NE	R		Cook Circuit Court-15th Sub (Zelezinski vacancy)													
Cyrus Hosseini (D)						NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		Karla Marie Fiaoni (R)						HQ	Q	R	NR	NQ			
Athena A. Farmakis (D)	31/31					Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Y	Anthony C. Swanagan (D)						Q	Q	R	R	NQ	R	NR	
Cook Circuit Court-8th Sub (Pethers vacancy)														Scott McKenna (D)						Q	Q	R	R	Q	NE	R	Y
Jeanne Marie Wrenn (D)	31/31		Y			Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R		18th Circuit Court (Creswell vacancy)													
Myron “Mike” Mackoff (D)	31/31	Y		Y		Q	Q	R	HR	Q	HR	R	Y	Jeff Mackay (R)													
Rishi Agrawal (D)						Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R		Linda E. Davenport (D)	30/31												
Cook Circuit Court-10th Sub (O'Neill Burke vacancy)																											
Stephanie Saltouros (D)	31/31	Y		Y		Q	Q	R	R	Q	HR	R	Y														
Gwyn E. Ward Brown (D)	29/31					Q	Q	R	NR	NQ																	
Lorraine Murphy (D)			Y			NR	Q	R	R	Q	HR																

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.

A large, stylized word "VOTE" in a playful, rounded font. Each letter has a different color gradient: 'V' is pink to yellow, 'O' is yellow to green, 'T' is green to blue, and 'E' is blue to brown.

**Get to the polls Tuesday, March 20
or take part in early voting.
See chicagoelections.com for more
information on voting options in
Chicago.**

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

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

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

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 Over-



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

seas 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

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

ris (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.

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Top row, left to right: Cecilia Horan; Andy Kirchoff; Mike McHale; Stephanie Miller; Kevin Morrison. Center row, left to right: Jill Quinn; Mary Colleen Roberts; Lamont Robinson; Daniel Roldan-Johnson; Debra Shore. Bottom row, left to right: Maggie Trevor; Brad Trowbridge; Ed Underhill; Sam Yingling.

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

—Cecilia 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

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

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 (Suarion Vacancy)

Website: VoteJillRoseQuinn.com

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

—Mary Colleen Roberts

Race: Circuit Court of Cook County

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

—Lamont Robinson

Race: Illinois state representative (5th District)

Website: www.votelamontrobinson.com

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

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

—Daniel Roldán-Johnson

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

Website: VoteRoldan.com

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

—Debra Shore

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: 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

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.)

What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

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

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

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

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

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

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

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

I'm active, not unaware.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.


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

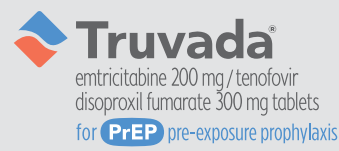
- ♦ TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- ♦ You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

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

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MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
 - **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
 - **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
 - **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

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

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

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

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

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

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

IMPORTANT FACTS

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

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

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

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

GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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Version date: April 2017

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Annise Parker looks to 2018 midterms

BY MATT SIMONETTE

According to former Houston Mayor Annise Parker, who now heads the political organization the Victory Fund, “this is a going to be a watershed year” for the LGBT candidates across the nation whom the Fund has endorsed.

“We have more candidates than ever that are clamoring for endorsements, and we think a lot of them are going to win,” said Parker, who is lesbian.

Founded in 1991, Victory Fund is dedicated to the election of LGBT politicians at all levels of government, though Parker, who became CEO and president in 2017, said that local races are quite often the Fund’s “bread and butter.” The organization both endorses qualified candidates and, under the auspices of its Victory Institute division, regularly holds political trainings for LGBT leaders and allies.

Parker expects the Fund to support about 150-200 candidates over the course of 2018. “We’ve already endorsed 64. There are 50 LGBT candidates running just in the state of Texas. We have three candidates running for governorships. We have two candidates for Senate, including [U.S. Sen.] Tammy Baldwin [D-Wisconsin] running for

re-election. We’ve already endorsed 13 Congressional candidates. There are a slew of other ones that don’t have primaries, so we’re waiting on them.”

Baldwin is “the poster child” for strategizing a political career in the manner the Fund recommends for LGBT candidates, noted Parker. “She has done exactly what one hopes a candidate will do—starting at the local level, being a county commissioner, being a council member, moving to the statehouse, moving to Congress, moving up to Senate. She’s an experienced politician who would thrive at all levels of government.”

Baldwin faces tough political opposition in 2018, but, according to Parker, she “knows what she’s doing. Hers will probably be the most expensive of [the races in which the Fund endorses a candidate], but it probably won’t be the hardest race.”

Among the four Illinois candidates who’ve earned the Fund’s endorsement are Lamont Robinson, who’s vying for the 5th District seat vacated by state Rep. Juliana Stratton; Cook County Judges Cecilia Horan and Michael Forti; and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore.

Parker pointed to the historic importance of



Annisa Parker.
Publicity photo

Robinson’s candidacy since, were he to win, he would be the first openly LGBT person of color serving in the General Assembly.

“We’re working with a number of allied organizations—Planned Parenthood, AFL-CIO, Chicago Teachers Union. Labor and progressive groups are coalescing behind Lamont,” she said.

Lighthouse Church distributes hand warmers

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

The church did this 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.

See LighthouseChicago.org. Photo courtesy of Pastor Jamie Frazier



Rev. Jamie Frazier (left).
Photo courtesy of Frazier

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ELECTIONS 2018:
U.S. CONGRESS (5TH DISTRICT)

Mike Quigley: Staunch LGBT ally aims for another term

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Congressman Mike Quigley is known for many things—including his passion for LGBT rights. Among other things, he is vice-chair of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus and is a founding member of the Transgender Equality Task Force. A hockey enthusiast, he even played that sport during the Gay Games when the event was in Chicago in 2006.

As he contends for yet another term (having been first elected to Congress in 2009), he talked with Windy City Times about his platforms and dedication to equality, among other things.

Windy City Times: You've done quite a few things on behalf of LGBT rights.

Mike Quigley: I guess I don't have to be introduced to the community. Working as a staffer for an alderman in the '80s and helping to start the Halsted Street Merchants and the [gay pride] parade. I was a Cook County commissioner for 10 years and helping to pass domestic-relationship benefits for county workers. Now, it's like "Of course!"—but this was 20 years ago. It only passed by one vote.

WCT: It's interesting to see how far things have come.

MQ: I tell people, "It's the best of times, it's the worst of times." It's amazing progress but, at the same time, it seems like we're moving backward in a hurry. We passed gender identity [protection], which now seems way ahead of its time. However, there's painfully slow progress on the blood ban. We actually got Obama's FDA folks to make some changes, but there's still progress to be made—that's for sure.

WCT: With the way things are structured in Congress right now, are things in gridlock for the LGBT community?

MQ: Well, you're not going to codify equality. You can still get fired in this country because of your orientation [or gender identity]. It's important to have allies. We founded the Trans Equality Task Force, which is helping other communities to understand issues in the trans community.

It's not just resisting; it's continuing to move forward, educating the public and building alliances. Even if this administration was great on equality issues with the community, we would all still be unified in the fact that he's racist, misogynistic and anti-immigrant. Discrimination against one group of Americans is discrimination against all.

These policy problems have political solutions. I was very proud to be part of changing the rules on HOPWA. I've been proud of my victories in Appropriations. Instead of playing defense, we

playing offense on things such as Ryan White, Planned Parenthood and the ACA. If we flip the House [with midterm elections], things become a lot more fun. Hopefully, this time next year, we'll talk about a blueprint for change.

Think about how much we got done with the little less than two years that we were the majority in the House and Senate, and Obama in the White House. We repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," we passed the healthcare law, we passed the climate-change bill, we passed Lilly Ledbetter so women could get paid equally.

America needed a civics lesson—that elections have consequences. The Trump administration promised to be LGBTQ-friendly. I'm looking at a picture that I have a hard time describing: candidate Trump holding up a rainbow flag—"LGBTs for Trump." They just didn't fulfill those promises; they went to war on them.

Also, there's been very little media attention on his anti-LGBTQ record. They're talking about Russia and the latest crazy tweet instead. Part of my mission is to [spotlight] his anti-LGBTQ record and to make sure LGBTQ issues get their due time.

WCT: There are LGBTQ people who still support Trump. What do you say to them?

MQ: Basically, I'd say what the hell does he have to do to get you to understand that he's openly hate-filled, bigoted, misogynistic, xenophobic and homophobic—in word and deed? He's changing the face of our country to the rest of the world that we're no longer welcoming, caring—that we were an idea and an ideal.

However, I think there are just some people we can't get to. I don't know what's deep inside them. I'm messaging the person who stayed home and isn't/wasn't engaged, or the person who hasn't made up their mind on all these things. When all this is over, we have to remind ourselves that there's more that unites us than divides us. We can't use the hate-filled rhetoric of Trump; we must concentrate on unifying. The Constitution is supposed to protect everybody.

It just isn't an LGBTQ issue. It's supposed to be "justice for all."

WCT: Let me play devil's advocate: Let's say the House is not flipped. How do you, as an individual, and the Democrats, as a party, move forward?

MQ: I'm a Cubs fan so I have to stay optimistic. [Interviewer laughs.]

The worst-case scenario is that we don't flip the House but it's close. The Republicans would need Democratic votes to get funding. So I could say, "Hey, if you want Democratic votes, then you're going to fully fund Planned Parenthood



Congressman Mike Quigley.

Photo courtesy of Quigley's office

and the issues of justice." I'm prepared to use the leverage I have—and I think that leverage would increase even if we didn't flip because the Republicans are divided between the Tea Party and what's left of the moderates. I will use as much leverage as I have to help the community as much as possible. Strategy!

WCT: Gun violence has become a hot-button issue recently. What do you think should be done to curb violence? Background checks? A weapons ban?

MQ: There are two things I'm focused on. First, you don't need an assault weapon with a 30-round clip to hunt deer. The bump stocks, the multi-ammunition clip, the assault weapons—those should all be banned. Those are not part of

the Second Amendment.

We need to recognize balance as a public-health issue. We have virtually eradicated public-health scourges in our lifetime, like polio. Universal access to mental-health help is needed. How many tragedies could've been prevented if that help was available.

Violence is a public-health issue. How we treat that gets to the core of the problem. Reasonable methods to dramatically increase gun control, enforcing existing matters and prosecuting those who are trafficking into our neighborhoods—but, ultimately, we need to get to the core of the problem and put research dollars there.

See <https://quigleyforcongress.com/>.

Precious Minds project seeks to mentor youth

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

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

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

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

Contact Executive Director Keonza Phillips at 773-272-5463 or phillipskeonza22@gmail.com.

ELECTIONS 2018:
U.S. CONGRESS (5TH DISTRICT)

Benjamin Thomas Wolf: Candidate talks marijuana, LGBT issues, abuse charge

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Benjamin Thomas Wolf—one of three people challenging Congressman Mike Quigley in the March 20 Democratic primary—is no everyday candidate.

The home page of his campaign website shows this, as there's an image of Wolf sitting in front of a painting holding a marijuana joint. However, there are many other items that distinguish Wolf from the rest of the pack, ranging from his background (including having worked for the FBI and as a diplomat) to having made news regarding abuse allegations and even advertising on a porn site.

Windy City Times: What do you feel the incumbent is not doing, or is doing wrong?

Benjamin Thomas Wolf: Great question. So he's been in office for eight years—and, in that time, he's never successfully passed or sponsored a piece of legislation. He also doesn't represent this district the way he should. The average [person] in this district is 33 years old. These are people who want universal healthcare (which he doesn't want), they want legalized cannabis (which, again, he's not pushing for), they want free tuition options for people who have tons of school debt. These are three of our top priorities—none of which he's supporting.

WCT: Zoning in on the cannabis aspect, are you concerned that some people might not take you as seriously?

BTW: I thought that might be true, but it's our most popular platform, on all levels. The elderly want it as medicine, the middle-aged want it because it brings revenue to our state, the young people want it for medicine and recreationally, and the Republicans want it because it can bail out this entire state. It can help with criminal-justice reform. All aspects of it are so wonderful, and Illinois has an opportunity to be the first state in the Midwest to legalize it—and bring billions here. We could be the Colorado of the Midwest.

And as a cannabis user—which is strange, because I'm a former federal agent—I can tell you it's a wonderful substance. I think it's one of the biggest issues in the country.

WCT: Why don't you support the ACA?

BTW: I do not support the ACA. I think healthcare in any form is great, but I think every person should have a basic healthcare option that should be provided to them free of charge. Universal healthcare works.

WCT: Does that involve taking a lot out of people's paychecks?

BTW: Not a lot—and that's where the cannabis comes in. And I think if you gave people the option of [slightly] higher taxes in exchange for

free healthcare, 90 percent of people would take it.

WCT: You've had a lot of different occupations. Is there any one particular one that you feel helps your campaign more than any other?

BTW: I would have to say that having been a United States diplomat has helped me more than any other. It gave me a global perspective, and it taught me about talking with people—talking about legislation, diplomatic affairs. It also taught me about working with people you don't want to work with—and that's the job of a congressman; you work with people in other parties and come to viable solutions.

WCT: What's your biggest advantage and disadvantage in this race?

BTW: I'll start with my biggest disadvantage, which is that I've only been in Chicago for five years. I don't have the foundations that the incumbent has here—but I was overseas serving our country.

My biggest advantage is that I've been working harder than him [Quigley]. We gathered more signatures, we're talking to more people, we're canvassing more neighborhoods. I think I have youth on my side, and I think people are looking for change right now.

WCT: Regarding President Trump, you told the Chicago Tribune that there wasn't one thing he had done that you support. Do you still feel that way?

BTW: There's has been no policy or agenda that he has brought forth that the public supports. The only silver lining is that he will cause a lot more people to organize and run for office and to vote—and that's where we want people to be. These elections will probably have the highest voter turnout in history, and I love it. He's making people care again.

WCT: Let's say you win your race, but that midterm elections favor the Republicans overall. How would you work with them?

BTW: When, not if, we win this primary, one of the things our campaign staffers will do is go around the country and help other Democrats. This is a Democratic district, so that won't be an issue here. I think Democrats should help other Democrats, and then work with Republicans and independents to pass legislation that actually helps people.

WCT: But if there is constant gridlock in Congress, with people voting along party lines, what do you do?

BTW: There are two answers to that question. Firstly, I've worked for two FBI directors, four secretaries of state; I've worked with Republicans and Democrats. I understand all aspects of the political spectrum so I'd like to think that I can work across the aisle.



Benjamin Thomas Wolf.
Publicity photo

But more importantly, I'm not here to negotiate with them; I'm here to lead them where they need to be. The only solution is for young, smart progressives like me to pull things all the way back to the left to [counter] the president, who is negotiating all the way to the right. This Congress is the least effective in history, and that's incredibly sad. We need to expect more from our elected officials.

WCT: Switching to gun violence, what do you think should be done to curb it? Ban assault weapons? Increased background checks?

BTW: All of the above. We released a commercial and video with me holding an AR-15 assault rifle. There is no place for that type of weapon. These are machines designed to kill people with 30-round magazines. And arming teachers is ludicrous.

WCT: What do you feel is the biggest hurdle for the LGBT community?

BTW: The biggest issue is to ensure that equality remains. There has been a lot of legislation passed, and marriage is legal in many states.

WCT: Well, it's legal across the country.

BTW: Well ... yes, but there are still places that won't recognize it. I do think it's important to keep pushing for equality regarding child-rearing, and to make sure it continues to evolve with the social issues of today.

WCT: In your Windy City Times questionnaire, you commented that you saw LGBT people being arrested in the Middle East...

BTW: So I worked in the Middle East for many years in the State Department, and things do not favor the LGBTQ community there. There are places like Saudi Arabia, where you can be incarcerated and prosecuted. We need to push the idea of equality around the world—something this presidency is holding us back from doing.

WCT: If you had a couple minutes with the president, what's one question you would ask him?

BTW: [Pauses] That's a great question. I'd ask

him something [about] how he sees his presidency changing the world and how does he see it helping humanity. What good can come from this presidency? I'm not sure he could answer that. I'd have to ask him about his legacy.

Addendum: Days after this interview took place, media outlets reported allegations that Wolf had a history of abusing women and padding his resume.

Politico (in an article at <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/03/07/ben-wolf-illinois-congress-candidate-444371>) reported that Katarina Coates, who interned for Wolf, said that he was physically and emotionally abusive. According to the article, she was not the only one who complained about him—with Wolf's actions having him banned from the grounds at DePaul University.

Windy City Times asked Wolf about the alleged abuse as well as exaggerating his resume. Wolf centered on Coates, replying, "That woman was arrested by CPD [Chicago Police Department] for harassing me and my family. I had an emergency restraining order against her granted by a judge and four police reports showing electronic, personal harassment [sic] and entering my building. She had to be removed from our campaign. She has a severe mental illness. The police have dealt with her. 'I have all the documents.'"

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

For an interview with 5th Congressional District candidate Sameena Mustafa, please see WCT's website. The interview was conducted after WCT's deadline. Also, interviews with Democratic attorney general candidates will be posted online later this week.

viewpoints



**Dana
RUDOLPH**

MOMBIAN

LGBTQ-inclusive kids' books: Resources, actions

One of the most common questions I see from new LGBTQ parents is "Where can I find LGBTQ-inclusive books for my kids?" Here's one resource you should know—along with some thoughts on the state of LGBTQ-inclusive kids' books.

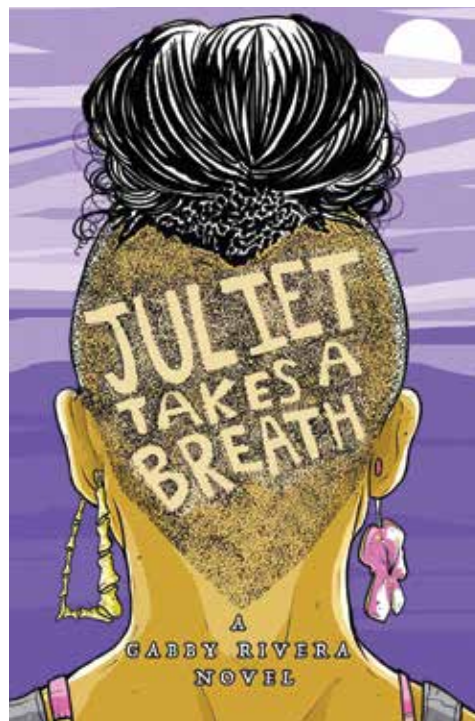
The American Library Association's latest annual Rainbow Book List, announced last month, is intended "to aid youth and those working with youth in selecting high-quality books" that have "significant and authentic GLBTQ content." It includes nearly 50 fiction and nonfiction titles for infants through young adults, from 18 publishers (glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks).

The Rainbow List committee said on its website that this year they "noted an increase in a range of gender and sexual identities across the queer spectrum," including books that explored asexuality, bisexuality, and gender fluidity. A number of books also included stronger treatments of the intersections of race, class and disability. One negative, though, was a decline in novels with explicitly transgender characters.

I also noticed the worrying trend that only two of the books featured families with LGBTQ parents. Last year's list had only three. That's not the list's fault; for the past several years, published books about children with LGBTQ parents have been scarce (especially for younger ages), and stories about LGBTQ children and youth (particularly transgender and genderqueer ones) have been in the ascendant. Prior to that, it was the other way around, and I am glad publishers have been redressing the imbalance. Going forward, however, I hope more publishers can put out multiple books within a year that cover both (and more) aspects of our community.

There are other gaps to address, too. Writer and activist Alli Harper, in a January piece at M Is for Movement, wrote of the need for more "everyday" kids' books featuring same-sex parents—ones that aren't "issue based," i.e., "about or focused on the existence of the same-sex parents."

That's an approach I've also been trying to uplift for years. But as the Rainbow List shows, children's books with same-sex parents (or any LGBTQ parents, for that matter), issue-based or not, have been few in recent years, especially from major publish-



Juliet Takes a Breath, which was on the 2017 Rainbow Books List.

ers with marketing and distribution power. Harper rightly calls on the publishing behemoths to step up.

Some progress has been made through a number of books that show families with same-sex parents doing everyday things as part of a celebration of many types of families. These books are critical, both at home and in schools, where "Family" often forms a curriculum unit in younger grades. But we can't confine children's encounters with LGBTQ families to brief glimpses like this, however important it is for them to see us there.

The difficulty with "everyday" books, too, is that even when published, they may not be catalogued as having LGBTQ content, and thus escape the notice of many who want them. (The upside, though, is that such books may inadvertently be picked up by families who could benefit from the windows they open.) This speaks to the need for increased communication between publishers, librarians and the wider LGBTQ community.

And although Harper focuses on the need for "everyday books," she also acknowledges "We must increase content across the board." That bears repeating. Children can still benefit from books that address specific situations kids of LGBTQ parents (and LGBTQ children) may encounter, and from non-fiction books that explore queer culture and history.

There is still a role, too, for smaller presses and

self-published works. The small, feminist Lollipop Power Press, for example, published the very first LGBTQ-inclusive children's book, Jane Severance's *When Megan Went Away* (1979). Smaller publishers may feel more able to take a chance on content that is potentially controversial or that may (at least initially) speak to a niche audience.

Reflecting on all this, I would offer these actions and ideas:

—If you're a children's author, write books that include LGBTQ people and families—both "everyday" stories and (if you have the expertise) ones that thoughtfully cover aspects of LGBTQ families' specific experiences. First, however, read what's already out there so you don't duplicate what exists. Seek advice from other authors and professional organizations if you're new to the field.

—If you're a teacher or librarian, get these books into your collections. Visit welcomingschools.org for advice if you're worried about negative reactions from parents or administrators.

—If you're a parent or anyone with a kid in your life, and have the means, buy these books for them. Ask your local library and/or bookstores to stock them.

—Submit the names of new, LGBTQ-inclusive titles to the Rainbow Book List for consideration. (Note that they do not accept recommendations from authors, publishers, agents, or anyone who could gain directly from the recommendation.)

—Rate and review these books at your favorite online bookstore(s).

—If you work at a literary agency or children's publisher, seek stories that feature LGBTQ people and families, and actively market them to LGBTQ families. (They can and should be read by more than just us, but we'll be a loyal and fervent cheering squad.) Reach out to national and local LGBTQ parent groups or community centers to connect with families who can act as a sounding board and source of ideas.

For those seeking LGBTQ-inclusive children's books, try:

—Rainbow Book List: As mentioned above.

—My own annotated selections at mombian.com.

—Rainbow Family Collections, by Jamie Campbell Naidoo, an extensive annotated list (through its 2012 publication date) for children up to grade five.

—Welcoming Schools book lists: welcomingschools.org.

Let's do what we can to spread and grow the stories.

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



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Mr. Leather 64TEN at Jackhammer.

THEATER

Looking for a fight: Art as disruption in 'Seven Fights'

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

"Have you ever punched anyone in the face?" an actor—coincidentally, the biggest on the stage—asks the audience at the start of the show *A Story Told in Seven Fights*, his query quickly followed by, "Have you ever *wanted* to punch somebody in the face?"

This is not a frivolous question, since one of the three stories promised in the title is that of Gilded Age Swiss playboy Arthur Cravan. Not content with the notoriety arising from his familial connection to the scandal-besieged Oscar Wilde (married to Cravan's aunt Constance), the incorrigible bad boy cultivated a public image based in the exaggerated masculinity associated with exotic foreign cultures like our own Wild West, proclaimed in spontaneous displays of pugilism and even going so far as a boxing match with the African-American heavyweight champion Jack Johnson.

Such Rimbaudian audacity inevitably drew the attention of experimental artists also bent on unsettling what they deemed a status quo in need of a good punch in the you-know-what. These rebels included the Dadaists and the Surrealists, whose progress—under the self-appointed leadership of, respectively, Tristan Tzara and Andre Breton—was rendered divisive from its very outset by the inevitable dissent characterizing ideologies predicated on the rejection of reason and order.

The third story finds its inspiration in a faction

almost bereft of textual reference: the Italian Futurists, whose manifesto confers permission on the play's performers, as well as the personae, to express their opinions on the topics under discussion. Since the ensemble for this Neo-Futurist production encompasses a diversity of genders and ethnicities, this ensures a variety of observations on the concept of provocation as art, the boundaries of that provocation and the propensity of angry youth to embrace the former before coming up against the latter.

"The world that artists occupied at the beginning of the 20th century is very similar to ours," said Trevor Dawkins, credited in the playbill as the play's author, "Their response to tumultuous changes in Europe and North America was to assume increasingly radical positions regarding their role in society. This, in turn, affected how they engaged with one another."

Director Tony Santiago concurred, saying, "How often do we hear people say 'Fight for what you believe in!'—but what does that mean? We wanted to explore what makes people turn to violence, when words aren't enough, and whether, in fact, that moves us closer to our goals, or farther away."

Don't come expecting a stunt-show, though, warned fight choreographer Gaby Labotka, who told *Windy City Times*, "The conversation is about art as *disruption*, and our stage combat is merely the vehicle for that conversation." She cited, as an example, a fight scene depicting the premiere of the Ballets Russes *Romeo et Juliette* in 1926, where the costumes and scenery were designed by surrealist artists Joan Miro and Max Ernst, but

was interrupted when Andre Breton and his cohorts, who disapproved of their modern art being employed in service of what they felt was a bourgeois capitalist venture, proceeded to create such a disturbance that the production had to be stopped.

So what is Dawkins' purpose in resurrecting these historical events? "I think there are valuable lessons for us, today, to be learned from looking at groups trying to solve a common problem with conflicting strategies. What actions—inciting riots, attacking strangers on the street—are likely to succeed in bringing about the paradigm shift we want, and which ones are doomed to failure?"

The question that Labotka felt we need to ask ourselves was "Why were artists and audiences of that time so *ready* to fight, compared to now? What changed?"

A Story Told in Seven Fights runs through Saturday, April 7, at 5153 N. Ashland Ave. For further information, contact 773-878-4557 or Neofuturists.org.



Stephanie Shum in
A Story Told in Seven Fights.
Photo by Joe Mazza



South slide

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WCT reviews the production *Plantation!*

Photo of Linsey Page Morton, Lily Mojekwu and Ericka Ratcliff by Liz Lauren

THEATER REVIEW

Kingdom

Playwright: Michael Allen Harris
 At: Broken Nose Theatre at the Den,
 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.
 Tickets: Pay-what-you-can
 Runs through: April 7

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Our paradisiacal realm might be a commercially crafted amusement park in Florida encircled by the hostile culture endemic to that gulf-rim state, but the magic empowering true love and lovers is no less efficacious for being cobbled from the gospel according to Batman and Walt Disney, augmented by folk wisdom, astrology and Everglades voodoo.

The cataclysm in Michael Allen Harris' play precipitating crisis, ironically, is the 2015 legalization of same-sex marriage. Though viewed as a significant step on the road to social enlightenment, its initial implementation proved no de-



Watson Swift and
 RjW Mays in
 Kingdom.
 Photo by
 Devon Green

terrent to a heritage of xenophobia condoning systematic discrimination against demographics threatening the status quo.

Arthur and Henry Brown share a triple-whammy demographic. Not only are they African-American and gay, but old enough to have recently fled the harassment encountered in assisted-living facilities. At present, the forty-years-together couple are living in Arthur's house under the care of his

children by an early het marriage. These include ex-gangbanger Phaedra and Disneyworld marketer Alexander (Southern United States regions share a fondness for names reflecting classical myth) both of whom are, coincidentally, also gay.

A dramatic universe in which white, heterosexual and fully franchised are qualities restricted to offstage personnel is a cosmology rarely invoked, even in 2018, so Harris cannot be faulted for tak-

ing advantage of this opportunity to reference issues involving covert denial of civil rights/public services in addition to the personal struggles engendered by guilt and remorse: Phaedra's attempt to forge a stable relationship with her damaged sweetheart, Alexander's alcoholism following his bisexual ex-lover's retreat to the closet (cf. NFL athlete Michael Sam), Arthur's anger and disappointment at Henry's refusal to formalize their marital status, despite the latter's diagnosis of prostate cancer.

This is enough backstory to fuel a dozen plays (or a two-season television series, at least), but never does our attention waver during the two hours necessary to bring the challenges confronting this troubled clan to a satisfactory conclusion. Commendations are due Harris' earthy dialogue and Kanome Jones' brisk-paced direction, but what ensures our immediate empathy is the chemistry exhibited by Christopher McMorris and Watson Swift, who expand the boundaries of geerly mannerisms to endow Arthur and Henry with a romantic warmth to be envied at any age.

THEATER REVIEW

Time Is on Our Side

Playwright: R. Eric Thomas
 At: Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
 Tickets: 773-975-8150;
 AboutFaceTheatre.com; \$20-\$38
 Runs through: April 7

BY KERRY REID

History may be written by the victors, as Winston Churchill observed. But who actually owns it? That's the intriguing question at the heart of R. Eric Thomas' *Time Is on Our Side*, now in a sturdy Midwest premiere with About Face Theatre under

Megan Carney's direction.

Annie (Maggie Scranton) and Curtis (Rashaad Hall) are friends and co-hosts of a Philadelphia podcast aimed at uncovering hidden history, particularly from a queer perspective. But when Annie discovers her late grandmother's diary—and its implications that Grandma led a secret lesbian life—she shies away from going public. From her viewpoint, it's her family's story. But Curtis argues that the story belongs to all of them as a relic of when being closeted was the default setting for so many gay men and women.

Curtis' interest in Grandma Gisella's secrets also has a less-noble motivation, at least initially. He wants to partner with Fatimah, Annie's ex-partner and a producer at NPR, to take their podcast

to the next professional level. Meantime, their friends Rene (Esteban Andres Cruz) and Claudia (Riley Mondragon) drop bread crumbs of wisdom and revelation. (Rene teaching Curtis, who has been partnered since college, the finer points of cruising for sex in the park is a comic highlight.) Cruz and Mondragon also shine as older gay men who fill in historical blanks for Annie and Curtis.

Thomas has a wry and puckish wit that occasionally veers into self-conscious dialogue. (The characters sometimes sound a lot like each other.) Some of the narrative threads, such as an early teaser about Annie's home (formerly Gisella's) also being a stop on the Underground Railroad, feel shoehorned in for the sake of making symbolic historical equivalences.

But Carney's cast brings warmth and honesty to the story. Hall's Curtis is calculating, but we also sense that uncovering Annie's family history is a way of making up for being rejected by his own grandfather—a prominent African-American journalist who can't accept Curtis' sexuality.

It's also fascinating to see Annie especially—a woman who works for the historical society and is from the share-everything-in-public generation—come to terms with revealing the compromises her grandmother made. Thomas' script telegraphs some of the final revelations, but that doesn't impede the joy of watching this quartet of actors find their way through the fog of history into the light of grace and community.

THEATER REVIEW

Plantation!

At: Lookingglass Theatre,
 821 N. Michigan Ave.
 Tickets: Lookingglass Theatre.org; \$40-\$75.
 Runs through: April 22

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Imagine the Three Stooges dressed up in Klan robes, terrorizing a trio of Black women in the middle of the night, intent on making the women leave town in fear for their lives.

Now, play that scene as part of a banana-bonkers luff-riot farce, complete with slamming doors, slapstick pratfalls and cartoon-style mugging. So it goes in *Plantation!*, playwright Kevin Douglas' ultimately deplorable new "comedy."

The three African-American sisters are more than a match for the three Southern belles who don pillowcase hoods in the wee hours. But knowing the Black women from Chicago will have no problem vanquishing the sheet-draped Texans doesn't make Lookingglass Theatre's world premiere any more palatable.

Douglas' plot has potential: The story starts with the aptly named Lillian Wright (Janet Ulrich Brooks), matriarch of a Texas plantation that has been in her lily-white family for over a century. Except as Lillian learns, the family isn't so white after all. After hiring a genealogist, Lilian learns her great-great-great-grandfather sired a son with a slave named Sarah. Lilian tracks down Sarah's descendants to the Chicago Wright sisters: London (Lily Mojekwu), Madison (Timberlake Perry) and Sydney (Ericka Ratcliff). Lilian invites the three to Texas, intent on giving them the plantation as a form of reparations.

Predictably, Lilian's entitled, emotionally stunted daughters Kara (Linsey Page Morton), Kayley (Grace Smith) and Kimberly Wright (Louise Larson) are outraged. The issues Douglas raises are the stuff of potentially intense, intricate drama. But things go bad because *Plantation* plays like a mash-up of *Twelve Years a Slave* (the film comes up repeatedly) with *F-Troop*.

Director David Schwimmer exacerbates the disconnect, pushing the cast to milk an entire Guernsey from every over-the-top reaction and sight-gag. Collectively, the actors dial the slapstick up to 10. When the Klan robes come out, it

inches toward 12. Everyone is always "extra" (in the words of one character), buffooning their way through the blessedly short (90 minutes) endeavor. Not even the formidable powers of a uniformly gifted ensemble (Brooks and Mojekwu are not women to be trifled with).

There are two unimpeachable elements of *Plantation!* The first is scenic designer Courtney O'Neill's rendering of the titular home's interior. O'Neill's work will make you want to go home and redecorate (ideally minus oil paintings of slaves). From the built-in book shelves to the graceful, airy spaciousness, the Wright home is majestic.

The second comes toward the final moments, and deals with the portrait that's been glowering down on the proceedings throughout. Saying much more would be a spoiler, so just know that there's a nearly silent scene that brings a long-dead slave into sharp, heroic focus. It's a memorable manifestation of empowerment, especially the power of being fully seen after a lifetime of invisibility.

Powerful though that scene is, you can't play the Klan for yuks. Well, I suppose you can. But the results will be cringe-inducing.

CRITICS' PICKS

Surely Goodness and Mercy, Redtwist Theatre, through March 18. Beneath the surface sentimentality rendered in this portrait of humble citizens neglected by their peers and their society lies a wealth of savvy insight into practical solutions. MSB

Hedda! A Musical Conversation and Garbo, The Musical, Athenaeum Theatre, running in repertory through March 17. Two one-woman musicals mine Tinseltown gold with writer/director/star Jillann Gabrielle playing reclusive screen siren Greta Garbo and acid-tongued gossip columnist Hedda Hopper. CES

Anna Karenina, Lifeline Theatre, through April 8. Jennifer Wright Buha's tidy adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's epic novel retains all of its romance while losing none of its morally educative dimension and Lifeline's imaginative microcosmic representation does the rest. MSB

David Parr's Cabinet of Curiosities, Chicago Magic Lounge, open run. The card-sharp whose flying fingers baffled Penn & Teller shows you how he did it every Wednesday night at Chicago's hottest and swankiest new speakeasy. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan



Jin Park and Katy Carolina Collins in *You for Me for You*.

Photo by Michael Tutino

THEATER REVIEW

You for Me for You

Playwright: Mia Chung

At: Sideshow Theatre Company @

Victory Gardens, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: 773-871-3000;

VictoryGardens.org; \$20-\$30

Runs through: April 8

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

If you're from a land with no ice cream and only state-run TV, you might be paralyzed by indecision and high anxiety if offered 31 flavors and 200+ TV channels. Will someone denounce you for an incorrect choice? Who is watching and why?

Junhee (Jin Park) finds herself in precisely that

situation after escaping North Korea and finding work, love and far too many choices in New York. The States may be 180 degrees from the harsh, retrograde dynastic Stalinism of North Korea, but it's still dystopian in its own way as too much freedom and no freedom both are distortions. The easy availability of guns in America—too much freedom—demonstrates this.

George Orwell meets Lewis Carroll in Mia Chung's 2012 work of magic realism, which tracks not only Junhee's path in the New World but the harrowing parallel path of her older sister, Minhee (Helen Joo Lee), left behind in the nation of Kim-praise to endure The Great Famine (1994-98), during which several million citizens are estimated to have starved to death. Minhee also faces the state's impenetrable, shifting control apparatus which destroys not only her husband but also their son, sent at less than 10 years of age to a re-education prison for stealing food.

tic process at the Goodman, including the opportunity to assist on a Goodman production.

The annual fellowship was established in 2002 to honor the memory and artistry of Goodman Associate Artistic Director Michael Maggio (1951-2000), who directed 22 productions at the Goodman and more than 60 productions around the country.

Goodman directing fellow named

Goodman Theatre announced Jo Cattell as the recipient of the 2017/2018 Michael Maggio Directing Fellowship—an honor reserved for early-career Chicago-based directors.

Cattell will gain complete access to the artis-

SPOTLIGHT

Nine 10-minute plays about lesbians are on tap this weekend in Buena Park. With **History Lezons**, a roster of playwrights who identity as female dive into history through real and fictional women. Allison J. Fradkin curated the whole shebang, which includes tales from the Harlem Renaissance to Roaring '20s Paris to the "Lavender Scare" of the Eisenhower Era to a contemporary Chicago retirement home. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. March 18, 20 and 21 at the Buena Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$15 or pay-what-you-can; visit



pridefilmsandplays.com.

Caption: Alison J. Fradkin. PR photo from Pride Films & Plays

Eventually Junhee returns for Minhee, an outcome heavily foreshadowed in the early scenes of this 105-minute play.

Be aware that linear and realistic storytelling is not author Mia Chung's style, or that of classy director Elly Green (whose fine production of Ibsen's linear-and-realistic *Pillars of the Community* just closed at Straw Dog). Minhee's scenes jump in time. Westerners speak gibberish to Junhee at first, representing how English sounds to her. Minhee, on a journey quest to visit her son, encounters a pedagogue cultivating musical rice—a scene surely paying tribute to Carroll. Minhee's husband in ghostly form describes his death at the hands of the state in at least four different ways. Puppets of frogs (symbolizing entrapment) and human ears are utilized. It's all played on

William Boles' shadow box set, boldly framed in red, with clever louvers (both horizontal and vertical) at the rear which turn to reveal various scenic and lighting effects.

Early on, the play is disconcerting as Chung jerks the audience into the magical style after an almost brutally-realistic opening scene between the sisters. You'll need to pay attention and figure out the rules of the road, which are fable-like and picaresque. Once you do, the play's simple but diverse theatrical devices are highly engaging. The fine supporting cast includes Patrick Agada (charming as Junhee's boyfriend), Gordon Chow, funny Katy Carolina Collins and John Lu.

North Korea's murderous horrors are well-known, so the story here involves sisterhood and perseverance, not politics.

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Lesbian-themed 'The Cake' coming up

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble (RTE)—Chicago's only Equity theater dedicated to producing new work with women at the core—announced the Midwest premiere of the lesbian-themed production *The Cake*, written by Bekah Brunstetter, directed by Lauren Shouse, and featuring RTE Founders Tara Mallen and Keith Kupferer, RTE Member Krystel McNeil and Tuckie White.

The Cake runs April 8-May 20 at Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, 5779 N. Ridge Ave.

Brunstetter is the Emmy-nominated producer and writer of the hit NBC drama *This Is Us*. The play is inspired in part by the case *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, which is currently in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Admission is \$18-\$38 each; visit RivendellTheatre.org.

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.

Stage 773 launches panel series

Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., is presenting an all-new, quarterly Artists Professional Development Series beginning Monday, April 2, at 5:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Young Professionals Board of Stage 773, these events will be an open forum for art enthusiasts and the public to discuss a range of topics dealing with the theater community.

The panel will feature Daryl Brooks, associate director at Black Ensemble Theater; Becca Browne, artistic development and group sales manager at Victory Gardens; Shelby Jo at The iO Theater; and more to be announced. A Q&A session will follow.

The quarterly events are free to the public, and will take place on Monday evenings. See Stage773.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.

'Faust' thru March 21 at Lyric Opera

Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker Dr., will run *Faust* through March 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 or by call 312-827-5600.

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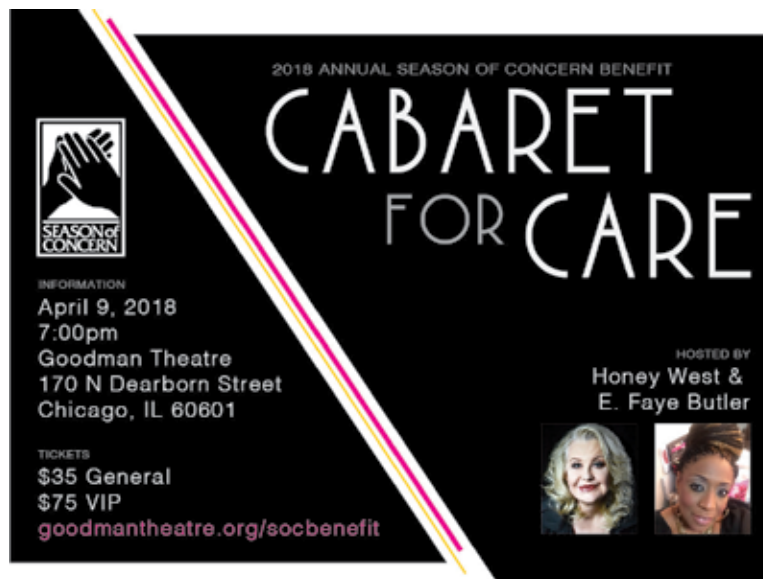
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THEATER

Gay playwright lays it on the 'Line' with latest project

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

Novid Parsi identifies with Blanche DuBois.

He's a gay Iranian-American playwright, living in Chicago with his husband. She's a straight Southern belle, lost and tortured, living in New Orleans with her sister. But in Parsi's new play, *Through the Elevated Line*, Blanche's story in Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* plays a pivotal role.

"Very early on while writing this play, I realized I was conjuring up the classic triangle of *A Streetcar Named Desire*: an outsider disrupting the home of a sibling and her husband," Parsi told *Windy City Times* via email. "[My main character] Razi Gol, like Blanche DuBois, is an unwanted traveler: caught between two worlds, accepted by neither. I decided to embrace that influence by reimagining Williams' powerful play and making it my own. Through its echoes of *Streetcar*, *Through the Elevated Line* shows how attitudes to our own Blanches ... have progressed, and how they have remained the same."

Through the Elevated Line (which begins previews March 7 with *Silk Road Rising*) tells the story of Razi, an Iranian man who's recently immigrated to Chicago and is staying with his sister, Soraya, and her white husband, Chuck, who's from the United States. In the 11 years the siblings have been apart, Soraya has become a physician and adapted well to her surroundings, while back in Iran, Razi was imprisoned for being gay. As tensions rise among the three new roommates, Razi tries to make his way in a brand-new city, country and culture.

Born and raised in the U.S. and the son of Iranian immigrants, Parsi was inspired to write *Through the Elevated Line* in early 2016, amid America's never-ending immigration debate. "I was thinking about how we group immigrants into one of two categories: the good or bad immigrant, the hard worker or freeloader," he said. "I wanted to complicate that easy distinction by imagining two siblings who seem, at first, to exist on either side of it. By coming to know them as individuals, we come to see how... they have made difficult decisions within difficult and constrained circumstances." With all this in mind, "*Through the Elevated Line* is not a play about immigration per se," Parsi added. "I'm not interested in depicting the world as I'd like it to be. I'm interested in depicting the world as I see it."

This is Parsi's second play produced by *Silk Road Rising*, an Equity theater company founded in 2002 by Jamil Khoury, a Syrian Orthodox Christian, and Malik Gillani, a Pakistani Muslim. According to the company's website, *Silk Road Rising* "creates live theater in Chicago and online videos that tell stories through primarily Asian American and Middle Eastern American lenses."

Representation is crucial to Parsi, who co-authored the 2006 *TimeOut Chicago* article "Why is Theater in Chicago So White?" Parsi said, "[Christopher Piatt and I] noticed that the city's stages ... did not reflect the city's diversity. We found that much of that had to do with the fact that young artists tended to start up theater companies with the people they already knew—their friends—and so the racial homogeneity of their social circles played out in their artistic work." Did the article make a difference? Parsi, a former theater critic, can't say for sure. However, he observed, "larger companies like Court, Steppenwolf



Through the Elevated Line playwright Novid Parsi.
PR photo

and Victory Gardens produce more diverse writers and hire more diverse actors today than they did over a decade ago, and I see that that's true of smaller companies as well."

Many playwrights aren't very involved in their premieres, but for Parsi, it's just the opposite. He personally chose director Carin Silkaitis, whom he called "a force of the theater...she has the passion and skill to bring the vision of my page to the stage." He also assisted in casting, and attended every rehearsal and production meeting. "I've been so grateful and humbled to see these amazing actors treat this play with such care, respect and risk-taking playfulness," Parsi said.

Khoury is equally grateful and humbled, if his program note is any indication. "In the next few years ... [Parsi will] be championed as an exciting new voice in the American theatre, and his plays will be produced nationally," Khoury wrote. "On American stages, the complicated, the questioning, and the curious, are enjoying newfound currency. Novid Parsi, with his impressive capacity to create characters that are charming, prickly, compromised and resilient, understands that one can be challenged by adversity without being defined by [it]."

When asked what he hopes audiences take away, Parsi replied, "I hope they get ... what I think live theater can deliver unlike any other art form: the experience of being more connected to other people. And I hope they see in the play a mirror of this moment and of our nation, and they hear a question that the play poses: Who do we want to be?"

Silk Road Rising's *Through the Elevated Line* runs March 7-April 15 on the lower level at 77 W. Washington St. For tickets and more information, visit SilkRoadRising.org.

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THEATER REVIEW

The Condition of Femme

Playwright: Lauren Marie Powell

At: Circle Theatre at Buena Pride

Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway

Tickets: CircleTheatreChicaog.org; \$28

Runs through: April 1

BY REGINA VICTOR

The Condition of Femme is compiled out of 100 interviews, much like Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues, but focused on the femme experience—the experience of a person of any gender who identifies with feminine energy.

Penned by Lauren Marie Powell and directed by Amanda Jane Long, Circle Theatre's production uses a cohesive narrative to present the stories of many different femmes as it follows Reagan (playwright Powell) and her partner Cheryl (Amy Powell). Throughout, the two deal with the most difficult parts of being a femme: sexual assault. Reagan works for a rape-crisis hotline and Cheryl is proceeding with a trial against a sexual predator.

Reagan consistently internalizes her work as the hotline's callers recount their stories, vile subway encounters, and men of God who proved themselves to be anything but among them. Each person in the cast gives a fantastic performance, which is notable since the script can feel preachy. The earnest attitude the cast deploys makes the factual language feel natural most of the time.

Long's direction flows well, but it may have oc-

asionally been stoppered by its desire to flow. Often things are happening onstage—projections, costume changes, rearranging the space and so on—while people are speaking. It distracts from the emotional text.

Cody Jolly's projection design is a strength, showing notable statistics: For example, approximately 30,000 rapes result in pregnancies each year. Rapists have parental rights in 31 states.

I was thrilled the production centered a spectrum of femme experience, and included femmes of color and transgender femmes. However, it struck me that though there are only two visible performers of color out of 12, much of the media in the projections design is attributed to Black and brown bodies. "Whistle While You Twerk," by the Ying Yang Twins, accompanies a montage of white women being spanked.

There is a long video of Black twerking butts for which the primary image and audio is Nicki Minaj's "Anaconda"—a song that is culturally significant for its lack of male presence and ownership of the beauty of Black and brown bodies. It feels like appropriation to hear the song as the background for a primarily white cast discussing a lack of power and consent.

The Condition Femme doesn't feel like it's for survivors; instead of empowering femmes, it is a bid for us to be seen as human. It reminds the audience that femmes are "physically weaker" (that's verbatim from the script) and emphasizing that stories like these occur daily. It is an important effort and an important collection of stories. But I am ready for femmes to take their power and use it—not plea for protection from a sick society.



Michelle Bester in *The Condition of Femme*.

Photo by Cody Jolly Photography

THEATER REVIEW

Cyrano

Playwright: Edmond Rostand, translated/

adapted by Michael Hollinger & Aaron Posner

At: BoHo Theatre at Theater Wit,

1229 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: 773-975-8150;

BoHoTheatre.com; \$30

Runs through: April 15

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Cyrano de Bergerac, translated/adapted many times from the French original, concerns the power of words to engage and persuade and express one's soul. Language alone teaches Roxane—the initially callow heroine—to love beyond a handsome face and figure. The ugly hero, Cyrano, also uses linguistic power to fight to-the-death his old enemies, "hypocrisy, prejudice, cowardice and compromise." Although never intended to make political statements, Cyrano does so in the age of Donald Trump, a pig-faced, clown-haired and lying man whose inability to speak with coherence or eloquence is manifest. Of course, the



Vahishta Vafadari in *Cyrano*.

Photo by Liz Lauren

Devil also speaks with a silvered tongue, if not Trump himself.

It's wonderful, therefore, to see an engaging and vigorously-performed version of Cyrano in accessible, robust (although not slangy) 21st century English, which nonetheless is faithful to the story, characters and values of Rostand's 1897 neo-classical work in rhymed verse. This version partly is in rhymed verse and partly in prose, but either way it puts language at the forefront. All of Rostand's brilliant and audience-pleasing set pieces—the sword fight while reciting poetry, the passionate balcony wooing scene, Cyrano's rejection of sycophancy, the tender death scene—are preserved here while also re-invigorating the text.

The dramatic classics are not BoHo's standard fare, so Cyrano definitely is a stretch for them, and kudos for that. Viewed at the last preview, the production is somewhat mixed but succeeds more often than not. Director Steve O'Connell paces the show well, with dashing assistance from fight choreographer Jon Beal. O'Connell understands the elegance, bravado, romance and humor of Cyrano and when to play each mood.

Lead actors Michael B. Woods (Cyrano), Va-

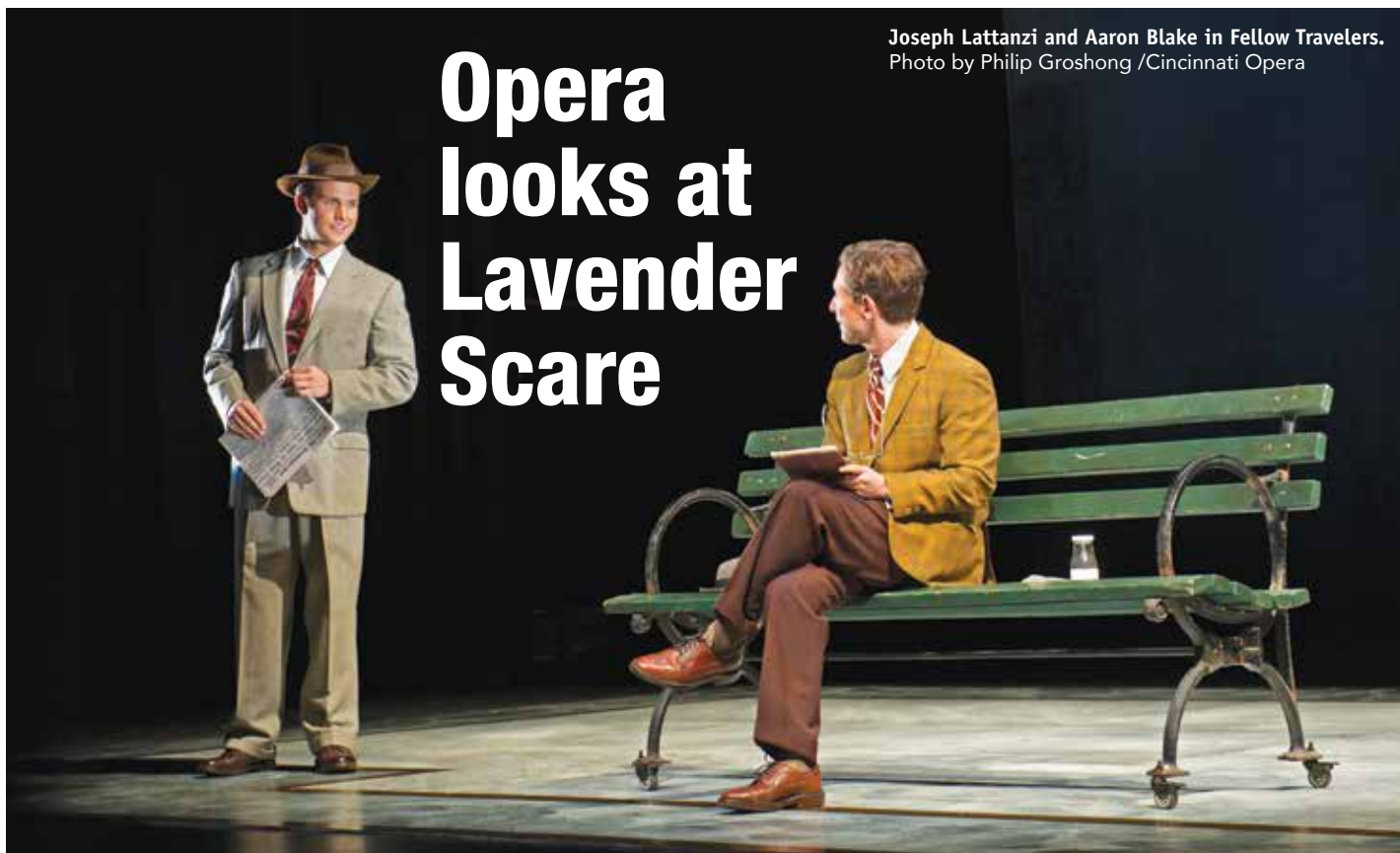
hishta Vafadari (Roxanne) and Zach Livingston (Christian) are appealing players and masters of the text (especially Woods in the singularly demanding title role). Strong supporting work is provided by Stephen Peebles as Cyrano's captain, Le Bret, and by Kristin Hammargren skillfully donning britches as Viscomte De Guiche, one of several examples of cross-gender casting in this production. Even so, lines occasionally are shouted out and spoken too fast, especially among the smaller supporting roles.

Scenic designer Patrick Ham's broad end-stage setting provides a dark, rough-hewn brick wall with a wide-archway here, a balcony there and a round chandelier overhead, easily suggestive of mid-17th century France, whether castle or convent. Christina Leinicke's leather (mostly) and lace costumes aren't elaborate but nicely suggest the time period and move well. But, please, give Cyrano a costume change for the last scene, 15 years later!

Small detail: Director O'Connell seems not to know the French word "panache." It's the white feather in Cyrano's hat, which should be on his head or in his lap at the end—not tossed aside half-hidden from audience view.

Opera looks at Lavender Scare

Joseph Lattanzi and Aaron Blake in *Fellow Travelers*.
Photo by Philip Groshong / Cincinnati Opera



BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Same-sex love stories have been in short supply across the 420-year history of opera. Only in the past century have openly LGBTQ characters started to appear in works like Alban Berg's *Lulu* (1937), Leonard Bernstein's *A Quiet Place* (1983) or Stewart Wallace's *Harvey Milk* (1995). Yet not all of these contemporary operas have worked their way into the standard operatic repertoire.

So hopes are high among LGBTQ opera fans for the critically acclaimed new work *Fellow Travelers*. Following its 2016 world premiere at Cincinnati Opera and a second run in New York earlier this year, *Fellow Travelers* receives a Windy City debut this month courtesy of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's outreach arm known as Lyric Unlimited.

Fellow Travelers is inspired by Thomas Mallon's 2007 historically inspired novel of the same name, which is set in 1950s Washington, D.C. A blossoming romance between fictional government workers Timothy Laughlin and Hawkins Fuller is threatened when Sen. Joseph McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee go on a rampage to root out and expose "subversives" in the Eisenhower administration.

"As an openly gay artist, I think it's so important to tell our stories and to learn about our history," said *Fellow Travelers* director Kevin Newbury. "In this case, it's the 'Lavender Scare,' which is a period of our history that people don't know very much about—that more than 5,000 men and women lost their jobs because they were gay in the government during the McCarthy era."

The idea of adapting *Fellow Travelers* into an opera originated with G. Sterling Zinsmeyer, whose film producing credits include *Latter Days* (2003) and *The Deception* (2012). Zinsmeyer ap-

proached Newbury to think of a writing team.

The two decided on composer Gregory Spears, who is acclaimed for his 2013 Willa Cather-inspired opera *Paul's Case* and the 2016 children's opera *Jason and the Argonauts*. They also sought out off-Broadway playwright/lyricist Greg Pierce, who is famed for collaborating with composer John Kander on musicals like *The Landing* (2013) and *Kid Victory* (2017), and for his own plays like *Slowgirl* (2012) and *Her Requiem* (2016).

"I loved the love story between the two guys, and also how [their heterosexual friend and co-worker] Mary fit into that," Pierce said. "One thing that I really loved was how complicated the gay characters were. I felt like we were emerging from this era where gay characters had to be 100-percent positive role models."

The complexity of the characters in *Fellow Travelers* also appealed to Spears when composing the music. Timothy and Hawkins have their flaws and are not just noble victims.

"What was important was that it was a real love story, and so it's not an idealized world at all. From the very beginning of the relationship, you kind of know it's not going to work," Spears said. "For me, I thought of the relationship between Tim and Hawk and Mary as a sort of metaphor for what was happening in the larger world around them."

Spears also felt free not to ape 1950s musical styles to underline the drama of *Fellow Travelers*. Instead, Spears wanted the opera's production design and the period slang and dialogue in Pierce's text to establish the sense of time and place.

"I actually bring in a lot of music that is counter-intuitive in a way," said Spears, though he does cite 20th-century gay U.S. composer Aaron

Copland and contemporary minimalism as partial influences.

The Lyric is staging *Fellow Travelers* at the Athenaeum Theatre rather than its much grander home base of the Civic Opera House. Yet Spears and Pierce don't want the work to be labeled as a "chamber opera."

"Greg really delivered a libretto that is like a play and it has everyday, quotidian language—just people talking to each other so it's not heightened, poetic stuff," said Spears about *Fellow Travelers*' need for greater intimacy. "It's not an epic story with gigantic sets. The practical side of that means that the piece is easier to do."

Only time will tell if *Fellow Travelers* will gain entry to the permanent operatic repertoire, but there are hopeful signs. Newbury revealed that other opera companies have plans to present his production in future seasons, while Minnesota Opera will present *Fellow Travelers* this summer with a different directorial and design team.

Fellow Travelers has also taken on a more timely, if unfortunate, resonance in light of the 2016 U.S. elections. This was clear to Pierce while he watched *Fellow Travelers* this year in New York.

"I was wishing that it was a museum piece," Pierce said. "I was watching McCarthy spouting out all of this stuff that had no basis in fact, and was wreaking havoc and making everyone scared out of their minds for no good reason, and it just felt so current."

***Fellow Travelers* is staged for four performances only at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 17, Wed., March 21, and Friday, March 23, with a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday, March 25. Tickets are \$29-\$75; cCall 312-827-5600 or visit LyricOpera.org.**

'Model' winner DiMarco at ISU on March 29

Nyle DiMarco—the winner of *Dancing with the Stars* and *America's Next Top Model*—will give a talk titled "Living Out Loud with Nyle DiMarco" for Illinois State University's (ISU's) Student Access and Accommodation Services.

An ambassador for the deaf community, DiMarco will address the audience at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 29, in the Brown Ballroom of the Bone Student Center at ISU, in Normal, Illinois.

See <https://news.illinoisstate.edu/2018/03/speaker-dimarco/>.

Wonka Ball on May 11 at MBC

About Face Theatre's annual gala, *Wonka Ball* (theme "Saturday Night Live: The Experience!") will take place Friday, May 11, at 8 p.m. (VIP cocktailreception 7 p.m.) at the Museum of Broadcast Communications, 360 N. State St.

From Wayne's World to *Celebrity Jeopardy* to *Weekend Update*, patrons will interact with SNL sets, original props and costumes—all with a distinct About Face Theatre twist.

Wonka Ball will also include the presentation of the annual Leppen Leadership Awards, recognizing one individual and one organization whose efforts have made an enormous impact within Chicago's LGBTQIA communities; as well as the About Face Youth Theatre MVP Award, presented annually to an outstanding youth theatre ensemble member for exceptional service to the company and to the greater LGBTQIA community.

Tickets are available at AboutFaceTheatre.com or 773-784-8565. Discounted early-bird ticket specials are available through Wed., April 11.

Queer dance series March 18-June 17

"Queer Dance Connection: A Workshop Series," with Celia Calder presenting, will take place March 18, April 15, May 20 and June 17, 3-5 p.m., at Links Hall, 3111 N. Western Ave.

This beginner-friendly movement workshop series for people of all genders, all abilities and all levels of dance experience will mix activities from various partner dances such as contact improv and queer tango, clowning and cuddle parties.

Admission is \$5 each; see LinksHall.org.

NUNN ON ONE: MOVIES

Greg Berlanti shows the 'Love' in newest film

BY JERRY NUNN

There's a new gay coming-of-age drama called *Love, Simon* that has the potential to cross over to straight audiences.

Simon Spier has one big secret in his otherwise perfect life. Set in a high school where social media opens communication in unexpected ways, Simon will have you guessing what will happen until the end. Will his secret destroy his relationships in the process?

Director Greg Berlanti adapts the book *Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda* with skill, thanks to an impressive resume. Known for dramatic television series *Dawson's Creek*, *Everwood* and *Blindspot*, he has also produced comic book-inspired TV shows with *Legends of Tomorrow*, *Riverdale*, *Black Lightning* and *The CW's Arrowverse*.

Berlanti, who is openly gay, married soccer player Robbie Rogers last year; they have a son together.

Windy City Times: Thanks for taking time to talk to the newspaper.

Greg Berlanti: I went to Northwestern. I was still closeted, but very aware of *Windy City Times*.

WCT: You read us in the closet?

GB: All through college, absolutely!

WCT: Aren't you originally from New York?

GB: I am, but lived in Chicago for about a year. I moved to Los Angeles in 1995.

WCT: Was your coming-out story very different than *Love, Simon*?

GB: It was. I didn't have the courage to come out in high school. I was 23 at the time, so after college. I missed my college window in terms of coming out, even though I was in the theater program at Northwestern. I was surrounded by people who were more brave than I was.

I moved to Los Angeles and had a friend bring me to a dinner party. On the way there my friend said, "I think you are gay. I'm bringing you to a party with gay people, and you should come out!" [laughs] It wasn't that simple and was about a year long process to tell people what I was going through.

WCT: My coming out was not like this movie, either.

GB: Times have changed. Everyone's coming-out story is different, regardless of their generation.

Where it is the same is there a level of acceptance and self-awareness you have to go through. There is a certain amount of courage in revealing yourself to people. Hopefully what you learn is being more yourself to have a better life and you don't have to work as hard to hide who you are.

That is what the movie is a celebration of. Everyone's journey is different.

WCT: How did you hear about the story and want to bring it to life?

GB: People in my company were trying to option the rights to the book. We didn't get it. Some people in my office said it spoke to them. I read the script when it was written by Isaac Aptaker and Elizabeth Berger. I read it in one seating and it lit a fire in me that is rare in this business. I felt I had to do it. I auditioned for the job and got it.

WCT: How important was the casting of the lead Nick Robinson?

GB: I think with anything you do that is the most important decision you will make, because that person reflects the tone of the whole film more than anything. The comedy of the film is their brand of comedy. Nick matched the tone of the movie that I saw in my head. He had the spirit of Simon.

There was a sense of mystery behind his eyes and that he hasn't figured out who he was yet. You want to watch him and he's compelling.

From there we did chemistry readings with the other kids so that is how we determined the additional cast.

WCT: The show *13 Reasons Why* was not even out at the time?

GB: No. I heard about Katherine Langford from friends who worked on that show. She came in and was great in the room. She had wonderful chemistry with Nick.



Greg Berlanti (right) with *Love, Simon* star Nick Robinson. Publicity photo

WCT: What about Jennifer Garner? Her scene with Nick was incredible.

GB: That scene did not exist there. There was only a passing scene where they acknowledged each other. It didn't resonate. She knew it. She wanted to do the movie but wanted to connect with Simon and the people that would see the movie. It was a good note and the studio had a similar note.

The writers and I got together. There was already the father scene, but I wanted to make sure it was distinct from that, which was similar about the parents still loving him.

What wasn't in the movie that I felt was important to drive the final act was something that

was so self evident. I felt like I needed to hear it when I came out, but didn't realize I needed to hear it. That is the wish fulfillment of this, that you deserve love. That is different than, "I still love you."

You are the same person and you deserve love, too, is a really empowering for anybody to hear. Everyone on the set had an emotional reaction that day when she was doing that scene. She had to do it time and time again all day long.

WCT: Jack Antonoff did the music. Did you know he is [an LGBT-rights] supporter?

GB: No. I didn't know his politics, but I knew his music. I put one of his songs in the movie for the early cut. He saw the movie and reached out to me right away. He wanted to work on more music for it and loved the movie.

He showed up in the edit bay a few weeks later. The movie was done and in post.

So many movies, when I was growing up, had really defined soundtracks. I hoped we would have that. I wasn't sure we would have an artist onboard to curate the other songs.

He sat in the edit bay and started playing songs off of his iPhone that had never been released. There was one song after another and that's how the Troye Sivan song ended up in there that they collaborated on.

WCT: Did you read comics as a kid?

GB: I did, and more so as a kid than in my twenties. It was right around when I started realizing I was gay, so 13 years old. I still have comics from that time.

WCT: Gay characters in comics have come a long way since then.

GB: A long way. I don't remember any back then, but there certainly are some now.

WCT: How did the concept for *Supergirl* come to you?

GB: It was an evolution of the shows we were



Turn to page 38

Xfinity, Tom Lenk part of Center's 'A Night with Oscar'

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Buffy the Vampire Slayer actor and Instagram star Tom Lenk as the perfect choice to critique the looks at the 90th Academy Awards. In recent years, Lenk's online following exploded after he began sharing shots of his re-creations of red-carpet looks with household items.

"I did it as a joke," Lenk (who said he watches a lot of Project Runway and RuPaul's Drag Race) said about his initial forays into transforming garbage into fashion. "It's really a fun way to encourage people to be creative." Yet his oddball outfits have gotten the attention of high-profile divas and leading ladies like Kylie Minogue, Reese Witherspoon and Jessica Biel. This year, at Center on Halsted's A Night With Oscar, Lenk looked forward to give out fashion awards among the onscreen celebrities, and perhaps, the attendees.

In a media landscape where LGBTQ people are still looking for opportunities or perhaps even poorly represented, Lenk is grateful for his platform of more than 400,000 fans.

"I do have my own show, it's just a different format from what I thought it would be," said Lenk (who talked with Windy City Times the day before the Oscars). "The stuff I'm putting out on Instagram, I'm putting out on my terms."

Lenk is aware of how groundbreaking "Buffy" was in its portrayal of open LGBTQ characters. "Lesbians that I've meet over the years are so grateful to that show for allowing them to see themselves on TV," he said.

While a lot of changes have happened in LGBTQ media representation since "Buffy," Lenk's personal experiences suggest that more work needs to be done. He recalled both watching and auditioning for various shows and instantly knowing, based on how LGBTQ characters are portrayed, if an LGBTQ person wrote a particular episode or script.

"We're still highly underrepresented in entertainment," Lenk said, adding that even if many shows now feature LGBTQ characters, straight people are by and large the intended audience. He also talked about gay people's lack of opportunity to play straight roles, comparing it to how British actors are often cast in American films with American accents, but Americans rarely get the opportunity to do the same.

"I'm auditioning for mostly gay parts. I don't get to go the other direction," Lenk said, adding that was why casting from the community for LGBTQ roles is so important. "If we're going to be limited to gay parts, at least let us try out for those."

A longtime partner of the Center on Halsted, Xfinity has made a concerted effort to elevate LGBTQ voices and programming. This is not just mere outreach; according to Comcast Executive Director of Multicultural Product Development Jean-Claire Fitschen, among Xfinity subscribers, LGBTQ content is searched just as often as soccer.

Available since June 2016, Xfinity's On Demand LGBTQ Collection integrates Netflix and even high-quality YouTube content as well as content



Comcast's Jean Claire Fitschen and actor/Instagram star Tom Lenk.

Photo by Liz Baudler

available to Xfinity. The platform's commitment to community input is apparent not just from the sassy editorial tone—with voice recognition activated, one can summon RuPaul's Drag Race by saying "Shantay you stay"—but from their efforts to partner with groups such as GLSEN, PFLAG and the Center to create unique lists of content.

"What we want to amplify is the stories the community recommended," Fitschen explained (also the day before the Academy Awards). In addition to those lists, search options include genres like horror, the identity labels inside LGBTQ, work by out directors, actors, and curated lists by out celebrities like Tyler Oakley (Lenk's list is in the works.) Even "happy endings," sometimes elusive in LGBTQ media, is a unique category.

For community organizations like the Center, Xfinity's amplification, including an online profile of the Center, helps them reach Xfinity's 22

million subscribers. Fitschen in particular knows what a difference places like the Center can make. She was raised by her godfather, a closeted gay man, four blocks from where the Center now stands, and remembers how she felt on entering the building for the first time.

"To have had those kinds of services available would have made a difference in his life," Fitschen said.

In the spirit of sharing personal stories, during the breaks at "A Night With Oscar," Xfinity showcased vignettes from members its Out at Comcast employee group. And in an Oscar year where a gay romance was up for Best Picture and an out trans director has been nominated for the first time, Fitschen feels that the popularity of diverse stories is more obvious than ever.

"Everyone really loves diverse stories," Fitschen said. "And Center on Halsted's A Night With Oscar gives us a platform to celebrate these stories."

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MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

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Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Marchesa; LH on 21

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Some things (including restaurants) have to be experienced to be believed.

When I first read about **Marchesa** (535 N. Wells St.; <https://marchesachicago.com/>), it seemed too good to be true. Reports purported that the spot practically whisked patrons away to Europe—a bold claim other restaurants have made (some successfully, others not so much).

However, regarding Marchesa, one should believe those reports. The eatery features upscale Italian, Spanish and French dishes, and Executive Chef Mark Sabbe definitely knows what he's doing—and partners Jason Clark and Kathryn Sullivan Alvera (who worked together at Prosecco, which is just down the street) have struck gold (or oro) with this one.

Even the cheese and chatcuterie are above the norm, with selections including cheese such as La Peral Blue and meats like jamon serrano and



Roasted chicken (left) and chocolate cake at LH on 21.

Photos by Andrew Davis

chorizo cantimpalo (and served with rosemary, peach and black pepper jams). Appetizers are inviting, to say the least; shrimp Jovan is pretty simple—shrimp, garlic, black pepper and butter sauce, with grilled sourdough bread—but taste much better than similar dishes I've tried. And a grand medallion of foie gras was just that (grand), although a little of the delicacy goes a long way. (In addition, Marchesa has a caviar menu—and there's even a caviar parfait, with roe, salmon, chopped egg and whipped creme fraiche.)

Sabbe's mastery continues onto the entrees, thanks to dishes such as orecchiette pomodoro e rapini, delicately served in tomato sauce; and steamed PEI mussels that are enticing enough to even get this non-fan to give them a try. However, the crowning achievement is the Iberico pork, served with beet puree, marinated baby beet escabeche and Iberico bacon. It's nothing less than stunning.

And as if all that isn't enough, there's the impressive decor as well as the chef's table (in a semi-private room away from the main area), an apartment above that will house chefs-in-residence and a space below (aptly called "The Cave") that can be rented. (See if the hostess can provide a tour.)

By the way, Marchesa starts lunch on Monday, March 19. Please check out this spot. (This may be a good time as well, as evening going on a Tuesday evening can have one witnessing bustling activity. Imagine how the weekends are.)

LH on 21

LH on 21 (85 E. Upper Wacker Dr.; <https://londonhousechicago.com/rooftop/>), located in the luxury hotel LondonHouse, oozes sophistication.

Low lights, fireplaces, sleek furniture and

impeccable service make for a place that one could easily spend hours talking, soaking up the atmosphere—and eating, of course. (You don't need to wear a suit here, but I'd leave the dingy jeans and Daisy Dukes home as well.)

Certainly, part of the reason for wanting to linger comes from Chef Jacob Verstegen, who provides dishes that are not only delicious—but they're so artfully presented you almost don't want to touch them.

The bison tartare almost looks like something from the Museum of Contemporary Art, accompanied by aerated egg, smoked tomato, toasted cassava and brioche. And the Honeycrisp apple and red beet salad looks nothing like a traditional dish—and tastes divine thanks to walnut, pecorino vinaigrette and red watercress.

The second round seems to up the ante even more, if that's possible. Dishes include sweet potato baked in ash and carrot roasted like meat—the most instructional dish names I've ever seen on a menu.

The third round (entrees) has items like butter-poached flounder and Arctic char (a wonderful item with braised kale, bacon, pumpernickel crumbs and caper leaf custard). Even the relatively plain-sounding roasted chicken is a step above what you might expect. And please make room for dessert—the chocolate cake is amazing.

However, if you're not in the mood for a sit-down dinner, LH on 21 (which has an outdoor space called—what else?—LH on 22) has bar snacks. Those are, no doubt, on an elevated level as well.



MR. LEATHER 64TEN

Congratulations to Kurt Allen, 2018 Mr. Leather 64TEN, chosen March 10 at Jackhammer.

Photos by Ed Negron



Dragapalooza at Sidetrack March 21

Dragapalooza, the annual drag extravaganza to benefit Equality Illinois, returns to Sidetrack on Wednesday, March 21. This year's theme is "Lead With Love." Leading the lovefest will be Sidetrack's perennial hostess, Dixie Lyn Cartwright. Expect performances from Alexis Bevels, Bambi Banks, Mikki Miraj, Jerfay, Debbie Fox, Dida Ritz, Joonage A Trois, Savannah Westbrooke and many more.

The show begins at 9 pm. Proceeds will go to benefit Equality Illinois.

Photo from 2017's Dragapalooza by Jed Dulanias



BILLY Masters

"I'm sorry. I recognized you, but I thought maybe from porn!"—A waiter in a restaurant in Italy to **Eric Bana**. After telling the story on *The Talk*, **Julie Chen** said, "Now we know what he does on his lunch break." Good one, Mrs. Moonves!

Since last week's column was filed moments after the Oscars ended (and from the event itself), there were a few stories I missed. For instance, most people didn't realize that **Daniela Vega** made Academy Awards history—she was the first transgender Oscar presenter. I feel it's important to add "that we know of" because ... well, who knows.

The "In Memoriam" sequence always manages to ruffle feathers by omitting people who should have made the cut. This year, many are complaining that **Mary Tyler Moore**, **Powers Boothe** and **Adam West** should have been included. Yes, all three are primarily known for television. But MTM was an Oscar nominee for *Ordinary People* in 1980. I realize that the Academy has to draw the line somewhere. But once you've included Zsa Zsa Gabor, it seems to me the bar has been lowered considerably.

Openly gay writer **James Ivory** is the oldest Oscar winner for penning *Call Me By Your Name*. And he made an announcement—there will be a sequel, saying, "I'm already conceiving the story with Andre Aciman," who wrote the novel the film is based on. Ivory has said, "It's gonna happen five or six years afterwards, so almost in the 1990s." That's a departure from the novel, where Elio visits Oliver in the States 15 years after that fateful summer. Be that as it may, Ivory also promised that both **Armie Hammer** and **Timothee Chalamet** will return to their roles. But here's something you'll only hear from moi: Since both guys were skittish about the sex scenes in the first film, they had a "no-penis clause" written into their contracts. Now I'm a little less excited...

Our gay Olympians were also at the Oscars. **Gus Kenworthy** was with his equally hot beau Matt Wilkas, while **Adam Rippon** was with his best friend, fellow figure skater Mirai Nagasu. In terms of Rippon, everyone focused on the fact that he was wearing a leather harness. Days later, **Andy Cohen** asked him what he looks for in a man. He said he wants someone who goes to the gym and has a job. Then **Brandi Glanville** piped in, "He needs a rough top." Adam quickly added, "Why not?" Something tells me they'll have to get in line behind Cohen.

Many people are wondering if Rippon will be invited to compete on the upcoming athletes-only edition of *Dancing with the Stars*. While we hear ABC really wants him, I suspect it is unlikely. The show starts April 30, and the dancers begin practicing two weeks before that. Adam is already scheduled to tour with "Stars on Ice" from April 6 through May 20. So, unless he's gonna commute back and forth, I highly doubt it.

Might I remind ABC that **Greg Louganis** has been begging to be on "DWTS" for years. If ever



Call Me By Your Name has a sequel, Billy says.
Still of Timothee Chalamet from Sony Pictures Classics

there were a season where he'd fit in perfectly, it's this one. An Olympic champion, a legend, and gay—sign him up!

Meanwhile in lovely downtown Vatican City, the Holy See is being rocked by yet another sex scandal. At the center of the trial is Father Luca Morini, who is accused of corruption. It all started when he contacted **Francesco Mangiacapra, a male escort**. According to Mangiacapra, Morini spent hundreds of thousands of Euros which he got out of parishioners and superiors in the Catholic Church.

When Mangiacapra realized what was going on, he contacted the archdiocese, but nothing was done. Then he called the local news. Suddenly, Morini was removed from his church due to "sickness." Allegedly, the Church bought him an expensive villa, hired a maid and paid all his expenses. It's said that Morini blackmailed a bishop into taking care of him after he threatened "to expose to the public eye unpleasant facts about many diocesan priests." Mangiacapra has produced a 1,200-page dossier that names names, and provides additional documentation—including photos and videos of Morini snorting cocaine and cavorting with male hookers. It also includes evidence against 60 other priests. Mangiacapra said, "The goal isn't to hurt the people I've mentioned, but to help them understand that their double life isn't useful to them or to the people who rely on them for guidance." He also claimed that no minors were involved: "We're talking about sins, not crimes. I only want this out so that these people will stop preaching hatred towards gays."

Tom Daley and **Dustin Lance Black** are shocked by the negative comments they've read online regarding the impending birth of the spawn of at least one of their loins. "I can't believe people aren't happy for us," said an incredulous Tom. Isn't that sweet? He still doesn't get it.

You can't keep a good girl down. After repeatedly stating that her domestic career was decimated by Donald Trump, **Kathy Griffin** is about to embark on a United States tour! She already announced dates in San Francisco, Seattle and Boston. But on *Real Time* with Bill Maher, she said that she'll also be playing Carnegie Hall in

ALEX KAY ALEXIS BEVELS BAMBI BANKS BLONDE BENÉT COCO IMAN COCO SHO-NELL CORVETTA DEVILLE DEBBIE FOX DIDA RITZ DYMOND C. CALLOWAY EVA STYLES JADE JERFAY JO MCQUEEN JODNAGE À TROIS KAYLA POLANGO KHLÖE KRISSY FEETFACE THE LADY IVORY MIKKI MIRAJ O'LAYSIA PRIME OPHELIA BULLETTZ SASHA LOVE SAVANNAH WESTBROOKE SAYA NAOMI TENDERONI AND MORE...

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WATCH & WIN! WITH DIXIE LYNN CARTWRIGHT & DIDA RITZ

New York, and the Kennedy Center in DC. Something tells me she's back!

We have time for a very brief "Ask Billy" question. Roger in Chicago asks, "Did you see **Darren Criss**' ass on 'American Crime Story'? Isn't it perfect? Tell me you saved it and will post it."

I saw, I saved, I posted—on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm quoting Julius Caesar (but not in the original Latin), it's definitely time to end yet another column. Speaking of "In Memoriam," we have another death to report. Billy Herrington was a HUGE porn star in the '90s. For years he had struggled with various addictions. About a year ago, he cleaned up his act and even just got his one-year chip. Life was great and then, bam, killed in a car accident last week. Rest in peace. For the latest gossip, be sure to check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that doesn't have a "no-penis clause!" If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Mike Pence buys a ticket to see Kathy Griffin at the Kennedy Center! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., March 14

Chicago Foundation for Women 2018 Impact Awards Honoring six local leaders for their exemplary work increasing resources and opportunities for women and girls. Reception to follow 6:00pm Venue Six10 Spertis Institute 610 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago <http://www.cfw.org>

Jonathan Covert & Stephanie Friedman: The Writer's Studio Open House/Open Mic. As always, there will be a free mini-lecture, featured readers, and a creative writing open mic. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/writers-studio-open-houseopen-mic>

Thursday, March 15

The Baton Show Lounge 49th anniversary Through Sunday March 18. Reservations by phone. Shows 8:30, 10:30, 12:30pm Baton Show Lounge 436 N Clark St Chicago 312-644-5269



THINK OF LAURA Sunday, March 18

Tony winner Laura Benanti will be part of a Chicago Theatre benefit at Victory Gardens Theater.
PR photo

New Town Writers workshop Participants are asked to bring copies of their work so other writers and listeners may more easily follow the texts. Accessible to #36 and #151 buses, and Red Line. 7:00pm

- 9:00pm Veranda Cafe, 1100 W. Thorn-dale <http://www.facebook.com/workshopandpublishing/>

Friday, March 16

Empowered: A celebration of National Women and Girls HIVAIDS Awareness Day Breakfast talk HIV and Women. Lunch Healthy Sexuals. RSVP j.mott@TPAN.org or by phone 9:30am - 2:00pm Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) 5537 N Broadway 773-989-9400 ext 232

Behavioral Health Luncheon Presented by The Chicago LGBTQ Behavioral Health Training Consortium for behavioral health professionals in the Chicago-land area. Role of DCFS. Clinical needs of trans and LGBTQ youth. 10:30am - 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.; <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/BHLuncheon?erid=7467303&trid=a11ce352-e20b-47e1-866b-a69e42bd9c9c>

Active Military and Veteran LGBTQ meet-up American Veterans for Equal Rights first quarterly event for LGBTQ active duty servicemembers, veterans and friends to socialize, learn about scams aimed at veterans, get blood pressure checked, flu shots and do VA benefit enrollment. Light food, beer, soda. Free. AVER Chicago Chapter on Facebook and

Meetup 4:00pm - 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

The Gentry Reunion Concert Celebrate the Gentry Piano Bars. Share the evening with cabaret aficionados while reuniting with your favorite singers and performers from the Gentry era. Price \$25. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=14667>

Saturday, March 17

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

Chi-Town Squares Spring Dance With Arlene Kaspik. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day on a Saturday night when Arlene takes the mike to call Mainstream, Plus and Advanced. 7:00pm - 10:00pm Ebenezer Lutheran Church 1650 W Foster Chicago <http://www.chitownsquares.org>

Sunday, March 18

Same-sex wedding expo Win a wedding worth \$2,500 for the couple and up to 30 guests at Pine Manor in Mount Prospect, Illinois. Music, food samples. Free, but e-tickets are required 12:30pm -

3:30pm Hotel Chicago, 333 N. Dearborn St. <http://SameSexMarriageChicago.com>

Chicago Theatre spring benefit with Laura Benanti Tony Award winner Benanti performs at 5 and 8 pm. Known for ABC's Nashville and co-starring with Amy Schumer and Keegan Michael Key in Steve Martin's Broadway play Meteor Shower 5:00pm Victory Gardens Theater 2433 N Lincoln Ave Chicago <http://ChicagoTheatreWorkshop.org>

Tuesday, March 20

Trans 101 for staff and faculty Guest speaker Nikk Selik. Terms, how to support and more. Contact JRBuhmann@Northpark.edu, North Park Queers and Allies on Facebook 4:30pm North Park University, Carlson Tower, room 31, 3225 W Foster Ave., Chicago

Wed., March 21

Talk It Out conversation series, #MeToo Chicago Foundation for Women series will focus on sexual harassment and abuse, how women and men can work together to end sexual harassment. Join a Twitter chat on Wed., March 21 at 12 pm CST and use #TalkItOut March 18-24. <http://www.twitter.com>

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BERLANTI from page 34

working on. We had done Arrow and Flash. They came to us about a Supergirl TV show and that it was a property. At the time, I thought it could be as vital as a Superman show. We developed it from there.

WCT: Have you been able to put LGBT elements in the shows you have worked on?

GB: Absolutely. We have had some L, G and B, but would like to be more diverse and add more. We have regulars and guest stars.

We are proud of the diversity, but we aspire to have more of it. It is some of the most rewarding stuff that I get to be a part of.

WCT: Can you talk about John Mahoney, who you directed in The Broken Hearts Club: A Romantic Comedy?

GB: John was very special to me. He was one of the first that I wrote a part for. When I was writing Broken Hearts Club, I hadn't worked before. I remember writing the part of Jack and used his voice. I would actually think about him when I was writing it. They didn't give us much money and we had to make it in 13 days. I was a huge fan of Say Anything and told him I wrote the movie with him in mind. He called me up and we met at my apartment. He wasn't sure why I

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thought of him. I said that if I was with a group of gay men that I would want him to be our godfather, so to speak. He decided to do it.

During the shooting, there were a few times he would turn to me and say he had never done a scene like that before. I would say, "Thank God you didn't tell me that before shooting. I would have been very nervous!"

He always had so much confidence in me—much more than I had with myself at the time. I was young, and he never wavered in that confidence.

After he watched it, I remember how much it meant to me that he enjoyed the film.

WCT: I heard about a Titans web series coming out?

GB: Yes, we are working on that right now.

I am working on a movie version of Little Shop of Horrors, which I will have a script for soon.

There is a show for Lifetime with Penn Badgley called You. It is based on a book and is riveting. I can't wait for people to see it.

In a weird way, it is the dark side of Simon. There are social-media aspects to it, but it is the exact opposite. It's about a stalker. I call it 500 Days of Summer meets Dexter!

Love, Simon is out in theaters on Friday, March 16.

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